THE VALUE OF SIMPLICITY

USING FAMILIAR TECHNOLOGY FOR BROAD ENGAGEMENT IN PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

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WORKSHOP GOALS

Participants will…

- Discuss barriers to broad faculty participation in assessment.
- Identify the technology systems on your campuses that faculty know how to use.
- Learn three strategies for using familiar technologies to support academic program assessment.
- Imagine how these strategies might work at your institution

BARRIERS TO FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

Time

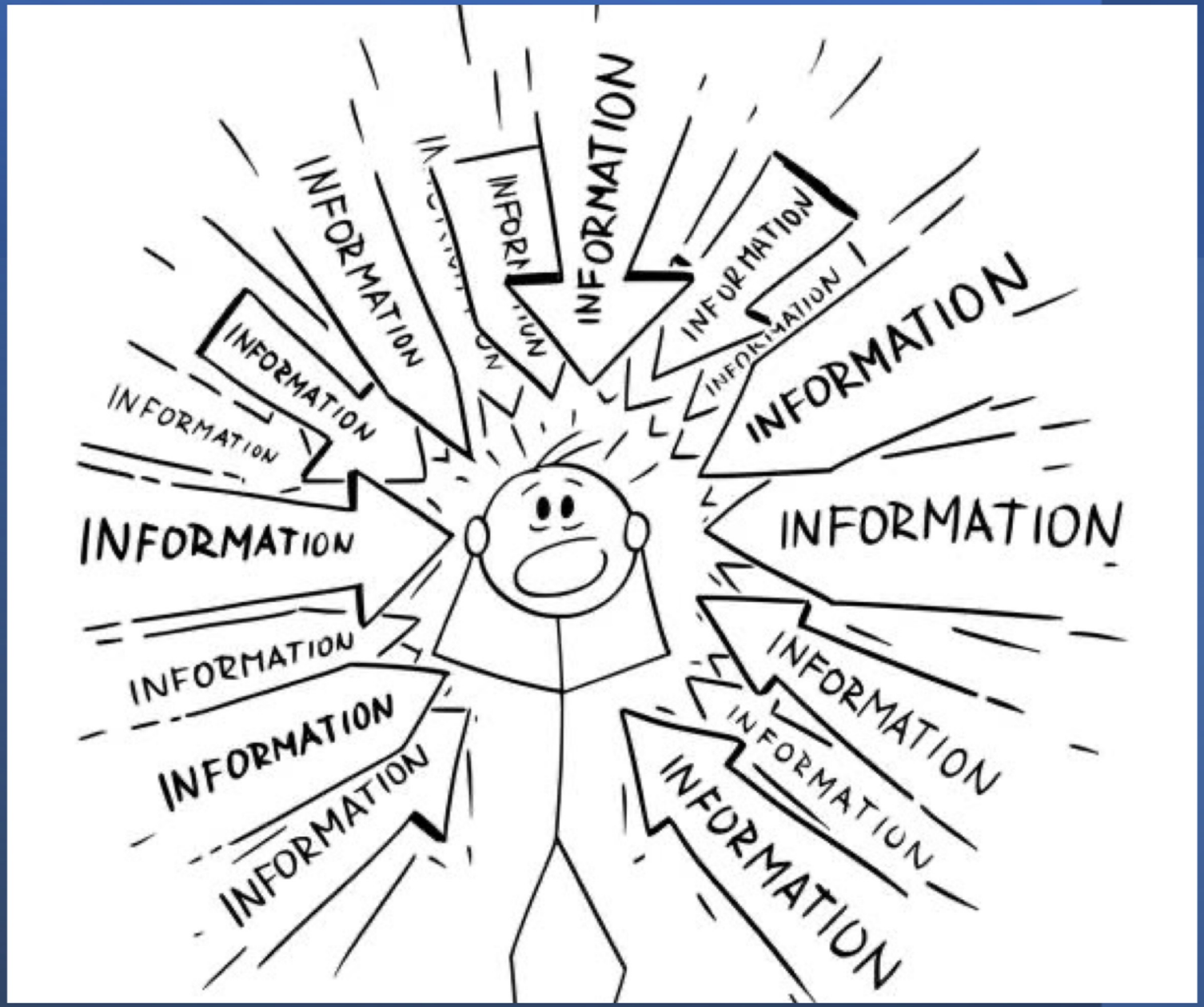
Resources

Understanding of Assessment

Bresciani, M. J. 2011. “Identifying Barriers in Implementing Outcomes-based Assessment Program Review: A Grounded Theory Analysis.” Research and Practice in Assessment, 6, 5-16.

We would add a related barrier:

The complexities of managing and communicating information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CONTINUOUS
IMPROVEMENT

There is no such thing as information overload, just bad design. If something is cluttered and/or confusing, fix your design.

--Edward Tufte

What technology systems do your faculty know well?

Case Study 1

SIMPLE DASHBOARDS USING SPREADSHEETS

As you report up, report less!

Aggregate and simplify information as you move up reporting levels.

