

MEMORANDUM, DCD #3, 2021-22

To: Chairs, University of Toronto Scarborough
Cc: Chairs' Assistants, Academic Business Officers,
Undergraduate Coordinators & Departmental Assistants
From: William A. Gough, Vice-Principal Academic & Dean
Date: 10 August 2021
Re: **BlackBoard Collaborate**
Note: For distribution to all department teaching faculty

Dear colleagues

First, let me express again how much we appreciate all your efforts over the past 18 months. Together you have shown significant resilience, creativity, and commitment in fulfilling our academic mission and delivering the excellent courses for which U of T Scarborough is known.

I am writing now to transmit some technical news that may affect your course delivery in the coming year. The University of Toronto has decided not to renew its contract with BlackBoard Collaborate as our primary platform for synchronous online course delivery. Instead, Zoom and MS Teams will be the dedicated University platforms for delivering remote lectures, class meetings, etc. This is a University-wide decision based on the University's procurement and contract renewal process, which included an extensive review with submissions from multiple vendors.

This decision could not be announced until the procurement process was complete. Some of you may welcome this news, but I understand that some of you may be feeling a sense of frustration given the many changes the past 18 months have entailed.

The Centre for Teaching & Learning has connected directly with all instructors who have been using BB Collaborate, to facilitate the shift to other platforms, and to ensure that materials and recordings have been downloaded securely.

A range of supports are available to assist faculty in making the transition.

Please see the [Comparison of Synchronous Teaching Tools guide](#) . There are currently two tools available for synchronous online teaching: Zoom and MS Teams meeting. Each has different strengths, and you might use a combination of the tools to achieve your goals.

Please visit <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/209988/pages/synchronous-and-asynchronous-teaching> for resources on synchronous teaching. We recommend using [Kaltura to make recordings of course video](#) available in Quercus. (MyMedia is also an option for posting video, but Kaltura has many advantages.)

Please visit our <https://uoft.me/AcademicResources> page for more supports or contact quercus.utsc@utoronto.ca for any technical questions.

Thank you again for your ongoing work in support of our students. I wish you well for the remaining weeks of the summer.