

WestCAT Fall 2016 Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 20, 2016 - 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Senator Nancy Ruth Boardroom & Sifton Terrace
Canadian Museum for Human Rights
85 Israel Asper Way
Winnipeg, MB

Attendees:

Robin Fisher ACAT
Rob Fleming BCCAT
John Fitzgibbon BCCAT
Phil Belanger NBCAT (regrets)
Alison Pickrell University of Saskatchewan
Phoebe DeCimon Government of Saskatchewan
Gordon Vaxvick Sask Polytech
Kathleen Fehr Campus Manitoba
Ruth Blades NSCAT
Jean-Vianney Auclair, ADM, Advanced Learning Division, Province of MB
Ann Marie Lyseng ACAT
Mike Winsemann BCCAT
Glenn Craney OnCAT
Lia Quickert OnCAT
James D'Arcy University of Regina
Dave Neale, Campus Manitoba
Arlene Williams, ONCAT

8:30 am - Continental Breakfast Provided
9:00 am – Meeting Commences
12:00 pm - Lunch Provided

MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Review & Approval of Agenda

- WestCAT website to be added to agenda under Alberta update

3. Review of Meeting Notes from September 22, 2015 Meeting at BCCAT

- Accepted

4. Round Table: Update on Learner Pathways and Mobility-Related Initiatives

- Key Initiatives and Priorities
- Research Developments and Plans

GOVERNANCE:

BCCAT

- 19-member council appointed by Minister. Each institution does not necessarily get representative. Recommendations are based on need in the council. They have found this to be successful over the years.
- Underneath the council there are external and internal co-chairs, plus three standing committees with members appointed based on needed expertise.
- Most of their funds come from Ministry.
- Council is arm's length from the Ministry and has latitude to make decisions.
- There are hundreds of volunteers to support the system.

ACAT

- Council similar to BCCAT – appointed by the Minister; competency-based model to make recommendations to the Minister. Membership has sector representation with student and public members.
- ACAT is embedded in the Ministry and includes secretariat and staff.
- They have no direct budget control.
- ACAT reports to Minister. They are finding that it's a challenge to engage Minister.
- The governance was established 40 years ago.
- 29 institutions are members of ACAT; First Nations institutions are part of ACAT.

NSCAT

- Council consists of VP Academics.
- Includes operations committee.
- They create working groups as needed.
- Completely separate from government. Their vision is to be funded by institutions.
- Some funding comes from government.
- One person from government sits in the committee and the council.

ONCAT

- Separate 3rd party and incorporated as non-profit.
- Government relations:
 - Works at arm's length with government. They work with government via contracts and funds (\$7.5 million) are reserved for them and are negotiated every year.
 - Relationship is managed through ADM's office in post-secondary; close relations with Minister's office (see him once or twice a year).
- Mandate: students first.
- 24 colleges; 21 universities.
- Legal members are the institutions. They elect the board that is represented by institutions, students, and public.
 - They have student advisory board and it is a medium to communicate ONCAT operations to students.
- No expectation from Ministry to be institution-funded; funding Ministry allows them to put seed money to move collaborative projects among institutions.

SASKATCHEWAN

Had a SaskCAT, wasn't sustainable.

- Three years ago, Ministry and three major institutions formed a Growth and Sustainability committee and identified 4 priorities. One was on Transfer and Mobility. Out of that, institutions were encouraged to work collaboratively. They are working on an MOU on a few activities (ie. common terminology, common website). A recommendation to develop a formal council was approved. The council is to be represented by institutions that are credit-granting. Invitations will be sent out in a couple of weeks with first meeting in early October. One of the agenda items is how to formalize the council/committee.
- Terms of Reference will be shared with Dave.
- Their challenge is small size of the group and low number of institutions.