The Motivating Power of Color

Course	LO 1: Apply disciplinary framework	LO 2: Analyze/ interpret and draw conclusions	LO3: Write effectively
Classics I	57%	57%	71%
Classics II	54%	50%	65%
Literature I	79%	64%	71%
Literature II	92%	85%	77%
Humanities I	100%	75%	75%
Humanities II	64%	59%	64%
Humanities III	67%	44%	59%
Film I	50%	13%	25%
Film II	80%	80%	80%
Philosopy I	50%	47%	50%
Philosophy II	67%	67%	50%
Philosophy III	100%	100%	100%

Academic Program Assessment Dashboards

These college-level reports:

- Indicate quality of program assessment (not quality of the program itself)
- Provide high-level overview of how departments are doing with their program assessment
- Help faculty in departments see their progress over time
- Help assessment leadership see trends

Department	Degree	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Alpha	BA	emerging	competent			excellent
	CERT			no submission		
Bravo	BA					
	MA					
	GRAD CERT					
Charlie	AAS			Issue w/ program		
	BS					
	UG CERT					

Everyone loves dashboards!

Faculty

Department chairs

Deans and associate deans

Assessment director

University assessment committee

Provost

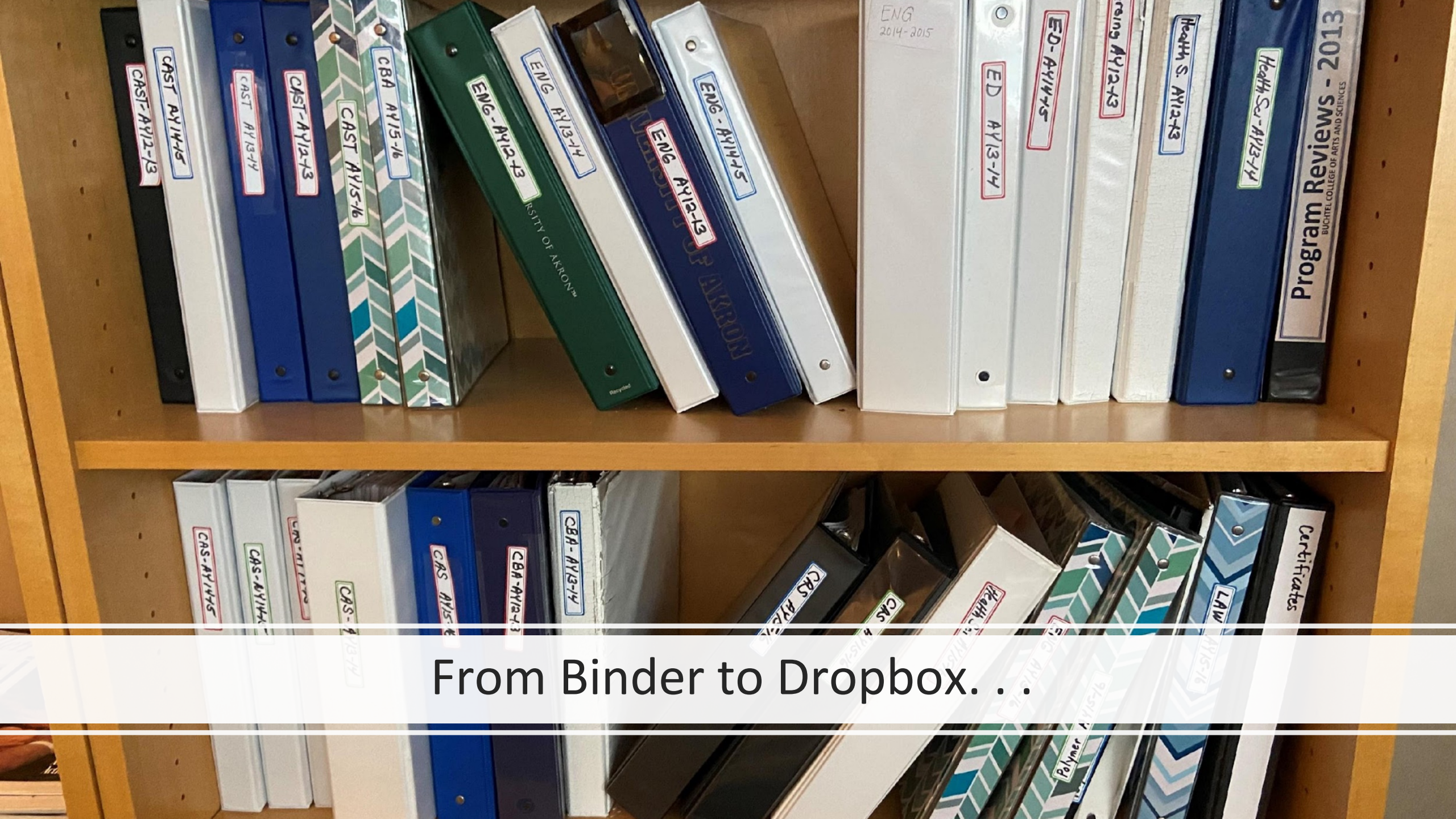
Accreditation teams

Case Study 2

ASSESSMENT ARCHIVES USING A STANDARD LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Value of Simplicity

Homegrown Assessment “Software”

