

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Senate Bill 622, Section 9.5 UNC/NCCCS
2+2 E-Learning Initiative Funds

The 2005 session of the North Carolina General Assembly enacted into law S.L. 2005-276 as follows:

“SECTION 9.5. Funds appropriated in this act to The University of North Carolina and the North Carolina Community College System for the UNC-NCCCS 2+2 E-Learning Initiative shall be used to fund further development of online courses for 2+2 programs. Based on a mutually agreed upon decision by the State Board of Education Chairman, the President of the North Carolina Community College System, and the President of The University of North Carolina as to the areas of greatest need, funds are available to support joint technology development, systems to track student progress and articulation between a North Carolina community college and a University of North Carolina campus, and to develop technology to support online courses and 2+2 programs.”

Funds in the amount of \$1 million (recurring) were appropriated to the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) to implement this E-learning initiative. A matching amount of \$1 million (non-recurring) funds was allocated to the University of North Carolina. A committee of staff from both systems has collaboratively developed the strategies and scope of work as identified in this document and attachments.

As of the April 18, 2008, State Board meeting, requested FY 2007-08 funds had been approved in the amount of \$972,623 leaving a balance of \$27,377.

Therefore the State Board is asked to approve the NCCCS funds request as presented in the attached request for expenditures:

Attachment – Open Source Collaboration: Moodle Pilot (New Contract, no new funds required)

As contracts and purchase requisitions are developed for services and equipment, the State Board will be asked to approve the expenditure of funds consistent with state purchasing procedures.

Contacts

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STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

UNC/NCCCS 2+2 E-Learning Initiative Funds
Open Source Collaboration: Moodle Pilot
(New Contract)

Request: The State Board is asked to approve a new contract with the University of North Carolina General Administration for \$170,000 to establish a joint Systems open source (software) collaboration. This collaboration is a research initiative investigating the scalability and online teaching and learning academic capabilities of Moodle enterprise course management system (E-CMS).

Funds are requested to provide hosted hardware, application administration, training, and customized programming in critical areas to support a centralized Moodle implementation capable of supporting 100,000 online students and provide a testing platform for multiple community colleges.

The Moodle Pilot is a research initiative establishing a centralized open source enterprise-course management system for NCCCS and UNC institutions, programs, and courses. Funding for the Moodle Pilot will come from 2+2 Initiative.

Background: The Open Source Collaborative: Moodle Pilot was originally established with State Board approval May 2007. However, the scope of the project changed rapidly as an increasing number of community colleges and universities demonstrated interest in Moodle. Adjusted training, hosting, and services to support additional institutions could not be provided in a reasonable time frame. Therefore, both parties mutually agreed to terminate the June 4, 2007 Agreement in its entirety without cause on April 18, 2008. UNC returned \$170,000 to NCCCS on April 29, 2008.

This new MOA will replace the terminated MOA. The new MOA contains a redesigned list of deliverables and an expanded list of community colleges and universities electing to participate in the Open Source Collaborative: Moodle Pilot.

Rationale for Contract: The Moodle Pilot will establish a centrally hosted platform that supports:

- Use of open source courses in all curriculum areas;
- Migration of existing courses currently residing in proprietary software systems;
- Development of faculty training and staff development resources;
- Expansion and sharing of learning resources across programs and institutions;
- Wholesale migration of an entire inventory of online courses to open source delivery;
- Integration of Learning Object Repository resources;
- Integration of other open source solutions in areas of portals, email, collaboration software, etc.;
- Feasibility of large scale open source e-CMS in North Carolina;
- Integration of current supportive technologies and resources;
- Integration of Banner and DataTel databases;

- Establishing total cost of ownership for individual institutions;
- Elimination of servers, peripheral equipment, and IT staff responsibilities for e-CMS 24/7/365 support for individual institutions;
- Elimination of costly software license costs;
- Consortium solutions for hardware, software, and IT support;
- Consortium solutions for open source programming costs; and
- Centralized administration of joint Systems instructional technology.