UPDATES:

BCCAT

- System-wide research
 - Shared deck: Student mobility for June 2016 incl non-grade (BC Colleges).
 - Personal Education Student number assigned to a student as soon as they enter the education system whether from K-12 or post-secondary. Alberta has the same. ON is trying to put this in place but having challenges with privacy laws.
 - Rob F mentioned that it's important to share data across the jurisdictions in Canada.
 - Shared document: Snapshot of BCCAT 2105-2016 and Planned 2016-2017 Activities. Activities included:
 - BC skills for jobs blueprint.
 - Aboriginal PSE and Training Policy Framework.
 - International Education Strategy.
 - Common Online Application Platform – currently Ministry's priority. (EducationPlannerBC.ca)
 - Universal application system: All applications to 17 institutions go through one place at present.
 - Transcript hub
 - Pilot: sending transcripts to ON and other transcript hubs. They are working on standard xml for transcripts.
 - Transcript hub is in discussion in Alberta.
 - In Saskatchewan – transcript from high school to post-sec but not between post-sec.
 - Interim EPBC Governance:
 - System wide Steering Committee with institutional and Ministry representation.
 - Operations overseen by BCCAT, working in conjunction with BCcampus.
 - Separate from the current council governance model.
 - Student Transitions Project, CDW, and BC Student Outcomes Forum.
 - Chair STP steering committee; facilitate outreach to the sector.

- Exploring Dual Credit progression and success.

ACAT

- Development of technology on transfer system.
 - Their transfer catalogue has been built.
 - TCES for new agreements has been a challenge. They gained access to Manitoba's TCES system as existing system came to an end. Ministry's IT had challenges with (a) TCES not meeting Government of Alberta requirements around security (b) there are aspects of the program their IT team is not equipped to handle.
 - They made a decision to build their transfer system in-house in Alberta. Robin mentioned that he has communicated to the Ministry that their system is to be shareable to CAT partners.
- Governance: Government is conducting a review of ACAT governance/reporting model. Thus, no new board appointments are being made pending this review.
- Research: Student transfer success – RFP is on ACAT website.
- They created mobility reports.
- Articulation committee development is ongoing; created 20 committees (ie. First Nations discipline, Dual Credit, etc.).
- Discussion on learning outcomes – ACAT and eCampus Alberta held a one-day forum on learning outcomes last May.
- Dual Credit – study conducted on dual credit; activity based on seed money from government in the last three years. Government funding came to an end. Some schools/institutions are self-funding dual credit. There is currently no single funding model that everyone can agree.

NSCAT

- They have transitioned from projects to operations.
- Common application is not economically feasible for Nova Scotia. They developed MyNSFuture, an application gateway that has direct links to application pages in each institution.
- Next: They are working on electronic transcripts, using standard xml with a messaging hub that uses batch process, rather than instance. They are focusing on high school to university first, and will work on post-secondary later. This project is funded by Labour and Advanced Education (post-secondary). K-12 is under a different Ministry – Department of Education.
- Transfer Credit Guide launched:
 - Currently 13,000 course-to-course equivalencies.
 - Next phase: to include courses in Atlantic Canada.
- Biggest challenge is promotion: how do you get institutions to promote transfer/that this tool exists to their students?
- Spring/Summer guide launched:
 - The guide includes both online and in-class courses.
 - Development of eCampus Nova Scotia is under discussion.

ONCAT

- Funding from government:
 - Focus of where the funding goes has changed. It is now called the Academic Collaboration fund and has the following elements:
 - Pathways idea: Move student in degree program that have academic trouble to a college partner to provide remediation and then transfer back to complete degree program.
 - Northern collaboration: bringing together the 10 northern ON institutions to collaborate on solutions; (ie. Allow student to take a course in another northern institution to complete their program).
 - Ideas are on culture change on transfer.
 - Innovative curriculum delivery – build pathways, increase course-to-course transfers.
 - Learning outcomes – inter-provincial forum.
 - Move from pilot to something more formal – articulation committees; launched 6 committees.
 - Website: looking at redesign of both front and back-end; considering options with BayLeaf.
 - New branding: on their website.
 - Research:
 - Data: about 11% of full time students transfer annually.
 - Surveys on website and pilot focus groups.
 - Best practices from institutions.
 - Cost and benefits of post-secondary.
 - Value proposition for government (or institutions): how do we explain that to them?
 - Articulation costing report (BCCAT) – amount of money per course; general conclusion – articulated system is costly but not as costly as a non-articulated system – available on BCCAT website.
 - Research is critical; graduation rate is important – more years students don't graduate, more years they're not in the labour force.