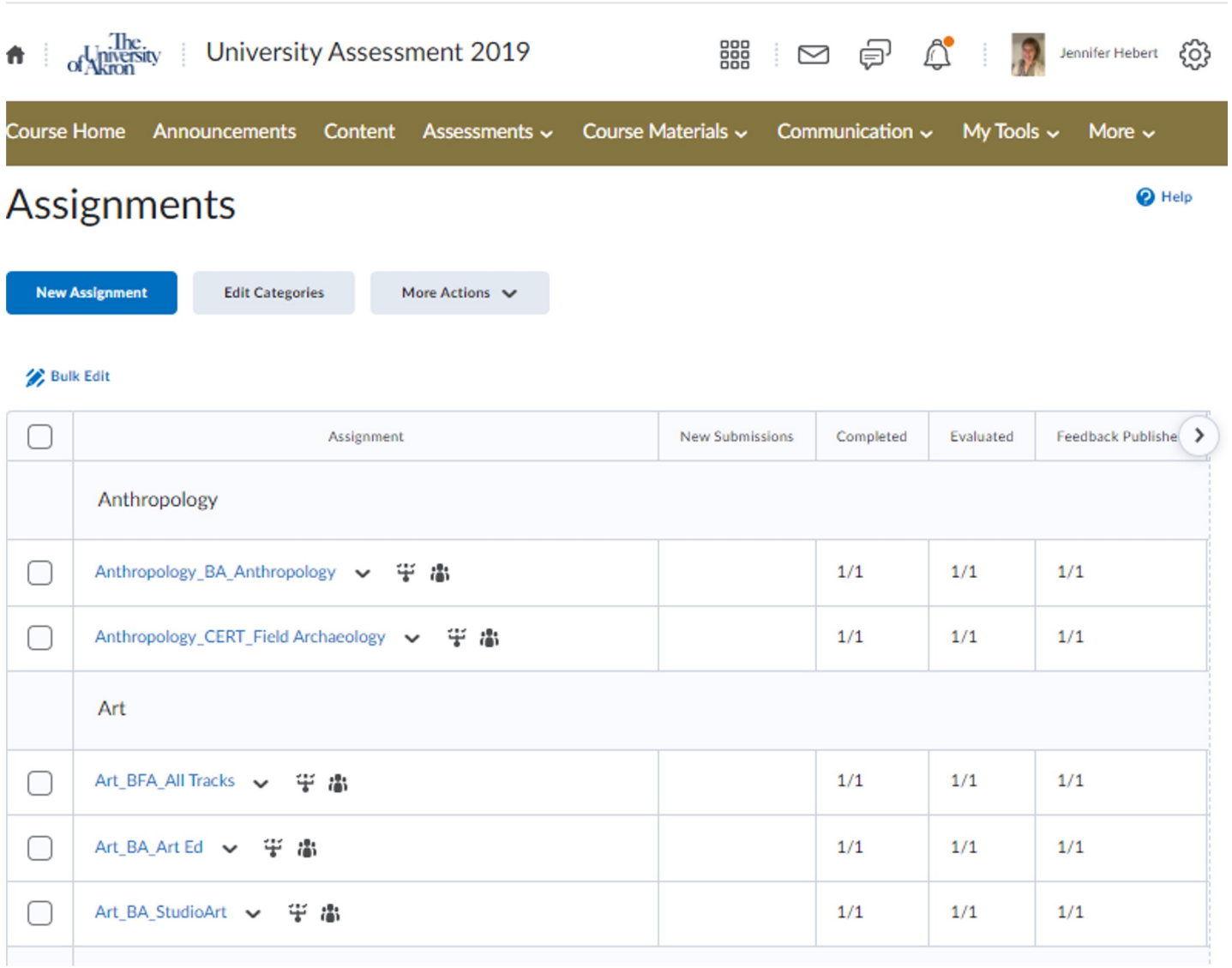


From Binder to Dropbox. . .

2020: What Now?

