

**Statement of Support for Continued IMS Membership**  
ITLC Educational Technology Leadership Group (ETLG)

August 8, 2013

IMS Global is an open and collaborative initiative that has developed interoperability standards for content and data aimed at the education and publishing sectors that serve to ensure that content and data is portable across a number of systems. IMS has a compliance rating system for platforms and applications, and these compliance ratings are published and available to the public. David Ernst, former CIO and Associate Vice President of UCOP, sat on the Board of Directors for IMS Global, along with a number of influential publishers, software developers and educational technology industry. In the K-12 education sector, interoperability standards conformance is a typical item in RFP's for Learning Management Systems, online Assessment Systems, and other content and data systems related to uploading student information and sharing content and data across platforms. Higher education providers are beginning to review the systems they license in light of IMS standards.

IMS standards are public and available. In the educational technology sector, adoption of the standards is important to our ability to integrate various tools and applications into platforms. The IMS "common cartridge" is a standard being employed for import and export of content between learning management systems. Instructure's Canvas LMS uses this standard, as does Moodle, which helps integrate content between systems. The IMS, LTI (Learning Tools Interoperability) standard has increased in adoption, and it is now in common usage allowing tools such as discussion boards and eTextbooks and conferencing software. Many UC campuses rely on LTI for their LMS integration, and it is of use when it comes time to migrate content from one LMS to another. As mobile devices become integrated into learning platforms, IMS helps in validating user credentials and allowing mobility between the platforms and tools. UC Online, as well as all campus educational technology groups and the vendors they engage, use a number of IMS standards with the platforms and tools they provide. As we move forward with the Data Hub and cross-campus catalog, as well as consider the existence of multiple learning platforms across our campuses, these standards are an important consideration.

UCOP should consider the value of its membership in such a global organization. While the standards are publicly available, UC's membership and role on the Board of Directors may have contributed to a powerful partnership, and along with Penn State, helped send industry technology providers a powerful message about the importance of the standards to universities who manage a wealth of content and data. It is important that UC remain "at the table" as these critical learning management standards continue to evolve.