

Minutes of the Religious Studies Articulation Committee Meeting  
Athabasca University (Edmonton Peace Hills Tower Campus)  
Dec. 2, 2016

Present: Dr. Shandip Saha (Athabasca); Dr. Glen Graham (Burman); Dr. Jonathan Strand (Concordia); Dr. Stephen Martin (King's); Dr. Craig Cooper (Lethbridge); Dr. Steven Engler (Mount Royal); Dr. Chris Elford (Rocky Mountain); Dr. Felice Lifshitz (Alberta); Dr. Catherine Caufield (Chair); Clare Ard (ACAT)

Regrets: Dr. Robert Snow (Ambrose)

Absent: Dr. James Apple (Calgary); Dr. James Enns (Prairie); Dr. Timothy Harvie (St. Mary's)

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Minutes of Oct. 14: Felice moved to accept the minutes. Chris seconded.
3. Conference membership list
4. Institutional updates: Steven Engler, Mt. Royal University. Steven spoke of the Religious Studies program at Mt. Royal. It is a program that is non-confessional, and differentiates itself from theology not in terms of content but its comparative approach to the subject. Transfers are judged on a course-by-course basis, based on an examination of the course outline. Shandip spoke of the Religious Studies program at Athabasca. He is developing the program on his own. The majority of students are registered elsewhere and taking his courses as electives. Transfers judged on methodology (is a historical-critical approach taken? for instance) and textbook. Religion has to be in the foreground, and a specific confessional point of view (for instance, teaching about Hinduism to equip "missionaries") absent.
5. Alberta Advanced Education update: Clare demonstrated the new website for ACAT, and gave a demonstration of the search. A ten-year renewal period is assumed unless otherwise specified by the institution. If a course is not shown on the site, the appropriate contact person from the institution offering the course should be contacted. The new site will go live on Jan 3. Clare forwarded a summary document with her notes on assessing for credit transfer, appended to these minutes.
6. Next meeting: 12:30-1:30, Fri. Feb. 3, at Concordia. Steve will talk about the relevant programs at King's.