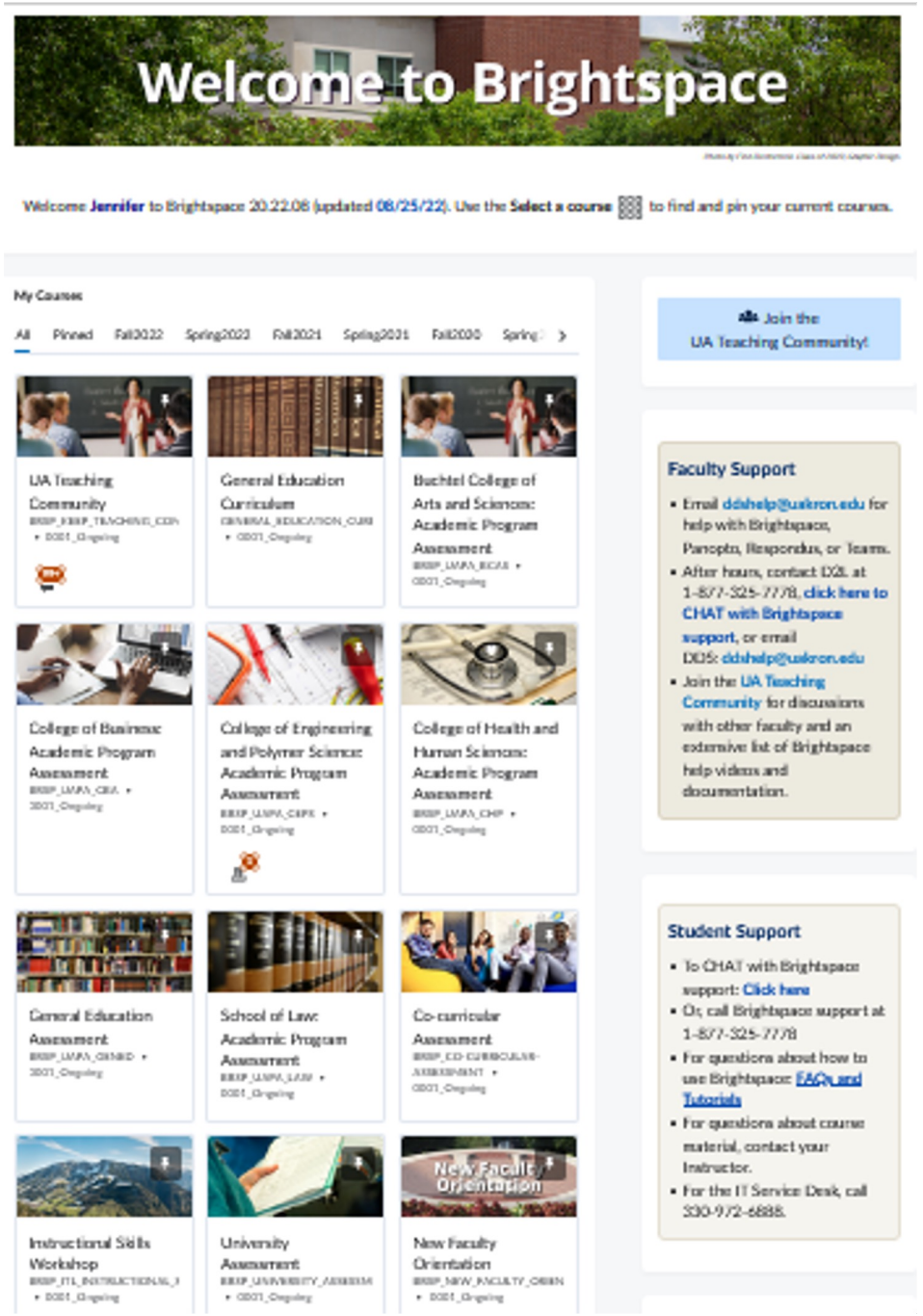
- COVID shutdown and pivot to remote
- Switch to credit/no credit options
- Remote testing, group work, etc.
- Campus reorganization: 11 colleges 5
- Reduction in Force (RIF)
- Morale? What's that?

