Canvas & the LMS Ecosystem

Eric Donath – July 11 & 18, 2023

FLORIDA TECH

FLORIDA'S **STEM** UNIVERSITY®

Topics and Objectives

- Understand what Canvas is used for
- Recognize where Canvas gets courses, users, and enrollments from
- Recognize other systems connected to Canvas
- Identify common access pitfalls and their solutions
- Identify Florida Tech's priorities for Canvas
- Communicate common support resources for faculty
- Help faculty support student success through better use of Canvas
- Q&A

FLORIDA TECH
FLORIDA'S STEM UNIVERSITY

Canvas is Florida Tech's primary Learning Management System (LMS)

The easy shortcut to remember is canvas.fit.edu*.

After entering your TRACKS ID, you'll get redirected to fit.instructure.com, the actual Canvas website.

CANVAS.FIT.EDU

→ FIT.INSTRUCTURE.COM

* This works for main campus, ABA Online, and Education Center/Virtual Grad courses.
 Florida Tech Online and Continuing Education/Non-Degree programs use a different URL for Canvas.

FLORIDA TECH
FLORIDA'S STEM UNIVERSITY®

Canvas provides a secure platform and common tools for organizing course content and interacting with students.

FLORIDA TECH
FLORIDA'S STEM UNIVERSITY
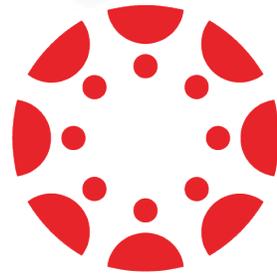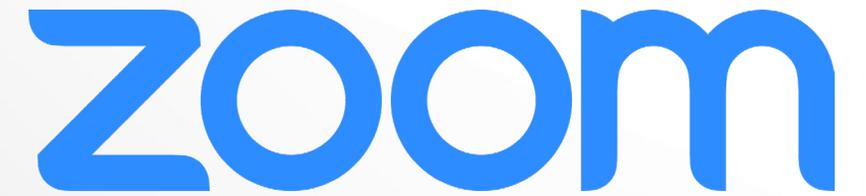
Canvas is connected to other systems, streamlining access to various technologies in the context of a course, without separate logins or manually granting access.

Canvas is central to our "LMS Ecosystem" and a key component of IT systems in general.

Canvas Accounts

Requirements

- 900-number
- Florida Tech Email Address

Notes

- Automatic, very few problems
- Admit students do not have Florida Tech emails (no Canvas)
- Source: IBM LDAP Directory
- Duplicate account errors (staff/faculty, IT resolves)
- Suspended accounts (students, more info later)

FLORIDA TECH
FLORIDA'S STEM UNIVERSITY®

Canvas Enrollments & Teaching Assignments

Requirements

- Course with CRN for current term
- Instructor of Record assigned
- Student registered

Notes

- It has to be right in PAWS before it will be right in Canvas
- Syncs every two hours
- Drops are set to Inactive, remain visible on rosters
- Crosslisted courses show parent section ID (causes some confusion)

