



**Articulation Committee Meeting MINUTES
Friday, May 27, 2016
Room MA318A, Heritage Hall Building
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Chair: Jim Murtagh
Vice-Chair: Ron Meleshko**

1. Welcome from the School of ICT

Jim Murtagh welcomed all to SAIT and conducted the safety moment.

2. Introductions

ALBERTA POST SECONDARY

Ron Meleshko
Andrew Tappenden
Larry Slack
Alan Fedoruk
Nathaly Verwaal
Wayne Eberly
Wendy Osborn

MacEwan University
King's University
Medicine Hat College
Mount Royal University
University of Calgary
University of Calgary
University of Lethbridge

Via Telecom

David Gregg
Steven Chattaroon
Paul Lu
Eric Dohei
Clare Ard
Bill Lomax

Grande Prairie Regional College
NAIT
University of Alberta
Advanced Education (ACAT)
Advanced Education (ACAT)
Alberta Education

SAIT

Jim Murtagh
Maria Saunders
John O'Loughlin
Erika Zabate

Academic Chair of ITSD
Administrative Assistant
Instructor
AIM Practicum Student

Regrets

Libero Ficocelli
Steve Letkeman
Rossitza Marinova

Grande Prairie Regional College
Medicine Hat College
Concordia University of Edmonton

3. Adoption of Agenda

Moved, seconded and carried

4. Adoption of the 2015 minutes

The minutes were not available from last year's meeting at this time

5. Topics of discussion suggested from last year's meeting:

- Update on MOOCs – University of Alberta
 - September/October, 2015 started offering SPM (Software Product Management), a six course specialization in mastering Agile software development practices by way of MOOC with Coursera as an open on-line course. If you pay for the courses you will then receive the Coursera certificate. Offered as an on-demand bases
 - Currently over tens of thousands have registered and of those over thousands have paid for the courses
 - Marketing was relied mostly on Coursera
 - The Coursera certificate reflects the U of A emblem, but there is no U of A transcript
 - Capstone is cohort based, do not work in groups but use peer assessments

- Admission Processes - is your program and/or your institute doing anything creative?
 - U of L - some reservations: 'on the spot' acceptance offers given for conditional seats to applicants at various high schools' open houses
 - U of A - Such a high demand for their courses they need to look at ways to control the number of people in programs requiring computing courses. The demands are outweighing the ability to accommodate them. They are receiving funding and support from the Faculty Science but this does not resolve the controlling issues and are looking for creative solutions to this problem
 - U of A – students can have options to register for labs, either require their own laptops or with work stations that have computers. Have designed new courses that do not require a lab but still includes programing

- How are waitlisted students handled? Has consideration been given to guiding them to other schools?
 - Grande Prairie Regional College - Currently not bursting at the seams and could handle 10 – 15 more enrollments
 - U of L - No waitlists for CS. Enrollments doing very well, but do not have quotas
 - U of C - does not have control over admissions. Generally students will list two programs so if one seat is declined they have another option
 - MacEwan University – Registrar's office controls admissions. Students admitted into the Bachelor Science program do not declare their major until around Christmas during either their first or second year

