

Mike Kelly, executive director of teaching & learning technologies, and Katie Vaughn, e-learning consultant, discussed the Blackboard roadmap at the November 12 meeting of the Faculty Senate IT Committee. The December outage of Blackboard is scheduled for December 20-28. Although this period is longer than in recent years, the upgrade brings significant benefits. [Ultra Base Navigation](#) will improve the user experience for our faculty and students and bring a fresh user-interface. UofSC will also move to a Software-as-a-Service model with timely updates that should eliminate the need for extended December outages of Blackboard in future years. Note that it will be possible to enter grades into Banner during the outage period; be on the lookout for communications from DoIT about how to do this in the coming weeks.