Appendix C: KM Glossary

Campus Wide Information System (CWIS): Also known as “enterprise systems,” these computer-based data storage systems encompass the mission functions of an entire higher education institution.

Course Management System (CMS): Software that allows students and faculty to organize electronic materials for a specific course or set of courses.

Data Mining: The process of searching databases for patterns or specific information.

Data Warehouse: An organization-wide database, often utilized by different subunits for various strategic planning efforts.

Explicit Knowledge: Learning that can be codified and transferred.

Learning Management System (LMS): Another term for a course management system; often used in a business training context or other non-credit learning context.
Learning Object: A reusable unit for instructional purposes, usually in an electronic format; can be a web page, digital video, audio file, guided tutorial, and so on.

Metadata: Often described as “data about data;” a keyword(s) or descriptor(s) used to classify and retrieve specific electronic data.

Ontology: A hierarchical data structure used to organize groups of related data.

Subject Matter Expert (SME): Often the traditional role of instructors and faculty, SME are the people who have specific knowledge of a given knowledge domain.

Tacit Knowledge: Learning that is difficulty to codify and transfer.