- U of A - Registrar's office controls admissions from high school and the faculty science control the transferring of applicants to the honour specialization and major/minor programs
- SAIT - do have involvement with the admission process. Have two tier admission level; minimum requirement and early admission. High demand program – only early admission are being offered seats. Waitlist ranked on academic standing, but may consider applicants with specific circumstances
- What general computing course(s) do you offer to non-computing majors? Mandatory or optional? For example, UBC has developed a new course, Computational Thinking, to be offered for the first time in September 2016.
 - Mount Royal – Have a BSE course that all are required to take which provides them with basic skills. They are now starting a new second course offered on-line that is geared for students not in science but as in art and business. Will be bringing on another course in the future, a web oriented course to give students some exposure
 - MacEwan University – Offering the Library Information Technology program a new course - Information in Fluency this fall. This will help the diploma program latter into a degree
 - University of Calgary – one course for non-major which focuses on using tools (Word, Excel) and adding programming to it. Also have another course for anyone that teaches the basic overview of Security issues
 - U of L – Offers one Computer Literacy course (optional credit course) which touches on Word, Excel, networks, computer security and some programming. Suggested at bringing in two separate courses – one for majors and one for non-major programs
 - King's University – First year CS students must take two courses, Intro to Programming and Intro to the Discipline. These courses have been opened up to non-major in the institute. Looking at offering two different labs with the one lecture, one being programming focused and the other having a different focus for others, such as art students.
 - SAIT – Looking at reintroducing courses teaching Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.
 - Other members also noted a decline of students' knowledge in the use of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.
 - Suggested Alberta Education looks into re-introducing it
 - Many students are using Google Doc instead of Office
 - Each school has different methods, priorities
 - Alberta Education – suggest members email him requests for specific trends within their local areas such as computing science, programming, etc.
- Have you established any dual credit opportunities for secondary students?
 - U of L – does offer between their courses and high school, but the CS department does not at this time
 - SAIT – have some dual credit opportunities but not in the IT diploma program

- Mount Royal University – have some arrangements with the high school but nothing in Computing
- U of C – nothing formal
- MacEwan University – unaware of any, but do recognize some of the high school courses that students can use to skip some of the introduction courses and go straight into the advanced courses. They do not receive credit for the courses but can take more advanced courses instead
- Medicine Hat College – has Prior Learning Recognition and has used twice to allow a student to receive credit for a course
- King’s University – last year the Business school had a successful pilot program with the Edmonton high schools. This year there was an interest in the CS courses but it was not successful
- U of A – there are no dual credit options in Computing Science
- Grande Prairie Regional College – have several dual options in other programs, such as business. Did look into it a year ago, but no outcome
- NAIT – it is based on school by school bases, depending if they can find an instructor willing to do it. The Intro Programming course is a credit opportunity

Alberta Education Update

- Trends in the Computing Science courses:
 - Overall increase in the number of students each year that have been taking these courses. For example last year 4,622 students took at least one of the computing science courses. Also last year 132 high schools offered a computing science course compared to 107 the previous year.
 - Still seeing a gender discrepancy between male and female. Last year over 4000 male and under 600 female taking at least one of the computing science courses. On average since 2010 it has been a 3000 to 500 ratio.
 - What efforts, if any have been made to resolve this issue?
 - Locale issue, some have offered all female classes, some successful, some not
 - What is the mix (male/female) for instructors teaching the courses?
 - no data on it
 - As high school counselors have a huge impact on the students, are they being guided in this discussion?
 - Agrees the counselors do have a role and urges that the post-secondary try and educate down to the counselors as to the necessity computer science plays as a whole.
 - Email Alberta Education at bill.lomax@gov.ab.ca if anyone has questions to propose

6. ACAT Council/Secretariat and Innovation and Advanced Education Updates

- Learner Pathway Modernization Initiative (LPMI) – in phase 2 and hope to roll out this summer.
 - i. Modernizing their website, moving off the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS) website and move to ALIS transfer website
 - ii. Working on the current on-line transfer data base. Launched a new mobile app and the functionality available on the app is also available on their website. The transfer database they are using is used by many of the other provinces which bring forward a lot of future possibilities from the information exchanged. Alberta is developing Course Catalogue – a huge information depository of: current active transcript agreements, future pending agreements, course outline in need of upgrades or uploads, any transfer pathway information that may be useful for students. Dual credits are also included, to help encourage students to meet the transition from secondary to post-secondary
 - iii. In November will be moving into phase three and looking at SharePoint – not the most ‘friendly’ system, but need to meet communities’ needs to find a secure way of sharing information
- Personnel changes within ACAT: Clare will be taking over Eric’s current activities and Eric will be focusing on Interprovincial issues
- Two proposals on their website for research transfer patterns in Alberta. Any person interested can contact them
- Looking at streamline governance of the organization. A chair meeting will be scheduled in February, 2017
- ACAT, Campus Alberta Quality Counsel along with the Ministry of Advanced Education held a learning outcome forum in Calgary. There were also ten student representatives present to participate. It centered around the role of youths and learning outcomes from a quality assurance perspective as well as transfer student mobility perspective. Will have video on the ACAT website