The Moodle Pilot builds upon the success of last two year's North Carolina Moodle Users Group (NCMUG) work involving combinations of administrators, instructors and faculty at:

- Appalachian State University
- East Carolina University
- LEARN NC, a Program of the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Education
- North Carolina State University
- Blue Ridge Community College
- Brunswick Community College
- Catawba Valley Community College
- Central Piedmont Community College
- Guilford Technical Community College
- Isothermal Community College
- Johnston Community College
- Pitt Community College
- Randolph Community College
- Sandhills Community College
- Surry Community College
- Vance-Granville Community College
- Wake Technical Community College
- Wayne Community College

The success of NCMUG can be indicated by the community colleges and one university who have migrated to Moodle or have announced dates for Moodle migration. Institutions and their migration dates:

- Isothermal Community College – migrated fall 06
- Blue Ridge Community College – migrated fall 07
- Southeastern Community College – will migrate fall 08
- Guilford Technical Community College – will offer 95% of online courses via Moodle fall 08
- Appalachian State University – will migrate fall 08

Additional community colleges and universities have expressed interest in Moodle. Continued research involving an enterprise Moodle service is critical for establishing Moodle as a viable open source alternative to traditional proprietary e-CMS software.

Senate Bill 622, UNC-NCCCS 2+2 E-Learning Initiative provides funding to support online learning and teaching infrastructure. Through this initiative, development of online courses and

staff development resources will reside on a common platform appropriate for collaboration among PreK-20 education providers across the state.

List of Deliverables

#	Deliverable	Total	Delivery Date (on or before following date)	Invoice to NCCCS
I	Scalable, flexible, and redundant hardware architecture that can support up to 100,000 learners and accommodate future growth*	66,560	June 23, 2008	June 23, 2008
II	Reliable and available operating systems and application administration services with 24x7x365 support*	22,000	June 23, 2008	June 23, 2008
III	Integration with student information systems, most importantly Datatel	10,000	Oct. 1, 2008	Oct. 1, 2008
IV	Backup services for two NCCCS campuses that choose to run Moodle services on their own campuses	7000	Sept. 1, 2008	Sept. 1, 2008
V	Customization and branding capabilities to make these central services a suitable option for OSC-M campuses. (up to 25 campuses)	No charge	June 30, 2008	No charge
VI	Moodle administrator training (1 day, 20 seats)	6,000	Early July 2008	July 15, 2008
VII	Bb to Moodle conversion training (1 day, 20 seats)	6,000	Early July 2008	July 15, 2008
VIII	Moodle OSC-M onsite faculty training:			
	Sessions 1 & 2 (2-days each, 20 seats each session)	14,000	Late July 2008	Aug. 1, 2008
	Sessions 3 (2-days, 20 seats)	7,000	October 2008	Nov. 1, 2008
IX	Moodle OSC-M online faculty training:			
	Cohort 1 (8 weeks, 20 seats)	7,000	Aug. 1, 2008- Oct. 31, 2008	Nov. 1, 2008
	Cohort 2 (8 weeks, 20 seats)	7,000	Oct. 1, 2008- Nov. 30, 2008	Dec. 1, 2008
	Cohort 3 (8 weeks, 20 seats)	7,000	Feb. 1, 2009- Mar. 31, 2009	April 1, 2009
X	Administrative Costs	10,440	June 1, 2008- May 31, 2009	¼ invoiced as follows: July 15, 2008 Oct. 1, 2008 Dec. 1, 2008 April 1, 2009
	Total	\$170,000		
*	Year to year annual increase in per user cost not to exceed CPI index.			

Method of Procurement: In accordance with the procurement practice of the State of North Carolina, there is no requirement for competition or approval by outside purchasing authorities for contracts between state agencies.

Contract Amount and Time Period: Hosted hardware, training, appropriate programming, and application administration costs will be \$170,000. This contract shall begin June 1, 2008 and not extend beyond the estimated completion date of May 31, 2009.

Fund Availability: Funding for this item is through the state appropriated 2 + 2 E-Learning Initiative 2007-2008 funds.

Contact Persons: Bill Randall, Associate Vice President for Learning Technology Systems, or Sandra Williams, Vice President for Administration.