Name	Size	Creator	Date	Comment
Board QA.mp3	8.22 Mb	Andy Klesh	Jun 14, 2007	Raw and Unedited

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From: "Luke FERNANDEZ" <lfernandez@weber.edu>
Subject: Q&A with the Sakai Board // articulating a shared vision
To: <advocacy@collab.sakaiproject.org>

Andy Kelsh uploaded the audio of the Q&A with the Sakai Board to:

http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/pages/viewpageattachments.act=
ion?pageId=3D43524

Interesting discussion especially with regard to whether Sakai (the
board/community/foundation) needs to articulate a clearer and more
coherent vision....below are some transcribed highlights for those of
you who don't want to wade through all 70 minutes of the
session.....there's some definite paraphrasing and elision....for the
authoritative source please quote from Andy's recording....I've
purposely left off attributions since my quoting isn't always
verbatim....

Cheers,

Luke

7:08 "Sakai tools don't talk to each other in a coherent fashion
(especially with regard to the needs of eportfolios and institutional
assessment) _. such a highly distributed environment without a shared
vision and a coherent plan encourages people to resort to fiefdoms=E2=80=A6=
not enough mechanisms for coherence across tools. —Without these mechanisms
we are resorting to fiefdoms as a result people get protective and weird
saying we can't touch this or that....."

How can the board/foundation help to bring some mechanisms of coherence

and integration so that educators can use the tools effectively?

23:03: how can we combat the nefarious effects of silos? How can we encourage institutions to work effectively and collaboratively as opposed to just being silos?"

23:50: "Board is a microcosm of the larger Sakai community_there isn't always agreement on the board_. as a result we fall back on process = as a way of working productively_.that's as far as we've gotten in terms of strategy_with Michael (the incoming ED) we might move toward a more clearly defined strategic approach=E2=80=A6..I think we might find it hard to articulate a simple articulated strategy that the whole community would sign up to _.so there's a balance question between an open process philosophy and a more product oriented strategic approach_. we are in a place that is probably not optimal and we'moving gently in another direction but that's the best we have right now."

29:16: "_.should the foundation play a more assertive role in leading the community in making tough decisions where consensus cannot be established_."

29:30: "is the community looking for more assertiveness with respect to U.I issues? [not very many hands went up - but when the question was reversed (e.g. does anyone disagree that the community shouldn't focus on U.I?") not very many hands up either]

31:22: "tension in this community between total freedom to make any choice at a local and individual level and authoritative action."

39:11: "communities that are larger and much more distributed then Sakai have managed to articulate visions__. doing so facilitates integration points much faster_..having a vision of just surviving another day is not good enough _.need a strong vision"

41:30: "we need to encourage more interaction before things get built and try to develop things that fill gaps in more than one place"

44:30: "we are on the edge of something big_. we should be proud of that_. the other day I was having a conversation with somebody and they asked me 'why are we reinventing the wheel' and I looked at them and said 'we don't have a wheel?' we are inventing the wheel in this case=_. to think that it has all been resolved for providing a good user experience think again it has not_.there are some good examples (and some bad ones) and we can look to them and target them_. "at our university [Cambridge] we have kicked off an enormous challenge to actually simply describe how we teach and we've noticed tremendous diversity_.the variety between one instructor to another is enormous _. what would be tremendously helpful is if institutions would start sharing their teaching approaches we are trying to support."

51:40: "_.looking around there are a number of conversations that bubble up aside from U.I_. the back button_.the technology we use to build Sakai_. and other things_.the foundation has been trying for a while to resolve these challenges and then the conversation dissolves_. what we need to do is identify the challenges and then find resources whether internally or by going out to foundations_..there is more agreement in this

room then there appears to be-. This spotlighting approach is the best for moving forward and it isn't a command and control approach."