7. Articulation Committee Question(s) for ACAT

- Website: transferalberta.ca
- New website not available outside of GOA yet, but will be available outside of the ministry to the institution stakeholders. Those interested email either eric.dohei@gov.ab.ca or clare.ard@gov.ab.ca and your name can be taken back to their project team and be added to the list.
- It’s our understanding that you can tell us how many students moved between institutions but not ‘why’ students moved between the institutions of Alberta?
 - i. That is correct. We can tell you what they did but not their motivations.
- ACAT website: http://www.acat.gov.ab.ca/new_format_include/research/
There are student mobility reports, institution and sector perspective. Unfortunately the transfer system is thirty nine (39) institutions but the data that can be collected is only twenty six (26) public institutions, using the learner enrollment reporting system. We can track the movement of the students using their Alberta student number but it cannot reflect any transfer credit awarded.

8. Institutional Updates:

- Learner Pathways or Program Changes/Updates (E.g. New Courses/Specializations, etc.)
 - SAIT – Please refer to the program report
 - U of L – In conversation with NAIT regarding updating and adding more transfer agreements from NAIT to the U of L. In process of obtaining course outlines to see what can be done
 - MRU – No major wholesale changes this last year
 - U of C – have had difficulties meeting of professional requirements for an ethics course. The philosophy department has recently agreed to mount an ethics computer course. In discussion with the faculty of Art's, if successful, it will be adding a writing requirement for our program and also adding a new concentration visual analytics
 - MacEwan University – has been setup to be able to take a double major in the Bachelor of Science. Students can now take up to half of their credits within their major. Doing away with the Software Professional stream and on approval introducing three new streams to replace; data analysts and visualization, system information security, and a gaming stream
 - Medicine Hat College – Only have a diploma with two majors; SD and Networking and IT Support Technology. (2/3 tech support and 1/3 SD in the 2nd year), 1st year common. Not many changes
 - King's University – Introduced new course COMP 375 (AI course) and cancelled a forensic course to accommodate COMP 375. Counts as a senior credit in the program
 - Grande Prairie Regional College – no changes
 - NAIT – Overall numbers are good. Increase in number of students wanting to get into Computer Science. Focusing on increasing pathways for the students to go after graduation such as (internally) Vtech, Base and BBA Degree in School of Business
 - U of A – No changes in the degree requirements

- Admissions/Admissions Requirements Updates
 - SAIT – take in 96 students for the SD concentration of the IT diploma program
 - U of L – no changes
 - MRU – strong admissions this year; 400 applicants for BCIS program (80 seats, 250 of the applicants were fully qualified) and 300 for CS University transfer program. Employment is still good out of the BCIS program; work terms are required in the 2nd or 3rd term
 - MacEwan University – numbers are good. Have been allowed to double up on the labs. Most of the 2nd years all full now
 - Medicine Hat College – enrollments are looking up this year, appreciate U of L, Mount Royal and NAIT for providing opportunities for some of their students to further their education. The number of full-time enrollment: 2010 (41), 2011 (38), 2012 (29), 2013 (38), 2014 (45)
 - Grande Prairie Regional College – enrollments low, can handle up to 40 first year students but not there yet.

