

ACAT: English Articulation Subcommittee Meeting

May 30, 2014

Room A808, NorQuest College, Edmonton AB

Minutes

Present: Erik Dohei, Jim Samide, Helen Jane Sawyer, Tina Trigg, Avril Torrence, Lorraine Jenkins, Ryan Cox, Leigh Dyrda, Adam Carter, Manijeh Mannani, Pam Farvolden, Rob Wiznura, Harry Prest, Christine Wiesenthal, Nicole McNally, Jenny McKenney, Brian Moon, Tim Heath, David Hyttenrauch, Anna Lapointe

Guests: Nicole McNally

1. Called to Order: 1:03 p.m.
 - a. Acceptance of minutes from previous meeting: Deferred
 - b. Request from the floor to have previous meeting minutes reviewed and approved at the start of new meetings
2. Election of New Vice-Chair: Rob Wiznura (all in favour)
 - a. This post to be voted on again in 1 year's time
3. Update from Articulation Committee Chairs Meeting

A new sharepoint site is being developed where ACAT Articulation Subcommittees will be able to create meeting events, share and develop templates, flag items for discussion, and work on standing items.

Committees will own the work of ACAT initiatives through this site.

This site will provide two-way communication with the Council.

Jim will contact members to provide them with PINs to access the site and ask for feedback on the functionality of this tool.

Q: Will minutes/correspondence be updated and reported on site?

A: Yes.

No action items.

4. New Agenda Items

Discussion of new questions #9 and 10 on agenda template (feedback for ACAT, questions for ACAT).

Noted in discussion that the full Council is not yet back with full member strength, and is encouraging subcommittees to work on learner pathways and student mobility, but right now they are focusing on the admissions aspect of their mandate.

Noted in discussion that the Council is an advisory body who reviews membership.

Noted in discussion that they have a relationship to the Quality council, and are currently recruiting a Chair.

Q: Can we add specific agenda items to the agenda that we wish to discuss?

A: Yes.

No action items.

5. Institutional Updates

Q: updates regarding English only?

A: Yes.

U of C: no changes to report. Noted that many transfer requests have come through this year.

Ambrose: no changes to report. Noted that a curriculum committee is being adopted and they will be more active in pursuing transfer agreements.

GPRC: Approving new EN 2950 with Creative Writing agreement to U of A; revisiting old transfer agreement.

MRU: no changes to report.

U of A Augustana: Writing Studies Certificate (cross-disciplinary) newly developed, new graduates this year. Admissions: no changes. Augustana has negotiated new 2 plus 2 agreements with other PSIs.

MacEwan: Asks for this subcommittee to post its original committee documents on the new sharepoint site, which outlined each institutions' first year programs and their transfer credit processes. No other changes to report.

Athabasca: No changes to report.

Q: is ENGL 255 new or updated?

A: will report back on answer at next meeting

U of A: BA Core review undergoing, could result in faculty-wide change in English requirement, reducing mandatory English from 6 to 3 credits + 3 writing-intensive credits.

Q: will other writing-intensive courses in non-English departments be used to "fill" the writing-intensive component?

A: Yes, if this goes through.

U of L: no changes to report.

NorQuest: new transfer agreement with TRU for ENGL 1011. ENGL 2550 is being updated, with no changes anticipated to impact transfer agreements.

Keyano: no changes to report.

NAIT: fundamental changes in English this year, moved to 15-week term. Common Comm or English course is in the offering.

MHC: A new education degree partnership with MRU necessitates development of a second-year English course. Unique genre courses are something that will be looked at as an articulation issue.

U of C: ENGL 201 is a broad English course that is often “themed” by instructors, has a 2000 word writing limit. ENGL 203 has a 3000 word limit and is taken by English majors.

King’s: program review in Department, full-scale change anticipated in delivery of first-year courses.

Q: does it seem that PSIs are reducing the number of unique first-year offerings?

A (from floor): yes, that does seem to be the trend.

Lengthy discussion followed about the potential impact of U of A reducing the number of required English credit hours. It was noted that this could make some accreditation difficult, and also it could be more difficult for students to transfer to other PSIs. It was also noted that some students will still wish to take all 6 credit hours in English.

Action Items: Original subcommittee documents will be uploaded to sharepoint, and individual institutions should review them to ensure that no changes are necessary.

6. Action Item: Eric will revise/review member list to ensure it is accurate.

Discussion over absent institutions (SAIT, Lethbridge College, Portage, Red Deer).

Action Item: Eric or Jim will issue new invitations for members from these institutions.

Q: Can minutes be re-circulated?

A: Yes.

Action Item: Minutes to be re-circulated among membership (member to do this not identified)

7. Update from Government Representative on curriculum redesign in K-12.

Discussion about handouts: teleconference attendees expressed concern that these handouts were not made available to them electronically.

Action Item: Nicole will circulate electronic copies of documents.

Many members expressed concern over curriculum re-design and how this will align with post-secondary expectations. Noted that curriculum re-design has implications for high school credentialing and post-secondary admission.

Discussion over the use and importance of technology in these curriculum reviews/re-design process. Noted that critical thinking and innovation will be the focus, not functionality of technology.

Q: who are the consultants on these committees? Are they subject matter experts or education experts?

A: not sure.

Action Item: Nicole will provide contact information for post-secondary consultants on committees.

Q: what is the role of industry in this curriculum re-design?

Discussion about concern over industry involvement.

A: external partners are now involved at an early stage, in scope and sequencing.

Noted that consultation with the right institutions and people at the right time is crucial to this curriculum re-design process. Members generally expressed a desire to be more involved in this process.

Q: what is the difference between piloting and prototyping?

A: (not answered)

Q: what benchmarks are being used?

A: not just assessments, but other benchmarks to help teachers evaluate student experience.

Motion: Can we have more time to digest this information, allow reporting back to subcommittee with more information, and meet again?

PASSED.

Action Item: Eric or Jim will circulate meeting wizard to determine a time to meet in September/October to discuss curriculum review.

8. There is a council and a new chair: Robin Fisher from MRU. Focus is now on re-building the transfer system. A Transfer Alberta Mobile App will be developed to allow saving searches and accessing database remotely. Launched in late summer.

No action items.

9. This committee will continue to develop ties with BCCAT.

No action items.

10. No questions at this time. Noted that any new questions can be added to agenda in new sharepoint site.

No action items.

11. Offer from U of C to host September/October meeting to discuss curriculum review. Accepted by membership.

No action items.

12. Adjourned at 3:45.