FLORIDA TECH
FLORIDA'S STEM UNIVERSITY

Start of Semester Recap:
- Courses are in PAWS.
- Students have enrolled.
- Faculty have been assigned to teach.
- The Canvas course rosters are ready.
- We're ready for a great school year!
- (Cat picture unrelated.)
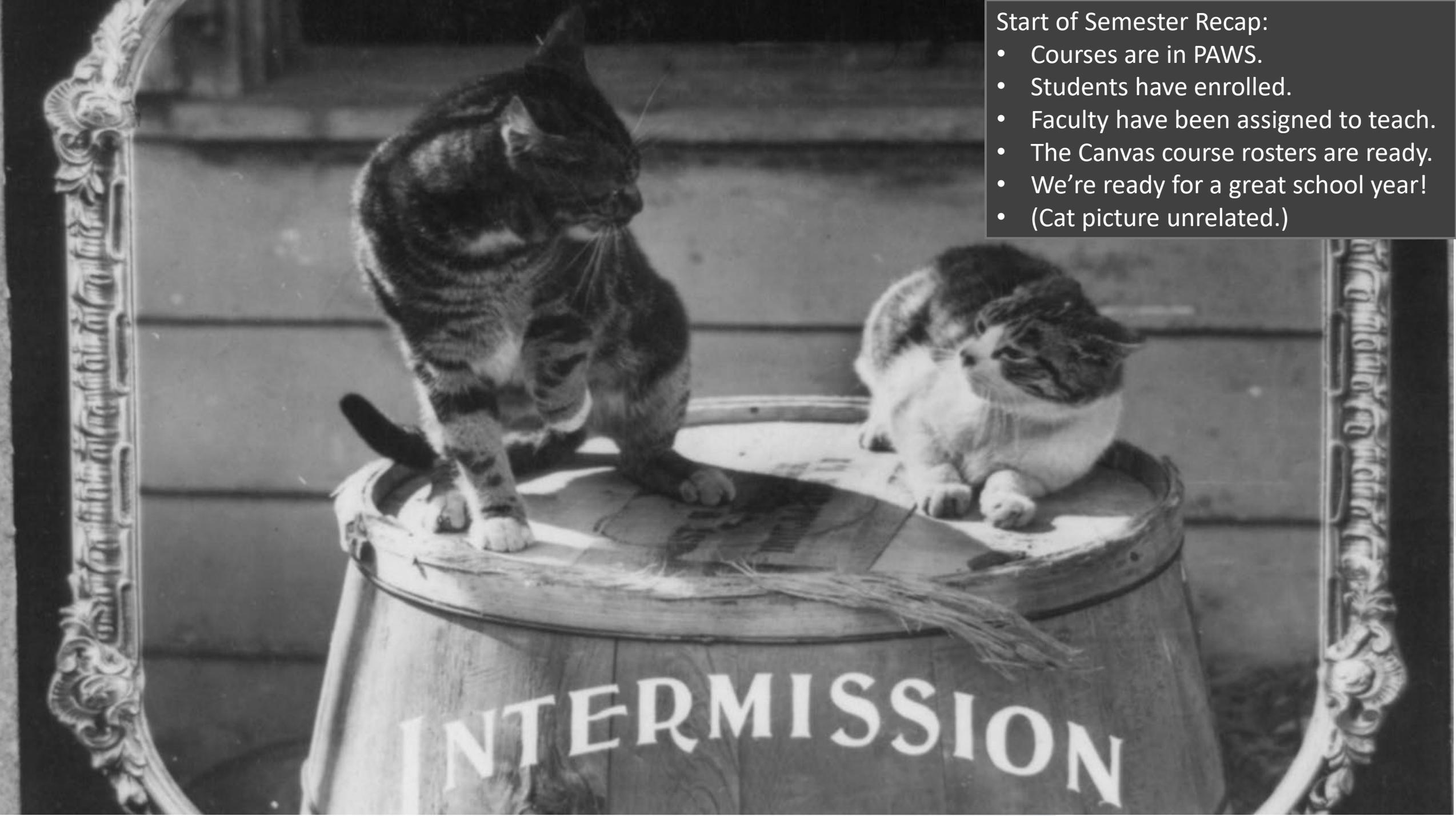
Canvas Suspended Accounts Process

- A common source of confusion
- Affects students who do not pay on time
- Ambiguous error message (…"no account"…)
- Students looking for a work-around get the run-around

FLORIDA TECH
FLORIDA'S STEM UNIVERSITY

Canvas Suspended Accounts Process

- Student Accounting owns the process
- Students with overdue balances are warned
- Student who do not pay on time are suspended from Canvas
- Students cannot access Canvas while suspended
- Students remain on rosters *and appear active to instructors*
- IT departments cannot look up balances or restore accounts
- Students are restored by Student Accounting upon payment
- Students who still do not pay are eventually dropped
- New: Canvas error message to be replaced with info page

Florida Tech Priorities

- Academic Policies
  - [Syllabus Policy](#)
  - [Minimum-Use of LMS Policy](#)
    - Syllabus, Grades, Published

- Student Success
  - How are students doing in the course?
    (How do they know?)
  - How can students who aren't doing well improve?
    (Where do they go for extra help?)
  - Early Alerts and Advising
    (How to recognize and support students in need as soon as possible!)

