Description & Mission Statement of the Web-based Assessment Advisory Board

The board is a group of administrators, faculty, and staff committed to the advancement of UNL’s usage of web-based assessment. Although the Arts & Sciences Testing Center was established in 1999, the board first met formally in November, 2003. The board’s current membership includes:

Administrators
- Jim Lewis, Director, Center for Science, Mathematics, & Computer Education
- Debbie Minter, Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
- Pam Holley-Wilcox, Director of Academic Technologies and Application Solutions, Information Technology Services
- Beverly Russell, Associate Director of Instructional Design, Online & Distance Education College

Faculty
- Cal Garbin, Professor, Psychology
- Kevin Lee, Research Associate Professor, Physics & Astronomy and the Center for Science, Mathematics, & Computer Education (Chair)

Staff
- Andy Frederick, Information Technology Coordinator, Center for Science, Mathematics, & Computer Education
- Jeff Haas, Application Support Specialist, Information Technology Services
- Amy Zachek, Testing Center Coordinator, Center for Science, Mathematics, & Computer Education

The group operates under the auspices of the UNL Center for Science, Mathematics, and Computer Education. It focuses on the following issues:

- Specifying the policies to be used in the Arts & Sciences Testing and East Campus Testing Centers. Special attention is given to preventing academic dishonesty.
- Making faculty aware of the capabilities and best practices for using web-based assessment software.
  - MapleSoft’s MapleTA (formerly eGrade and EDU) has special stature with the board due to it having originated at UNL, its long time usage, and the many faculty who have committed many hours to developing resources for it and are actively using them with their students.
  - We also encourage usage of the many discipline-specific web-based assessment testbanks available from publishers at the testing centers. We acknowledge that many faculty will never have the time needed to develop their own materials and recognize the high quality of some publisher’s materials.
- Obtaining the necessary computer hardware to effectively run the testing centers (presently thin clients), the necessary servers to effectively deliver MapleTA, communicating with IT regarding the administration of the thin client image, and the interface of all of these components with Blackboard.
- Providing user (faculty and student) support and faculty training opportunities and materials.

Considerable information and resources related to web-based assessment may be found on our web-site: http://scimath.unl.edu/wba/. If you have issues or requests that you think should be considered by the board, please bring them to the attention of Kevin Lee (klee6@unl.edu, 472-3686). The board meets on a roughly bi-monthly basis.