Initial Analysis of Blackboard 9.0 and Goals Management (Bauer 10/2012)

Goals are allowed to have a 2 level hierarchy, each goal with multiple standards associated with it. You can import goal sets into blackboard using XML format. So we could have goal sets for each program, a goal set for UG Gen Ed, etc. Goal sets can have "active dates" on them so we can track history/timeline of changes. Need to research if ABET (and other accreditation agencies) have set up their goal sets for import into blackboard (or if another school has done it and will share).

You must assign goal sets to courses manually. Still checking on automating this.

One central blackboard goal administrator. Possible dept goal administrators? Possible issues with unintentional updates/deletes, also would need to follow strict naming/coding standards, and XML is difficult to edit. We would need to set up a process/system (outside of blackboard?) for depts. to manage goal sets (goals/standards) and also the map of goal sets to courses. Then the goal administrator would upload the new goal set, and manually assign courses to the goal set. Goal administrator tasks would probably need to be a portion of work for a full time assessment admin appt. I do not recommend blackboard as the main repository of program and course goals/standards because of its closed nature and difficulty in updating/adding. However if there was an external repository, there could be a process to convert to XML and import.

Need to come up with naming and coding convention for goal sets (and goals/standards?) so it is evident from the goal set title what it is for and the active dates. This will make it easier for faculty to associate to course content.

Faculty can then associate course content in blackboard to standards (from the goal set assigned to the course). Need to check if standards are needed or can faculty associate course content with higher level goals. In either case faculty would need to choose the appropriate standard/goal from the drop down list of goal sets assigned to their course.

How to get faculty to use? Not all faculty use blackboard, some use very limited, some advanced users have moved on to non-blackboard tools for certain uses (ease of use and open access). Faculty need to see benefit, can't just be because we have to do something for NCA/ABET.

Reporting – limited, still researching what is possible. Would need to build back end for depts. to view/track support of goal sets and determine and document actions. Blackboard Outcomes package might be answer for this in the future, but would need a dedicated staff to implement and maintain.