- NAIT – students not meeting the competitive entrance requirements can move onto open-study and take three courses and then bridge onto the full-time program
- U of A - Enrollment numbers are increasing year by year
- Student Mobility/Transfer Updates (e.g. New Transfer Agreements, Information about Transfer Credit Awarded, etc.)
 - U of L - none
 - MRU – working to rid of the CS University Transfer program. The institutional approvals have gone through and now working on the part A submission that goes to the government
 - The new CS program will be a major under the Bachelor of Science program
 - King’s University - There are three streams that students can choose from, but are not required to take. In dropping the forensic course they had to rejig some of the streams but it probably does not reflect in the transfer agreements
 - Grande Prairie Regional College – discussion on transfer to Thompson River University, BC in Computer Science but does not believe it’s completed yet
- Other/General Information Updates
 - SAIT – On-time graduates at about 63%. Employment soft this year, but optimistic will improve over the next year
 - U of L – the CS program has almost completed a quality review process. Everything looks good in the comments
 - MRU – In the final stages of the quality counsel program review for the BCIS program. The external reviewers will be coming in early September
 - Medicine Hat College – Employment remarkably good but expect struggles for some this year
 - King’s University – New faculty member that piloted a cryptography course last semester, done as an one-off bases. Anticipate it will go forward as a proposal this upcoming coming year
 - Grande Prairie Regional College – lost one faculty member due to budget cuts, causing fewer option courses and not able to offer the algorithm course
 - NAIT – reducing overall from five schools down to four. Also introducing the role of a department head find ways of inefficiencies within the school. Employment, students are still finding work

9. BCCAT Computing Education Update

- BCCAT not in attendance

10. Cloud computing – Big Data – do you have specific courses addressing this area in the undergraduate or diploma programs?

- U of L – Do not have specific courses on Cloud or Big Data but the Data stream is taught. Have noticed both Cloud and Big Data are becoming very popular amongst the students
- U of A – no specific courses, but elements are in other courses
- Mount Royal University –
 - Con-Ed wants to develop some type of Big Data analytics package of courses
 - Credit side: Data Base II – 3 sections; data warehousing, distributing databases, and No SQL database. Students then pick a data mining (term) project. Challenges:
 - BCIS program - only one math course, trying to teach these things to someone without a strong stats background is very tough. Recommend students take a Stats course, but some do not
 - Tried to put too much into the course. Needs to be broken out. Will add another course to go in between the distributing databases, and the SQL database courses
 - Been well received, students like it. Offered in the evening to accommodate working students
- MacEwan University – Database I and II. Not Big Data but a Data minding course
- Grande Prairie Regional College – No, have one database course
- NAIT – No, teach SQL, my SQL and My Oracle

11. Other business

- King's University – Co-op opportunities, but problem is the expectation students have that the company will already have a project for them to do. Any suggestions on how/if to prepare students:
 - Have dedicated staff that provides a prep course for the students (resumes, interview skills, etc.)
 - Find employers want to keep the students for 8 months instead of the 4 months. Students are finally getting good at 4 months, and then the employers can then get some productive work out of them
 - Have a 12 – 16 month internship. Confirms student find they are finally getting it at 4 months
 - Find same employers become established, just rollover
 - International students only option is to apply through the Co-op office
 - Science internship program director that works with companies to develop their job description, then there is no expectations of a pre-defined project
 - Site visits during the internship, which would allow companies to ask how to develop job descriptions
 - Summer Co-ops, students love them but limitation to the number of employers so students need to compete for the jobs

12. Confirmation of Articulation Committee membership list

- Ron Meleshko
- Andrew Tappenden (or rep from King's University)
- Larry Slack
- Nathaly Verwaal (or rep from U of C)
- Wendy Osborn (or rep from U of L)
- David Gregg
- Libero Ficocelli
- Steven Chattargoan
- Paul Lu
- Bill Lomax

13. Identification of Next Meeting Date and Location and Potential New Agenda Items

- Next year's meeting will be held in Edmonton, University of Alberta on Friday May 26, 2017
- Agenda Items:
 - i. Cloud Computing, Big Data
 - ii. Managing large enrollments
 - iii. Math requirements
 - iv. How students are doing after transferring. What can be used to support the students?

14. Adjournment and Plans for Confirming and Sharing Minutes and Institutional Updates on ACAT SharePoint Site

- Minutes should be ready by the end of June
- SharePoint Site: coming active in October or November. If you cannot access it contact ACAT

Motion to Adjourn