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Articulation Committee Meeting

Committee Meeting Name	Meeting Location	Meeting Date
Biological Sciences Articulation Committee	University of Alberta CW313, Biological Sciences Building	May 11, 2015 (1:00 PM – 4:00 PM)
Chair: James Thomas- University of Lethbridge		Teleconference Line. Phone No. 1-866-792-1317 Conference ID: 7187343

Committee Members to Attend		Attended
1.	Mark Degner (Vice-chair) – MacEwan University	
2.	Sean Irwin - Grande Prairie Regional College	x
3.	Carol Gibbons Kroeker-Ambrose University College	x
4.	Deborah Hemmerling- Concordia University College	
5.	Som Pillay-Grande Prairie Regional College	
6.	David McFadyen- Grant MacEwan University	
7.	Ross Shaw - Grant MacEwan University	X
8.	Blaine Lagaree- Keyano College	X
9.	John Wood-King's University College	
10.	Robert Cuny-Lakeland College	X
11.	Nancy Brown-Medicine Hat College	X
12.	Tracy O'Connor-Mount Royal University	X
13.	Tom MacAlister-Mount Royal University	
14.	Sandra MacDougall-Red Deer College	
15.	Dan Bustamante-Red Deer College	
16.	Warren Elgersma-Red Deer College	
17.	Pliny Hayes-Red Deer College	
18.	Nancy McInerney-Red Deer College	x
19.	Gary Grothman-St. Mary's University	X
20.	Mary Ann McLean-St. Mary's University	
21.	Brenda Leskiw-University of Alberta	
22.	Jocelyn Hall-University of Alberta	x
23.	Heathery Addy-University of Calgary	x
24.	Doug Syme--University of Calgary	
25.	Dorothy Hill - Mount Royal University	x
26.	Mariola Maja Janowicz - Concordia University College of Alberta	x

Committee Members to Attend		Attended
27.	Carol Crooks – University of Calgary	x
28.	Jocelyn Hall – University of Alberta	x
29.		
30.	Vern Peters – King's University	x

Guests/Observers to Attend		Accepted	Attended
1.			
2.			

ACAT Secretariat/Ministry Staff to Attend		Accepted	Attended
1.	Eric Dohei-ACAT Manager		x
2.	Caroline Nixon-Alberta Education		
3.	Jim Samide		x

AGENDA (* Indicates Sample "Standing" Agenda Items)		Time Allotted
1.	*Welcome and Introductions	
2.	<p>*Institutional Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learner Pathways or Program Changes/Updates (e.g., New Courses/Specializations, etc.) • Admissions/Admissions Requirements Updates • Student Mobility/Transfer Updates (e.g., New Transfer Agreements, Information about Transfer Credit Awarded, etc.) • Response to ACAT Question for Committee Feedback • Other/General Information Updates <p>Completed ACAT reports can be submitted to the ACAT Secretariat's Jim Samide (jim.samide@gov.ab.ca) or Wendy Richer (wendy.richer@gov.ab.ca) or to Jim Thomas (thomas@uleth.ca) or uploaded directly into the Articulation Committee Chair Meeting SharePoint folder.</p> <p>King's University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the name change to King's University was formalized this year. • The vertebrate and invertebrate zoology courses were combined together into a "systems"-based course • They are adding a 3 credit methods course • More focus on research training and students doing a 4th yr undergraduate thesis is being made • They are completing a Biology program review • Bilateral agreements are being made between King's University an 	

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<p>other Colleges in all disciplines</p> <p>Concordia University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new Biology / Environmental Science program is being mounted <p>University of Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • this year U of A is amalgamating the 3 streams 1) Ecology and Evolution; 2) Physiology and Development; and 3) Molecular Genetics into 1 major • they are moving to an admission model for students based on a "competitive average" <p>Lakeland College</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transfer enrolments have declined • science-based courses are in high demand • the Ecology BIOL313 and BIOL208 have both modeling and biostatistics components but these courses are not being recognized as "equivalent" in course transfers • they are responding to changes in the Saskatchewan High School curriculum (a new BIO20, Health20 and ENVIR SCI130) • the college has initiated changes in training for the Havy Oli Technichian (suspended in 2016) and has increased enrolment for Heavy Oil Engineering <p>Red Deer College</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no major updates <p>University of Calgary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is now looking courses from the Fall instead of the Spring to evaluate students looking to be admitted <p>Ambrose University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has seen 36% growth • Health Sciences and Kinesiology Majors are best subscribed • emphasis is being placed on courses in senior level research methods • expanding the Environmental Science program • adding a requirement for scientific writing • all students must take 2 maths including biostatistics <p>St Mary's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • having difficulties with 3rd and 4th yr course recognition / approval by other institutes / professional programs • students are required to take biostatistics 	