SASKATCHEWAN

- They are in the midst of creating the new council; institutions are making appointments.
- Priorities at first meeting include:
 - Institutions recording of student ID from K-12.
 - Dual credit:
 - Is in Advanced Education Ministry plan – currently trying to understand the landscape.
 - Use of Adult Basic Education model (housed in Ministry of Economy).
 - First Nations institutions – looking at how to embed dual credit.
 - Formalizing a formal body within the government.

- Mini-research project: transfer between Saskatchewan and other institutions.
- Looking at how to proceed with participation with other provincial systems.

CAMPUS MANITOBA

- Government change – funding redirected away from Transfer Credit Portal Project:
 - Transfer Credit Portal is currently parked.
 - Governance conversation to establish a more robust and permanent foundation for transfer credit in Manitoba.
 - Continuing on with Open Textbooks – no new funding.
 - ecoursesmb.ca – new revamped online courses website launched – now includes non-credit courses in Manitoba.
 - Set Your Course – website helps high school students/parents/counsellors match career goals with education options; no funding this year.
 - Flexible Learning Advisory Group (FLAG):
 - Manitoba Flexible Learning Hub development is ongoing. The Hub is a shared approach to development of high quality online courses and learning modules/objects.
 - Current capacity may produce 30 new courses/modules.
 - Producing two pilot courses and a few learning modules:
 - How to teach online.
 - How to learn online.
 - Six indigenous learning modules.
 - Good place to nurture Open Education, Creative Commons.
 - eTranscripts is not on radar at this time.
 - Nothing on common applications.
 - Nothing on research.

5. Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer

5.1. Updates (Phil Belanger, Glenn Craney)

- Successful conference was held this summer.
- Next year's conference is in Toronto, 2017.

5.2. National Transcript and Transfer Nomenclature Guide Working Group, update (Robin Fisher)

- Guide was developed by PCCAT. The committee that developed it passed it on to a working group to maintain the guide. Terms of Reference is also passed down. Joanne will give presentation on it at NBCAT.

5.3. PCCAT 2017 update

- Members discussed the possible alignment of the PCCAT conference with ONCAT conference in early May 2017.

- Discussion to be continued at PCCAT board meeting.

6. Overview of Transfer Credit Evaluation System Consortium Plans

6.1. Updates on potential partner technology reviews and developments.

6.1.1. CMB, BCCAT, ACAT, OnCAT.

- Discussion centred on the potential need for a tech oriented sub-committee in the PCCAT structure. To be considered in the light of the PCCAT governance discussions.

6.2. CMB / BCCAT MoU and other related agreements (Rob Fleming, Dave Neale).

- BCCAT developed Transfer System. Campus Manitoba adopted it and made enhancements according to Manitoba needs and upgraded to new *.net* platform. Campus Manitoba (through Brandon University) and BCCAT developed an MOU to share iteration of code to Alberta and Ontario. Offer stands open to others. New innovations made to it become your property and code shared back to the group.
- BC has taken the Manitoba application with enhancements. They built their staging instance and imported their own data. Thorough review has been done and most changes they're making are cosmetic. Looking at after-new-year launch.
 - For PCCAT board meeting: Use in 8.4 below to continue conversation on transfer exchange technology. How do we convene the right people to keep this conversation going? Working group might be a good first step. Priority should be on data standards.

7. Discussion on Future Inter-Provincial Transfer Forum Priorities for Action (All)

- Dave to add these items to PCCAT board meeting agenda on Thursday, Sept. 22:
 - Transfer technology
 - Policy
 - Research
 - CAT MOU update

8. CAT MOU: Existing and Potential Collaboration across Jurisdictions (All)

- Rob F. suggested to update the MOU to reframe to include relationship with NSCAT and Saskatchewan. To be added to PCCAT board meeting agenda.