Homegrown Assessment Archives



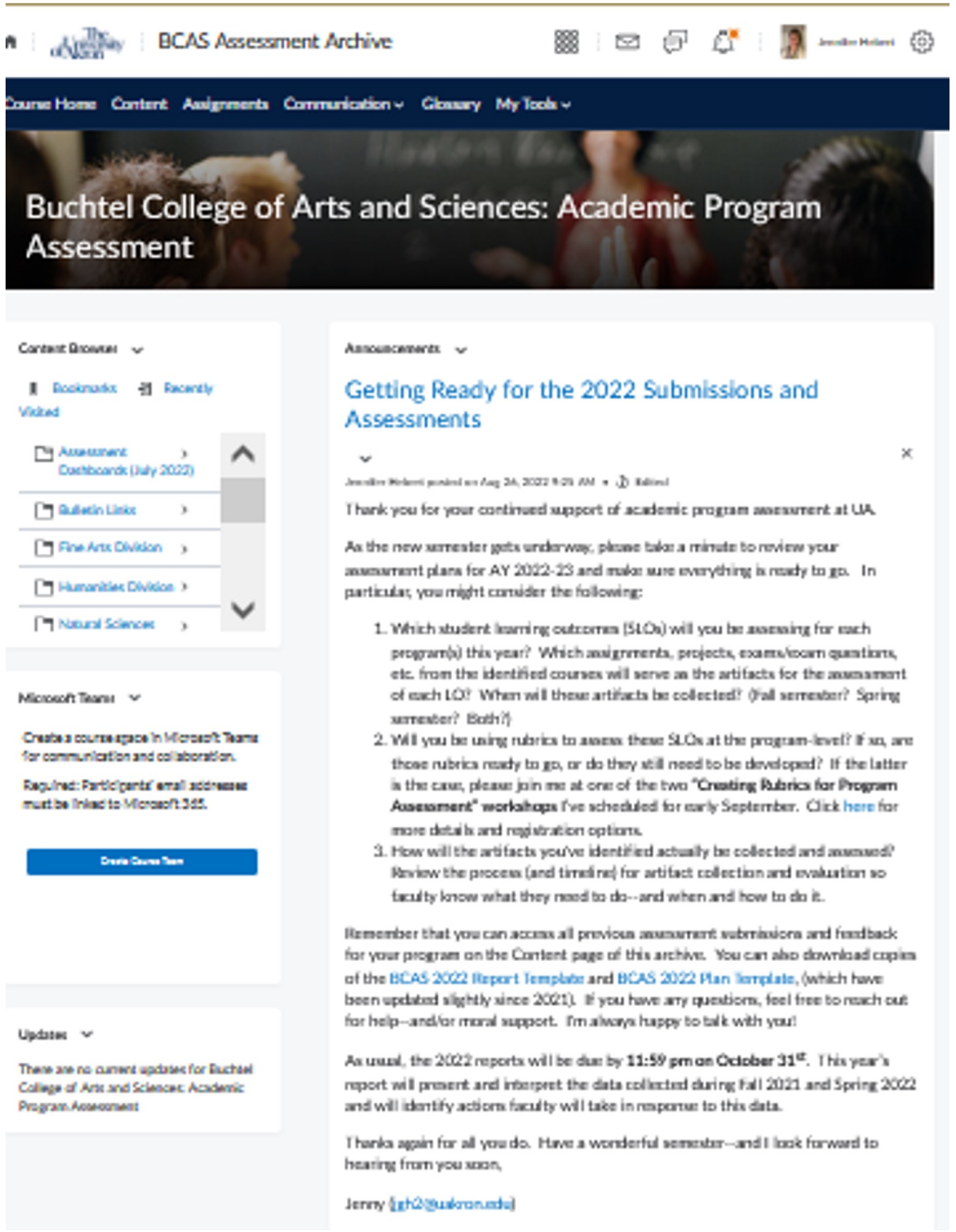
Brightspace Assessment Network

- One site for each of the four colleges and the School of Law
- One site for General Education
- One site for Co-Curricular Assessment
- One site for the University Assessment Committee
- Ability to add more sites and move/copy content from one to the other



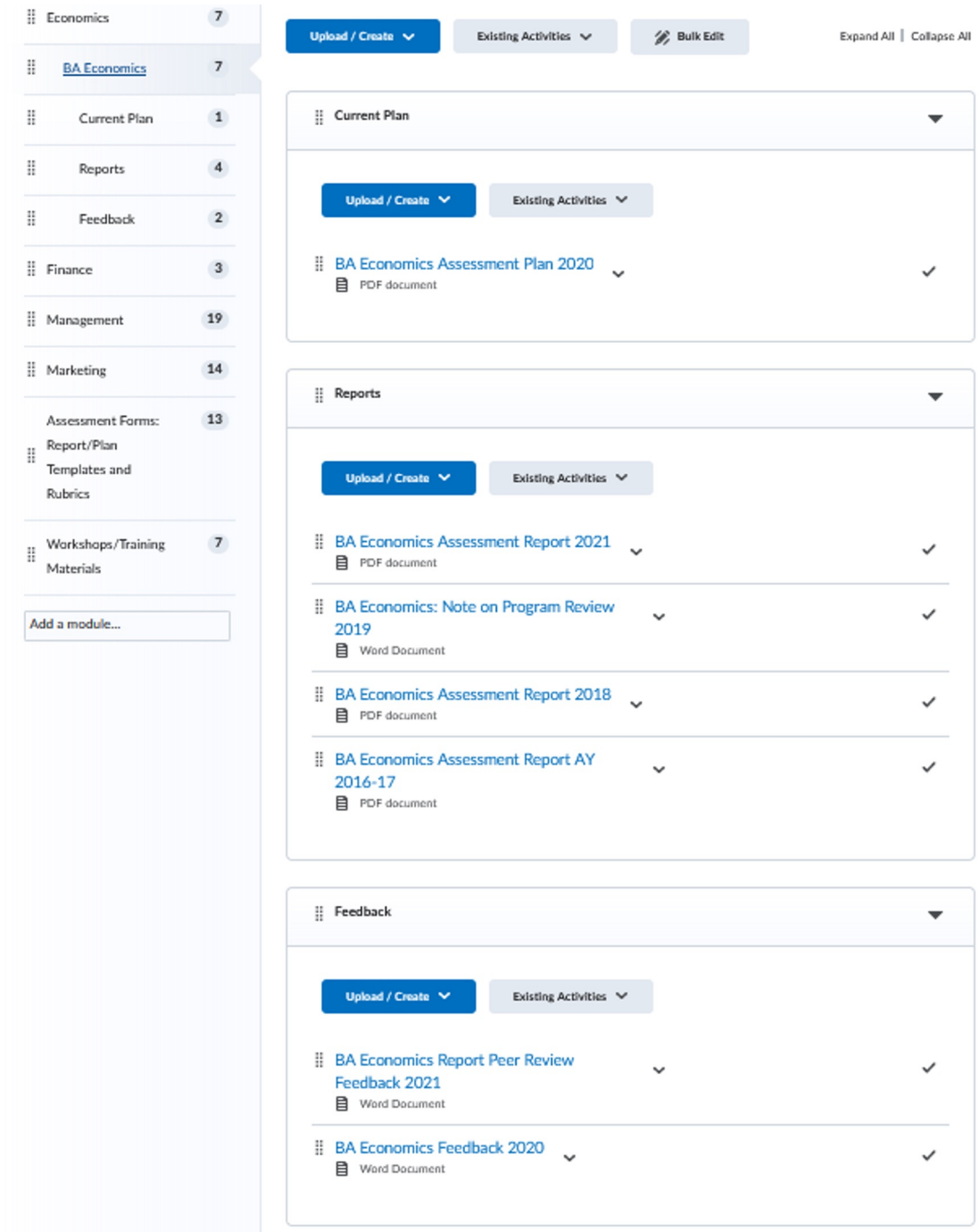
Helpful Features

- Announcements
  - Include links to relevant materials
- Assignment Drop Boxes
  - Organized by program
  - Include “due dates” for submissions
  - Clear indication of which programs and which may need a “friendly reminder”
- Ability to create “Groups”
  - Faculty are given access only to the drop boxes relevant to their programs/departments
- Feedback
  - Can by shared with Assessment Coordinators only (via drop box feedback feature)
- The Content Page
  - Easy organization of programs
  - Templates for submissions
  - Training materials



History at a Glance. . .