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	<p>Mount Royal University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> undergoing a program review collapsing their 2 majors into 1 have set up a joint Biology / Environmental Science Major with KeyanoCollege <p>Keyano College</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no major changes <p>Medicine Hat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has had some administration changes is experiencing some 1st year student retention problems <p>University of Lethbridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is undergoing a program review looking at mathematics requirements such as biostatistics in the major no major changes to note 	
3.	<p>*Confirmation of Articulation Committee membership list</p> <p>A reminder was given to the committee to keep ACAT aware of the contact list for the Articulation Committee</p>	
4.	<p>*Alberta Education Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We were reminded that the number of ACAT committees has grown We all need to follow the "SharePoint" Ap on the web to be current with transfer and admission changes occurring in Alberta Efforts are being made to interface with BCCAT to increase transferability of our students into / from the BC system 	
5.	<p>*ACAT Council/Secretariat and Innovation and Advanced Education Updates</p>	
6.	<p>*Articulation Committee Question(s) for ACAT – nothing specific</p>	
7.	<p>Vote for a new Chair / Vice-Chair to represent Biological Sciences for the next 3 Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nancy Brown from Medicine Hat College was elected Chair for the next 3 years Carol Gibbons Kroeker from Ambrose University was elected as co-Chair for the next 3 years 	
8.	<p>Discussion topic from the University of Calgary. The Associate Dean (Undergraduate) of the Faculty of Science, and the lead advisor for the Undergraduate Science Centre reviewed the Biological Sciences Program Transfer Chart, and after much discussion, we would like to open a discussion on the utility of the chart in its current format. As indicated in the introduction to the chart, students have their courses assessed on a course-by-course basis. Since there is not</p>	

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<p>a consistent curriculum across the province, this often means that the transfer credits students receive do not put them at exactly the start of “3rd year” of the Biological Sciences program they are transferring to. Although these students have 2 years (60 credits) of course work complete, they may still be lacking courses that would normally be taken in the first or second year course progression at the institution they are transferring to. Although we try to inform students of these possible deficiencies with the footnotes, we feel the current chart may be difficult for students to interpret correctly.</p> <p>A past benefit of this chart, for the University of Calgary, was that it provided an admission path to our Biological Sciences program for students who lacked our previously required prerequisite courses. For example, our prerequisite courses used to include two junior level MATH courses. However, students transferring to the U of C under this agreement could present one junior MATH and a junior STAT course and still be considered for admission to our Biological Sciences major (although they would have to clear the deficiency of the other junior MATH prior to graduation). Beginning Fall 2015, we have removed specific course prerequisites for entry into our Biological Sciences program (students must still meet a minimum GPA). Therefore, this past benefit of the chart is no longer relevant, and this has caused us to wonder if other institutions find that this chart benefits students entering their programs or if the chart has lost relevancy for other institutions as well.</p> <p>There certainly is important information students should be made aware of if they are planning to start a Biological Sciences program at another institution with the intention of transferring elsewhere. The U of C has decided that we will create transfer guides as a resource for students intending to transfer to us from another Alberta institution. This will give us a better format to present information (such as which Biochemistry course(s) from other institutions fulfill our requirements, rather than try to fit that information in the footnotes of the current chart).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was recognized that most institutes do a course by course transfer assessment for students • Carol Gibbons Kroeker from Ambrose University was voted to lead a review of the “block transfer” agreement during the next yaear and will propose a replacement chart. The amended document will be presented to the group next year for approval. <p style="padding-left: 40px;">This motion wasd voted on: For – 10 votes Against – 3 votes Abstain – 1 vote</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that we all provide / upload major / course descriptions on the ACAT web site “SharePoint” to facilitate this process 	

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9.	<p>Discussion topic from Mt Royal University. - The medical and dental schools at the large universities have instituted some requirements that applicants present courses that are transferable to their institutions. Unfortunately, the ACAT system does not allow us to request transfer agreements for first and second-year courses. The medical and dental admissions people do seem to be sensitive to this, and have made some accommodations. However, students who call the medical and dental admissions offices are sometimes getting the message that the courses they have taken at a smaller institution may not count toward their application. Naturally, this causes consternation; students spread the word; and panic can ensue. I would like a discussion of what can be done to improve this situation. I would also like to get some clarity around admissions criteria from the large universities, if possible. I realize that we do not consider admission to medical and dental schools a transfer issue, but their requirements for transferable courses are a transfer issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a discussion of recognition of senior level courses by professional schools • This was recognized as a problem • No resolution to the problem was identified 	
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A suggestion was made that ACAT may wish to look at gradf student mobility / transfers in the syste as the education system expands 	
11.	<p>*Identification of Next Meeting Date and Location and Potential New Agenda Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting will precede the AIBA meeting next year at Red Deer College. - time to be announced. 	
12.	<p>*Adjournment and Plans for Confirming and Sharing Minutes and Institutional Updates on ACAT SharePoint Site</p>	