8.1. Relationship among Articulation Committees across provinces

- AB
 - New seconded staff member in PSI to work on this.
 - Common first year discussions are happening between BC and AB. Few recommendations have come up about common learning outcomes. Many of the committees are starting to reach out beyond their boundaries.

- Ann Marie: How can we, as CAT structures, provide support to help these committees be sustainable?
- BC
 - John mentioned that they encouraged their articulation committee members to reach out to Alberta counterparts.
 - Engineering articulation committee in BC is looking at a common first year in BC.
 - On future agenda: linkages with ON Business and Administration; McDonald's agreement.
 - Start a competency map and pick specific initiatives that create linkages across the board.
- ON
 - Idea: articulation committee on trades. Very interested in continuing conversation with AB and BC.
 - Sharing best practices and supporting the leaderships; giving travel grants for groups/institutions to get together.
 - First full day meeting set for the fall – Engineering.
 - Glenn mentioned that although only 3 provinces have articulation committees, other CAT institutions are invited to join the conversation. Dave mentioned that next PCCAT conference could perhaps encourage a session on articulation as well as one on policy and one on technology. Rob F said that it might help organize our sessions.

8.2. Research plans and shared opportunities across provinces

- Alberta and BC are working on parallel interprovincial mobility across border institutions research study. Using the same template (same fields) and a working group, having the same lens but each collect the data independently.
- Alberta collecting dual credit data to create a long term framework.
- Dave mentioned making a national case for research on transfer and student mobility.

8.3. Dual Credit policy and practice

- Gord
 - High schools pay for Sask Polytech courses. Government reimburses via the school division.
 - Adult Basic Education (ABE) is provided through ministry of Education, ministry of Advanced Education, and ministry of Economy.
 - Regional community colleges instructing high school in continuing care courses and students get credit from Sask Polytech. Using money from Skills Training allocation.

- Jim
 - Use bursaries from general operating pool to fund dual credit course to inner city high school.
- Ann Marie
 - Alberta's dual credit articulation will be working on funding model, governance, agreements, etc.
 - Phase 3 of Pathways Initiative will include Dual Credit and PLAR.

8.4. Publication of inter-provincial transfer agreements – policy and technology

- Saskatchewan is interested in having some way for students to know where they transfer from. They have individual institutional data but no combined data. Will think about creating or participating in adopting other's technology (ie. BCcampus and Campus Manitoba TCES).

8.5. RPL/PLAR Policy and Practice – update from ACAT, CATNB et al on current initiatives

- There is articulation committee work in PLAR in the last two years in Alberta. They collected preliminary data from institutions and observed that data is connected to Transfer. Part of phase 3 of Pathways Initiative is what data to collect.
- RPL guidelines are being used to help get common criteria.
- CAPLA conference in October – guidelines and strategies will be shared.

8.6. Other Items

9. Other Business

- WestCAT website content
 - Section in ACAT website – ACAT site being revamped.
 - Need content and can get set up however we need – need to discuss how the group is going to be organized. More to come.

10. Next Meeting – Date and Location

- ACAT to host (Alberta)
- Date TBA

11. Adjournment

On-line background documents

CAT Annual Reviews or Reports

<http://www.acat.gov.ab.ca/pdfs/Annual-Report-2015-16.pdf>

http://www.bccat.ca/pubs/2015-16_Annual_Review.pdf

http://www.oncat.ca/files_docs/content/pdf/en/ONCAT%20Annual%20Report%202016%20-%20Final%20EN%20Web%20copy.pdf

PCCAT / ARUCC National Transcript Guide

<http://guide.pccat.arucc.ca/en/>

IPTF 2015

<http://bccat.ca/about/iptf>

Dual Credit

http://www.bccat.ca/pubs/DualCredit_report.pdf

CAT MOU

<http://www.bccat.ca/pubs/MOU.pdf>