- A longitudinal look at a program's submissions and feedback.



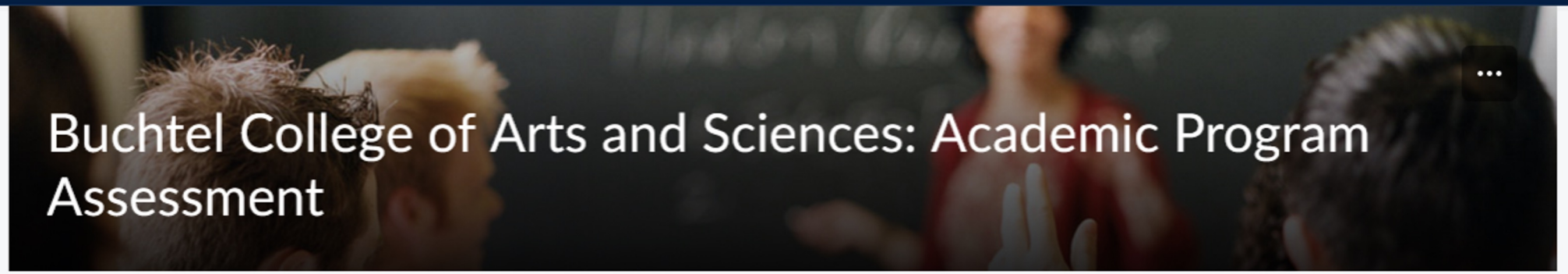
Homepage - Buchtel College of

https://brightspace.uakron.edu/d2l/home/4464780

The University of Akron | BCAS Assessment Archive

Jennifer Hebert

Course Home | Content | Assignments | Communication | Glossary | My Tools



Content Browser

Bookmarks | Recently Visited

Assessment Dashboards (July 2022)

Humanities Division

Natural Sciences Division

Announcements

Getting Ready for the 2022 Submissions and Assessments

As the new semester gets underway, please take a minute to review your assessment plans for AY 2022-23 and make sure everything is ready to go. In particular, you might consider the following:

Need Help?

For Example. . .

Case Study 3

GENERAL EDUCATION DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT USING MICROSOFT TOOLS

From stacks

to sorted

Name	Modified	Modified By
Algebra for Calculus	August 31, 2021	Michael Hillman
Basic Statistics	August 31, 2021	Michael Hillman
Breadth of Knowledge	September 2	General Education ...
English Composition II	August 27, 2021	General Education ...
Introduction to Public Speaking	August 31, 2021	Michael Hillman
Introductory Statistics I	August 31, 2021	Michael Hillman
Introductory Statistics II	August 31, 2021	Michael Hillman
Logic	August 27, 2021	General Education ...
Mathematics for Everyday Life	August 31, 2021	Michael Hillman
Statistics for Everyday Life	August 31, 2021	Michael Hillman
Tech Math II	August 27, 2021	General Education ...
Tech Math III	August 31, 2021	General Education ...
Technical Report Writing	September 3, 2021	Michael Hillman

