

Engineering Articulation Meeting Minutes

Friday Dec 6th @ 10:00 am Mount Royal University

Attendees:

- GPRC: Tanvir Sadiq
- MEU: Shelley Lorimer
- KC: Jean-Pierre De Villiers (teleconference)
- MHC: Hamed Bahri, Brandi Durda
- MRU: Sean Maw (chair), Janice Miller-Yount, Vahid Dehghanian
- RDC: Bryan Rowsell
- UofA: Tim G. Joseph, Raymond Matthias
- UofC: Lorraine Ewert, Marjan Eggermont
- UofL: Shawn Johnsrude, Matthew Letts (teleconference)
- Alberta Education: Diane Stobbe
- ACAT: Jim Samid, Eric Dohei (teleconference)

Item 1)

- Welcome and opening remarks (Sean Maw)
- New business: To discuss the future of engineering in AB after recent suspensions at MRU and ...

Item 2) report on 2013-2014 program and student admissions

- 1- UofL(Shawn)
 - Stopped admission for UT engineering program till 2015.
 - Program undergoing review. Program is officially suspended.
- 2- KC (Jean-Pierre)
 - Received 20 application (high school average > 80% accepted automatically).
 - 30 students currently enrolled.
 - Expecting 10 students to succeed (GPA 2.5 and higher).
 - 16-18 student maximum capacity.
 - Emphasizing student attendance and working closely with faculty to improve student learning.
 - Will introduce engineering technology diploma in future
 - Hope to increase enrolment and operate at capacity and working towards growth.
- 3- UofC (Lorraine & Marjan)
 - Accepted 720 student with high school average 89% (or 94% without mathxxx).
 - Admission to 2nd year engineering stopped at GPA 3.5 last year. Filled all of their spots with their own students.
 - Had to increase space to accommodate transfer students and will continue to do this this year. Cutoff GPA for transfer students was 3.3 (up to 3.9 for mechanical program). Will keep %5 of seats for transfer applicants.
 - Tech diploma admission with GPA 4.0 only.
 - Plan to change admissions requirements.
 - Expansion of engineering programs will not happen till 2016. Expect to increase enrollment by 400 seats.

- 4- MEU (Shelley)
 - Received 1000 applicants for 2013-2014.
 - Annually send 100 student with GPA > 2.5 to UofA.
 - Trying to find spots for students with GPA between 2 and 2.5, elsewhere. (Tim: To discuss what can be done to encourage institutions that students with some work experience and a GPA 2.0 to 2.5 will likely make good engineers?)
 - MEU has decided to focus on degree granting programs. Eng-UT program currently has 1 full time faculty (1 just left) but can't fill the position due to budget cuts.
 - Eng-UT was asked to fit in somewhere in the strategic plan. Future of the program not clear. Lack of support for Eng-UT program is frustrating.

- 5- UofA (Tim & Raymond)
 - Received 4000 applications and accepted students to 1st year with high school average of 85% and higher. Students from other provinces need higher GPA e.g. > 90% for Saskatchewan and Ontario and > 87% for BC.
 - Did not admit any transfer students to their 1st year.
 - Accepted 1062 (860 from UofA 1st year + 190 transferred students) to second year. Transfer coming from McEwan stopped at 2.5.
 - Experienced problem with 150 international student that could not get visa, in time for the Fall semester. These international students will get admitted for Winter and will do a summer term to finish 1st year.
 - Industry needs more students. UofA is considering to offer more summer courses. They currently have 2 co-op streams in chemical and mechanical that are offer summer courses.
 - Bryan asked if students that withdraw from all classes and hope to restart from beginning can get admission from UofA? Raymond: No guarantees for admission to UofA under these circumstances.
 - UofA's report on transfer student progress will be released in January, as usual.

- 6- GPRC (Tanvir)
 - Accepted 40 students to their transfer program with high school average of 70% and higher. Only running 1 section. No second year courses are offered. *Most of our Repeaters ('Second year students') went to UofS, one went to UofC.*

- 7- MHC (Hamed & Brandi)
 - Accepted 35 students with high school average of 60% and higher in 5 subjects.
 - UofS and UofR are the main transfer schools for their students.
 - No growth is perceived for MH.

- 8- RDC (Bryan)
 - Had 150 applications accepted 66 with high school average of 65% and higher.
 - There is money to expand the program. But without transfer possibilities (to UofC and UofA) this growth may not happen.

- 9- MRU (Sean Maw)
 - Had 600 applications for 100 spots. We maintained a high school average of 60% as cutoff for admissions.
 - Program was suspended in late March 2013.

- Lots of contradictory reasons given by MRU administration about why Eng-UT is being suspended. Were told that program was to be suspended before 2013-2014 budget came down. Only certificate diploma and transfers were cut at MRU. Were told that we won't be admitting new student for Fall 2013 but also were told not to tell the students, initially. Our president decided that none of the suspended programs are coming back despite the new money from province.
- A Letter of invitation from ministry arrived in June 2013 that invited MRU to submit proposals for degrees, diplomas and certificates in various engineering programs. But this letter was kept from the faculty and this opportunity was discarded.
- Students are very disappointed the suspension of our Eng-UT program.
- Our transfer program draw students from different demographics e.g. recent immigrants, mature students and UofC and UofA can't normally admit these students.

Item 3) Articulation issues

- most of transfer students end in electrical. (Marjan)
- UofC will be reviewing all of courses and will decide about transfer credits for next year. (Marjan)

Item 4) proposed course and admission requirement change for 2014-2015

- McEwan may change its English course to better fit in the science program. (Shelly)
- GPRC is working on a transfer agreement with UofC. C++ course is needed to transfer to UofC but GPRC only offers Matlab (Tanvir).

Item 5) Alberta Education update

- Alberta education is redesigning curriculum. There will be a report about what Albertans think students need to know. Ensure students know subject areas but also good at communication and creativity. The curriculum redesign committee will look at 6 subject areas. Program of studies will be signed off by 2016 but implementation might be at a later date. There will be consultation with post secondary education (Diane).

Item 6) ACAT update

- Provided update about council changes.
- New articulation committees will be added.
- Admissions practices and student mobility between post-secondary institutions are being discussed

Item 7) Other business

- Alternative destination for transfer programs
 - o UofS
 - o Uvic
 - o UM
 - o UofR
 - o UBC Okanagan
 - o Windsor
 - o UNB
 - o Memorial University

- Waterloo and UofT
 - Montana tech
- UofA will put a report together to provide some feedback to the ministry wrt the future of engineering in the province, issues, transfer programs, etc.
- UofA will chair the next articulation meeting.