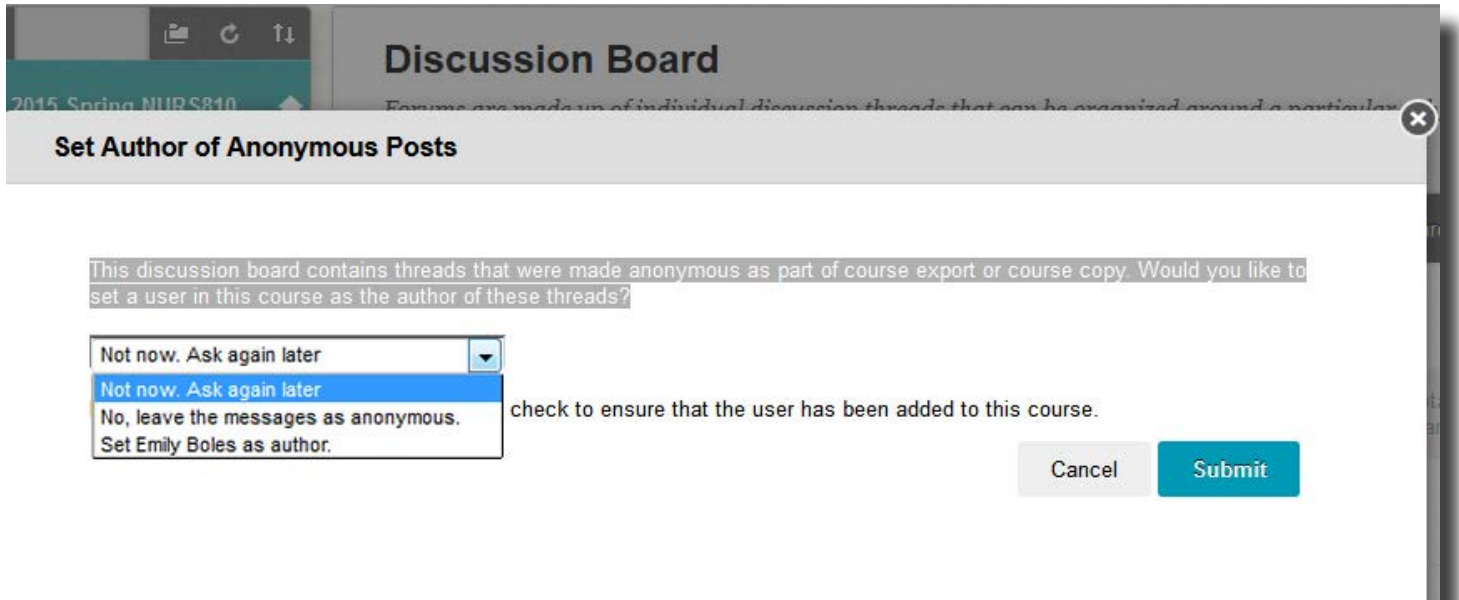


Newly Copied Discussion Board Forums

Copied Course Materials Containing Graded Discussion Forums



The screenshot shows a Blackboard interface for a 'Discussion Board'. A dialog box titled 'Set Author of Anonymous Posts' is open. The dialog contains the following text: 'This discussion board contains threads that were made anonymous as part of course export or course copy. Would you like to set a user in this course as the author of these threads?'. Below this text is a dropdown menu with three options: 'Not now. Ask again later' (selected), 'No, leave the messages as anonymous.', and 'Set Emily Boles as author.'. To the right of the dropdown is a checkbox labeled 'check to ensure that the user has been added to this course.'. At the bottom right of the dialog are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Submit'.

When course materials containing discussion materials are copied (or exported/imported) to another course, the Forums and any threads in the forum threads are copied to the new course. The author information for the threads is not copied over, so Blackboard assigns “Anonymous” as the author to each thread. In most cases, the instructor plans to remove the threads in the new course anyway, so this designation of “Anonymous” is not a problem. However, some discussion boards are setup with an initial “starter” thread to direct the discussion. The instructor may wish to retain this starter thread for the new course but prefers that the author be displayed as their own posting and not from “Anonymous.”

Removing “Anonymous” as the Author

If the starter thread is needed, and the author is “Anonymous,” the instructor can easily change the author. Make sure to view the forum in “List view” (option right below the Edit Mode). Mouse over the chevron next to the thread title and choose Change Author. The thread will immediately change to the instructor’s name.