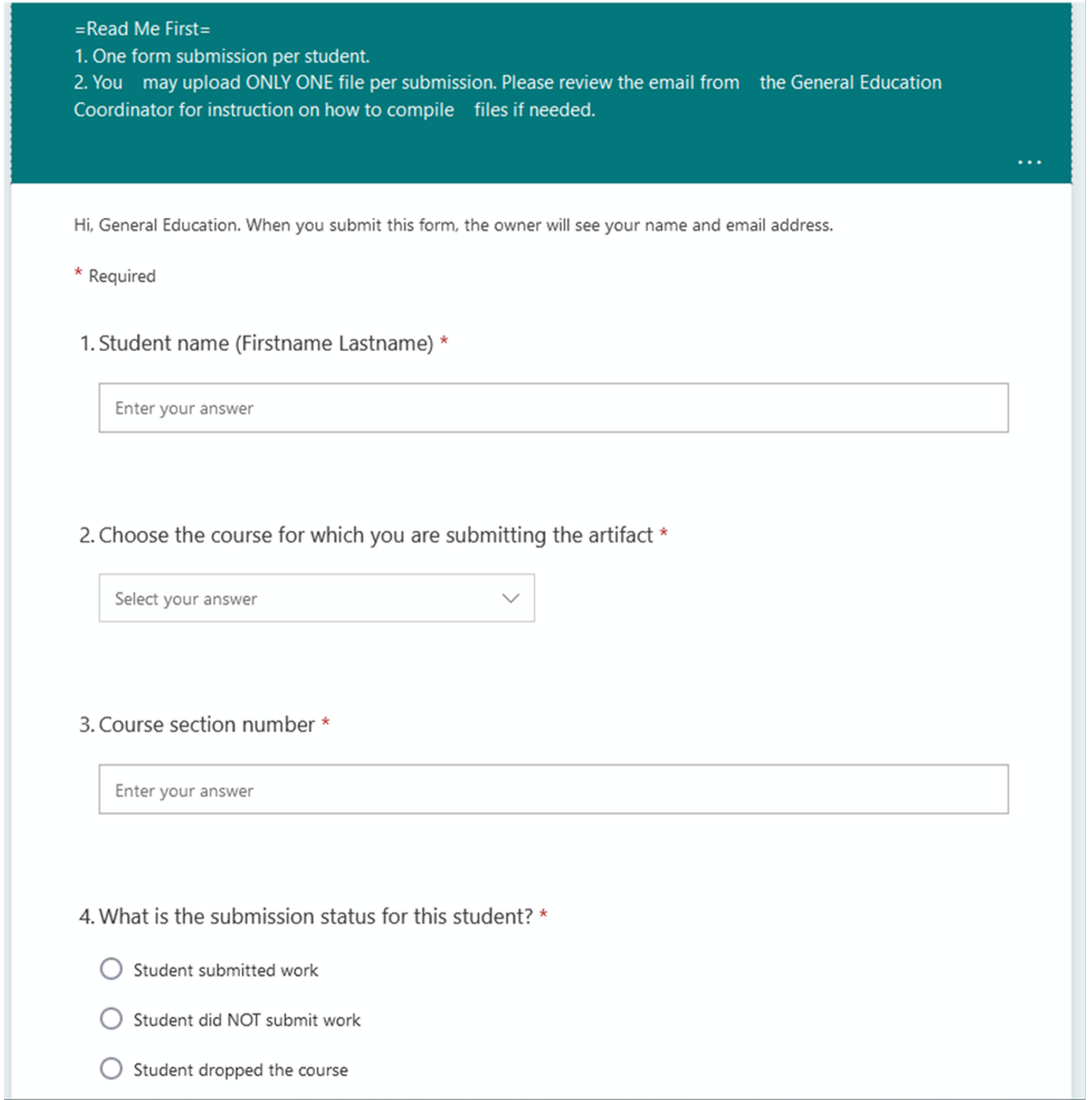
Artifact Collection

- Used Microsoft Forms and Power Automate to streamline the process
- Faculty filled out a simple form with 4 questions and uploaded artifacts
- Workflow
  - Sorted files to appropriate folder
  - Renamed each artifact to de-identify it and provide a standard naming convention and numbering system.

