Request to Teaching and Advising Committee
TeAC should examine the timeliness of grade reporting and of appropriate feedback on student progress within undergraduate courses. TeAC should propose approaches and/or policy changes needed to address issues that emerge. The process should begin by gathering data to determine the scope and nature of the problems regarding timely reporting of grades and performance feedback.

Background
The issue of timely reporting of grades has been around since 2015 (see ASUI Resolution). The students want some mechanism to understand how they are going in a class. This request falls inline with effective teaching efforts of providing feedback to students as a check of how well they really understand material (versus left to personal perceptions which have been proven to be not as accurate). In summary, the request is not only logical from the students’ perspective, but it also supports the learning process.

The issue of timely reporting has different facets. One is the frequency of assessments (tests, quizzes, homework, etc.). The question of frequency is considered for now outside the scope of this charge. However, it is left to the committee to make that determination. Another facet is the timely response by faculty/instructors to student work. That is the heart of this issue and is the intended focus of this work as Faculty Senate is concerned.

Over the years, the request and concern of students has been discussed and circulated around in different forms and places. The intent here is to address the concern/question with objective analysis, which will hopefully include quantifying the problem.
November 17, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Included is a resolution passed by the Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Idaho to reaffirm its support for a stronger use of Blackboard Learn.

ASUI representatives consistently hear from students that they would like more of their professors to use BBLearn. This tool can foster a stronger dialogue between students and their professors as well as enhance student performance in the classroom. Additionally, the success of VandalStar largely depends on the use of BBLearn. If faculty do not use this tool, then it is much more difficult to track student success and to help students who may be struggling.

The ASUI Senate believes that a greater use of BBLearn will increase student success and enhance the overall student experience here at the University of Idaho. We emphasized that two years ago by passing a similar resolution and communicating the importance of this issue to Faculty Senate. We, as representatives of the student body of the University of Idaho, call on UI leadership to encourage faculty to improve their use of BlackboardLearn.

Sincerely,

Catherine Yenae
Vice President, ASUI

On Behalf of: The Associated Students University of Idaho Senate
IN THE SENATE
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. F17-R06

BY ASUI PRESIDENT MCKENZIE MACDONALD & FACULTY SENATE REPRESENTATIVE
JESSE WATSON
SPONSORED BY SENATOR ZACHARY SPENCE

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, during the 2015-2016 school year ASUI expressed to Faculty Senate the widespread student support for better and more consistent utilization of Blackboard Learn by faculty;

WHEREAS, ASUI presented its request to Faculty Senate twice. It was referred to a committee, and, to our knowledge, no further action has been taken;

WHEREAS, as of October 19, 2015, an ASUI poll found that 94% of University of Idaho student respondents would find it useful for more classes to post grades on Blackboard Learn;

WHEREAS, more consistent use of Blackboard Learn is one of the issues about which ASUI representatives receive the most student input;

WHEREAS, Blackboard Learn serves as one of the most useful digital tools for professors and students to interact at the University of Idaho;

WHEREAS, University of Idaho has chosen to implement VandalStar, a Starfish software package, which requires the use of Blackboard Learn for optimal functionality and student benefit;

WHEREAS, a Blackboard account is automatically created for every course, although not all professors choose to activate that account;

WHEREAS, the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning provides one-on-one trainings with professors to help build Blackboard programs;

WHEREAS, the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning provides a line open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday to assist professors who may be experiencing technological issues or need help with Blackboard;

WHEREAS, updated grading information would allow students and faculty to participate in a more informed discussion about the students’ performance in a class;

THEREFORE, Be it Resolved that the Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Idaho again calls upon the University of Idaho professors to increase their utilization of Blackboard Learn.

COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE SENT TO