FLORIDA TECH
FLORIDA'S **STEM** UNIVERSITY®

Faculty Help Resources

- [Instructional Technology Consultation](#)
  - Request help through help.fit.edu
  - **We can set up Canvas to match the grading policy on a syllabus!!!!**
  - Additional info in https://it.fit.edu/training/canvas
- 24/7 Canvas Support
  - Request help through the Help icon in Canvas
  - Great for quick answers on using Canvas features
- 24/7 Panopto Support
  - Email support@panopto.com
  - Use our Support Portal to submit a case or use live chat
  - Call our 24/7 support team at 855-765-2341
- 24/7 Honorlock Support
  - Request help through Chat inside Honorlock

I REPEAT: Faculty Help Resources

Instructional Technology Consultation

- **We can set up Canvas to match the grading policy on a syllabus.**

- We can help faculty ensure they are meeting university policy requirements in their courses.

- We can guide faculty to use Canvas effectively for what they teach.

- **We can only do this if faculty request our help.**

FLORIDA TECH
FLORIDA'S **STEM** UNIVERSITY®

Early Academic Alerts – In the Past

- Limited to CHM1101 and MTH1001
- Starting Week 4
- IT in charge of coordinating message content per course
- IT in charge of scheduling messages and setting recipients
- IT messages only routed to advisors once, prior to WF date

FLORIDA TECH
FLORIDA'S **STEM** UNIVERSITY®

Early Academic Alerts – Perks

- CHM1101 and MTH1001 are strong indicators for at-risk students
- At-risk students receive extra nudges about tutoring opportunities
- Advisors able to assess performance before midterms
- Data collected can be used for aggregate/longitudinal analysis

FLORIDA TECH
FLORIDA'S STEM UNIVERSITY

Early Academic Alerts – Pitfalls

- Other courses may also be strong indicators of academic risk
- Week 4 may be too late to remediate or change paths
- Instructors do not need alerts about their students
- Advisors not equipped for ongoing support
- Excess administrative overhead
- IT sends the messages with the intent of connecting students to instructors/resources. It would be better for instructors to message students directly, triage for course-specific resources.

FLORIDA TECH
FLORIDA'S **STEM** UNIVERSITY®

Early Academic Alerts – Goals

- Extend Early Academic Alerts to courses beyond Gen-Chem and Calc 1

- Incorporate new Advising Model in Data Dissemination

- Describe and Adjust Scopes of Ownership for Scalability and Efficiency

- WEAVE Assessment Goal: Improve aggregate utilization of Canvas tools commonly employed for student-success (gradebook messaging and new analytics) by 10%

FLORIDA TECH
FLORIDA'S STEM UNIVERSITY

Early Academic Alerts – This Fall

- [New Analytics](#) work for any course with grades
- Messages can be sent as soon as grades are submitted
- Instructors/Coordinators in charge messaging their students
  - Very few clicks!
  - Instructors use [New Analytics to send messages](#) based on course grades and activities.
- IT messages new Advisors with aggregate data from all courses for all students starting in Week 2
- Advisors to serve as primary point of contact for students
- Advisors to escalate student-issues as needed

FLORIDA TECH
FLORIDA'S **STEM** UNIVERSITY

Big Recap

- PAWS data feeds Canvas (check PAWS first!)
- Canvas connections streamline access through courses
- Student Accounting can block students' Canvas access
- [ONLY] Student Accounting can restored blocked Canvas access
- The LMS Policy sets the foundation for student success
- Faculty need to use the Canvas gradebook
- Instructional Tech can set up Canvas gradebooks for faculty
- Faculty can send academic alerts in ANY course
- Advisors will get weekly Canvas grade and activity reports to support student success

Thank you!