Example: Paper-Cerrone.docx

became

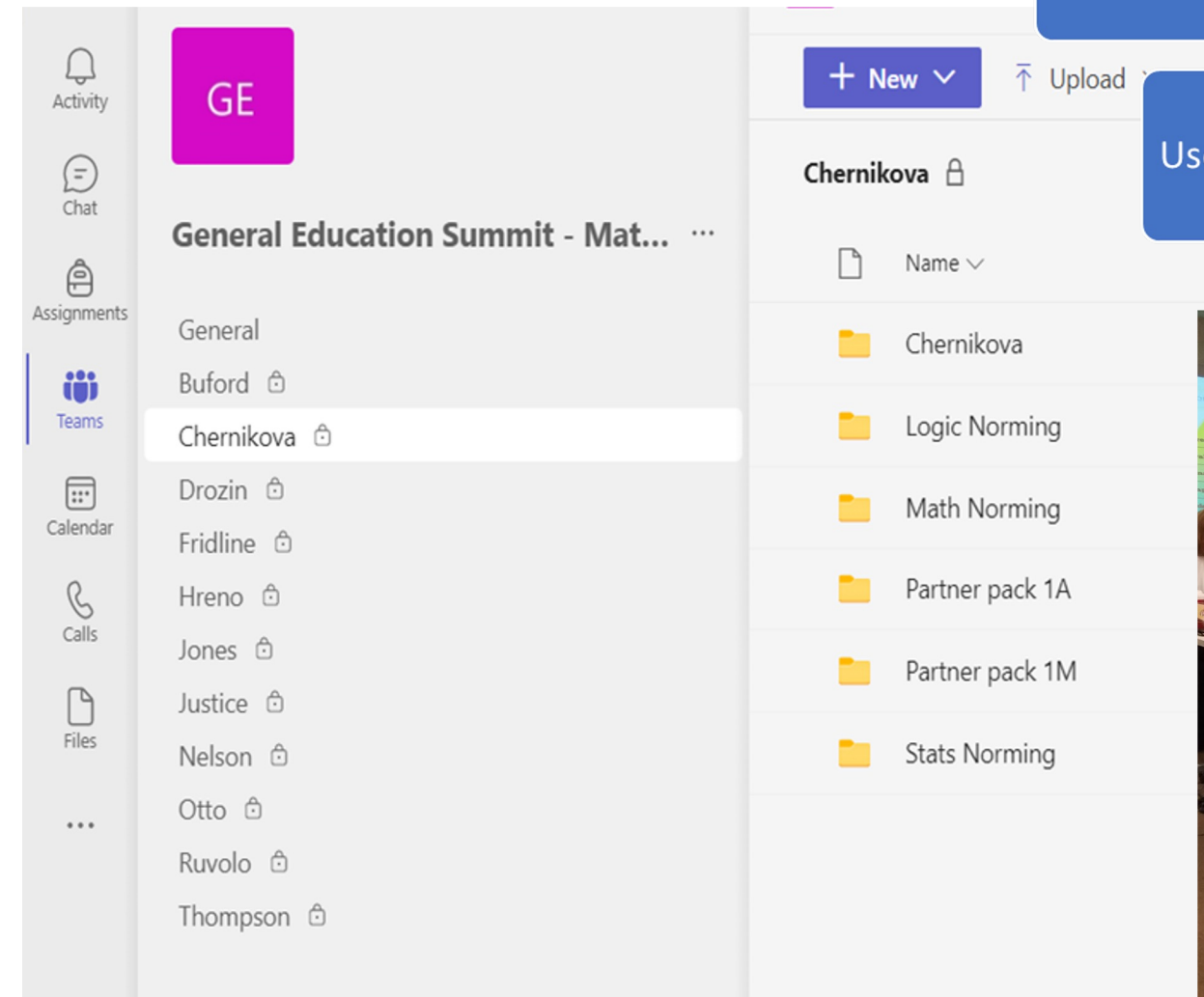
ART_1.docx

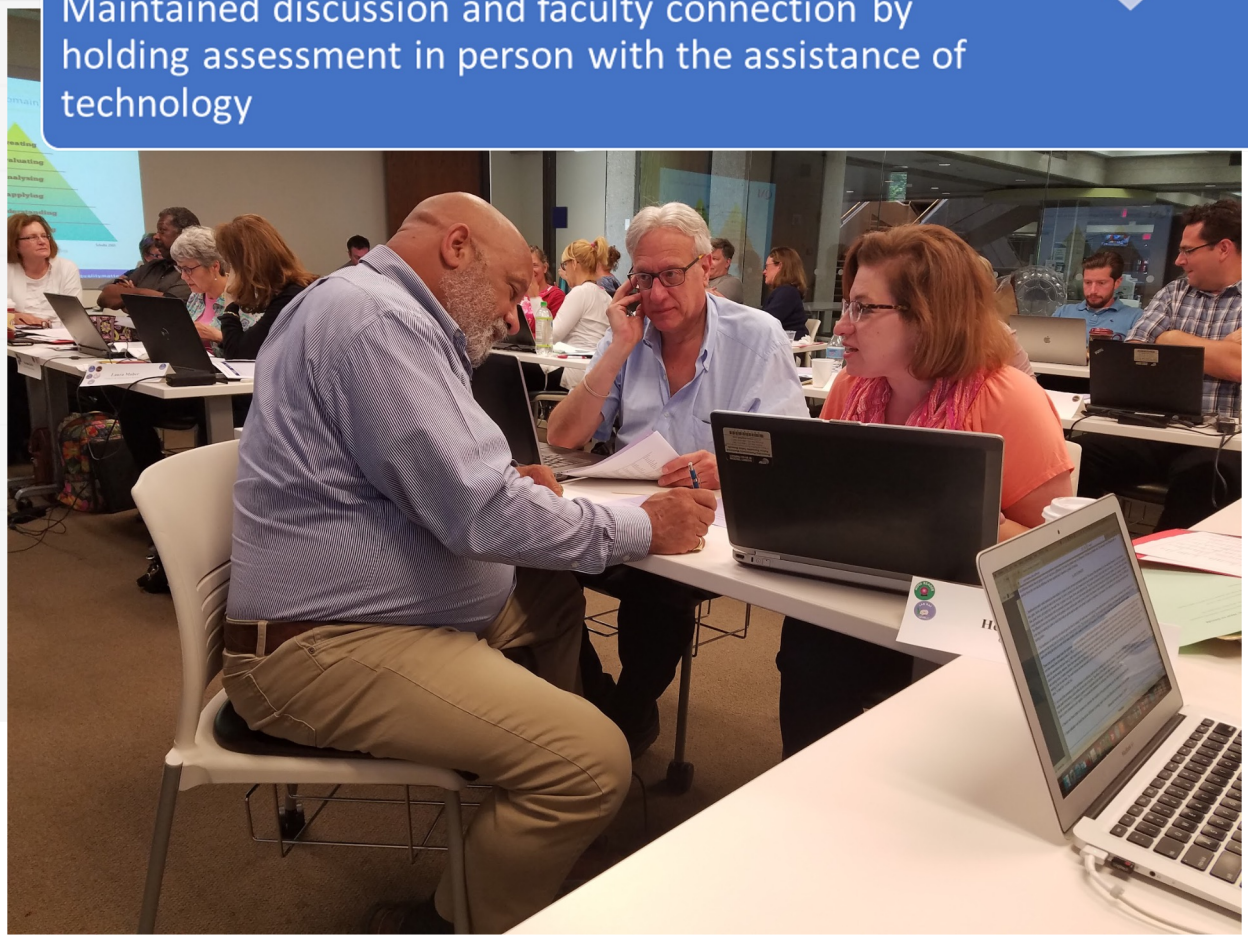


Used Teams to store and share artifacts

Used Microsoft Forms to collect assessment scores

Maintained discussion and faculty connection by holding assessment in person with the assistance of technology





Course Renewal and Archive

LMS utilized

- For faculty to submit course renewal forms
- To archive all Gen Ed assessment reports

Steal our ideas!

What approaches might work at your institution?

Questions or Comments?