PILOTING A PARADIGM SHIFT

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REGIS UNIVERSITY

AS A JESUIT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY,
REGIS SEEKS TO BUILD A MORE JUST AND HUMANE WORLD
THROUGH TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION
AT THE FRONTIERS OF FAITH, REASON AND CULTURE.

—REGIS UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

A FEW OUTCOMES

- *Identify strategies to include in a pilot program.*
- *Articulate solutions to institutional challenges that need to be addressed within a pilot program and future implementation.*
- *Create a plan for conducting a comprehensive pilot.*

WHY DID WE PILOT YELLOWDIG

- Desire to transform discussion in online courses.
- Need to increase the amount and quality of engagement students are having with the content and one another.

- Paradigm shifts are challenging – needed to know if this would work at Regis.
- Faculty tired of change – needed to know if the change was worth the effort.
- Needed to know what the amount of effort would be for faculty, students, and professional staff.

- Data-based decision regarding implementation at scale.
- Develop support strategies and resources if determined to go large scale.
- Identify user cases that worked at Regis.

Death by Discussion

Post Once

Text

Wednesday

Reply Twice

Text

Sunday

Discussion 1
Faculty Prompt

Post Once

Text

Wednesday

Reply Twice

Text

Sunday

Discussion 2
Faculty Prompt

Post Once

Text

Wednesday

Reply Twice

Text

Sunday

Discussion 3
Faculty Prompt

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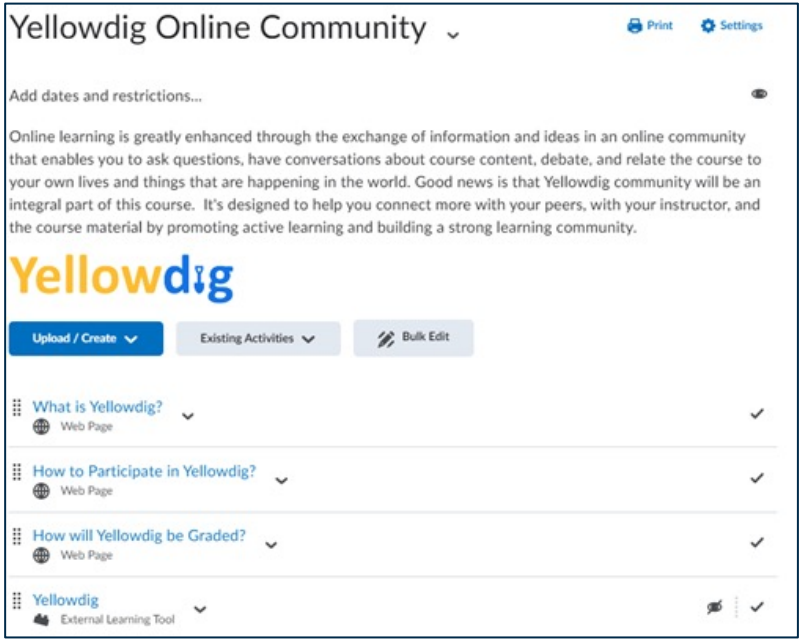
Paradigm Shift

- Absence of temporal constraints.
- Students pose questions.
- Students share resources on topics of interest.
- Students collaborate to help solve a problem.
- Leverage multimedia for enhancing discussion.

WHAT WERE THE COMPONENTS OF THE PILOT?

Phase 1: 2021 Spring

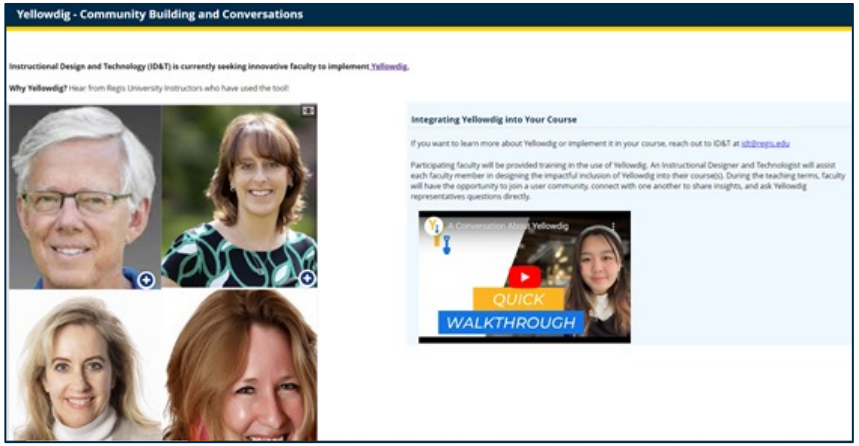
- Yellowdig not integrated into LMS
- 3 faculty (Communication, Philosophy) participated the pilot, $500 stipend each
- Required successful completion of the Instructor Certification course.
- Professional Learning Community (PLC)
- 1 ID and 1 IT provided technical and pedagogical support.
  - ❑ How-to: Step by step instructions for faculty
  - ❑ Content module: Introducing Yellowdig to students
  - ❑ Best practice document
- Close collaboration with Yellowdig.
- Student and faculty survey.



WHAT WERE THE COMPONENTS OF THE PILOT?

Phase 2: 2021 Fall – 2022 Fall

- Shared cost model
- Yellowdig integrated with LMS
- Faculty recruitment
- Professional Learning Community (PLC)
- 1 ID and 1 IT provided technical and pedagogical support per faculty member
- Close collaboration with Yellowdig
- Student and faculty survey



WHAT STRATEGIES DO WE RECOMMEND?

- Establish a project timeline. Key milestones:
  - ❑ Recruitment events
  - ❑ Identify pilot participants
  - ❑ Pair up with ID and IT
  - ❑ Complete instructor certificate course
  - ❑ Need at least one week for the ID and IT to work with faculty before course goes live
  - ❑ Schedule regular PLC meetings and invite Yellowdig to join some of these meetings
- Have a sandbox for faculty to test the platform
- ID and IT support for faculty
- Scheduled PLC meetings
- Engage faculty pioneers
- Close collaboration with Yellowdig

WHAT CHALLENGES DID WE FACE?

Challenge #1: Resistance to paradigm shift

Solution:

- Start with innovative faculty who are more open to try new things and take risks. Empower them to share experiences with other faculty.
- PLC model: opportunity for peer coaching and learning

WHAT CHALLENGES DID WE FACE?

Challenge #2: LMS integration

Solution:

- Collaboration with ITS
- Lots of pushing, be persistent, anticipate issues such as security and accessibility evaluation

WHAT CHALLENGES DID WE FACE?

Challenge #3: Resistance to change when the tool adoption is not guaranteed

Solution:

- Frame it as professional learning
- Maximum support from ID&T
- Be honest about financial situations
- Get 100% support from the Provost or other decision makers

"DEATH TO DEATH BY DISCUSSION."

– FAUX DISCERNING STUDENT

REGIS
UNIVERSITY

CALL TO ACTION

Start planning for your pilot and/or adoption.

THANK YOU

Presenter's Emails

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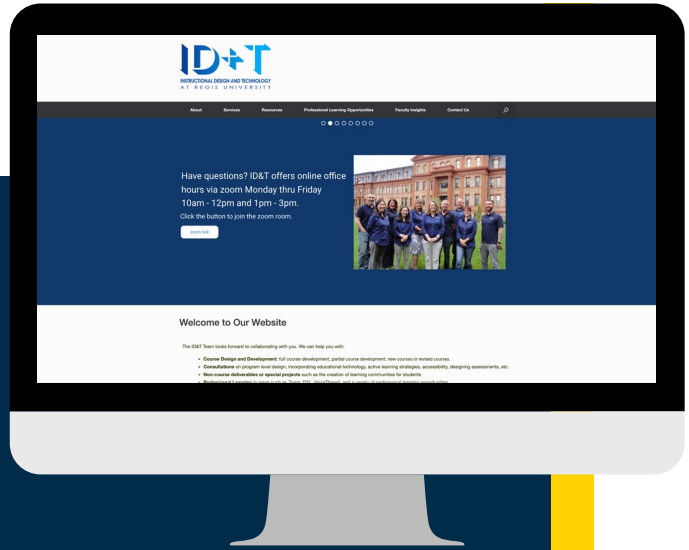

Feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions.

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ID+T
INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY
AT REGIS UNIVERSITY