

September 20, 2012
BCCAT Boardroom,
709 – 555 Seymour Street
Vancouver, BC
Face to face, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Attendees: Eric Dohei (ACAT)
Christine Savage (ACAT)
Kim Browning, (Council on Post-Secondary Education, Manitoba)
Kate Sutherland (TRU, PCCAT)
Robert Adamoski (BCCAT)
Rob Fleming (BCCAT)
Mike Winsemann (BCCAT)
John FitzGibbon (BCCAT)

MEETING NOTES

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Rob Fleming welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. Review & Approval of the Agenda

- A revised version of the agenda was distributed, and approved as presented.

3. Review of Meeting Notes from September 22, 2011 meeting in Winnipeg

- The minutes from the September 22, 2011 meeting were accepted as presented.

4. ACAT Student Mobility Report (Eric Dohei and Christine Savage)

- Eric and Christine gave a verbal summary of data collection issues in Alberta.
 - Approximately 12,500 students move in Alberta with 50% moving from comprehensive research universities to colleges and 50% moving in the opposite direction.
 - The change in status of Grant McEwan and Mount Royal has changed the student movement dynamic in Alberta.
 - Data is collected each September from institutions and collated by the Ministry.

5. BC Student Transition Project Mobility Presentation (Robert Adamoski)

- Rob outlined the new understanding of student movement as a result of recent studies undertaken by Joanne Heslop and the Post-secondary Student Mobility subcommittee of the Student Transitions Project. (Presentation attached)
 - Student mobility used to be captured and presented as year to year movement of students but is now presented as semester to semester. This gives a more accurate picture of actual student movement across the system over time.
 - Previous studies described the movement of 22,500 students from one year to another. Newer studies describe student movement of 55,900 from one semester to another.

- The view of student mobility between sectors is more fine-grained than in the past due to the addition of moves to a new PSI and returns to a previously attended PSI as well as re-entering stop outs from previous years. These new measures are the result of having nine years of longitudinal data within STP.

6. BC Post-Secondary Institution Presentations

- SFU - Kate Ross and Sarah Dench (presentation attached)
 - The presentation described SFU's history related to transfer and the university's response to changes in BC's post-secondary system.
 - Four types of agreements were described; with Fraser International College, degree partnerships, upper division transfers, and priority student populations.
 - The key elements of successful partnerships were described.
- TRU and TRU-O – Kate Sutherland (presentation attached)
 - The presentation outlined the effects of change in PSE, the value of credits in a globalized education market, and the future of transfer.
 - TRU meets the needs of a very diverse student population with large percentages of Aboriginal and international students and non-traditional students such as incarcerated persons and persons with disabilities. .
 - There is a significant difference in the way the institution and potential students think of and use social media with students using it more to connect, create, and find direction.
 - Transfer is proof that credit has value.
 - In the new post-secondary universe, institutional assets are curricula not professors.

7. Debrief from PCCAT June 2012 meeting – Teleconference with PCCAT

- Kevin Shufflebotham joined the meeting by telephone.
- Discussion of PCCAT mandate and future role of WestCAT in relation to PCCAT, such as perhaps constituting a regional chapter.
- Rob Fleming will report to PCCAT that WestCAT thinks it is premature to discuss a formal linkage but that staying connected informally is important.
- PCCAT currently is considering a subcommittee structure.
- Discussion on follow-up to Nick Heath's report including the need for more consistent data definitions and a glossary.

8. General Update on Credit Transfer-Related Initiatives in the Four Provinces

- Manitoba (Kim Browning)
 - Kim described events after the MOU announcement in June 2011. The Task Group met and a report was tabled in February, existing 2+2 agreements between institutions have been formalized and written down, and UM has produced an articulation agreement template.
- Alberta (Christine Savage and Eric Dohei)
 - Creating articulation committees is a Council priority. Five were running in 2009 with two being added each year. Rob Fleming will speak at the upcoming chairs and Council meetings. Council is discussing which committees to add next.

- Since 2009 Council has been examining the use of learning outcomes as a basis for transfer. There is interest in the Tuning projects in Europe and a pilot underway to match up the LO's in existing agreements.
 - Council is debating the merits of admitting different types of private institutions into the Alberta Transfer System.
 - A dual credit strategy is also being discussed with a Steering Committee being formed.
 - ACAT is undergoing an agency review, a seven year process.
 - GOA moving to 'results-based budgeting'
- Saskatchewan (not present)
- BC (Rob Fleming)
- BCCAT is undertaking a review of Associate Degrees this fall with a report due in January/February.
 - Phase I of the Enabling Initiative is complete (see Item 9 on Agenda).
 - Research on student mobility continues in partnership with the Student Transitions Project (see Item 5 on Agenda).
 - Articulation Committee Chairs, System Liaison People, and Institutional Contact Persons will gather November 2 for BCCAT's annual meeting.
 - BCCAT is revising all policy and guidebooks and reformatting them for the web as a result of the Enabling Initiative.

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9. Report on BCs 'Enabling' Initiative

- Mike Winsemann reported on progress with this initiative to enable all institutions to be listed in the BC Transfer Guide as both senders and receivers. Mike reported on the consultation process, the resulting discussion paper, and subsequent recommendations to Council. He outlined the receiving and sending options put in place in September as part of the Phase I roll out, the results to date, and future plans.
- The presentation is attached.

10. Coursera Credit Recognition Discussion

- Due to time constraints this item was tabled to the next meeting.

11. Review of Progress on Established Work Priorities

11.1 Update on BCCAT/ACAT Policies on allowing institutions from out-of-province to join transfer systems.

- Yukon College has joined the Alberta Transfer System

11.2 Discussion on potential protocol development between other jurisdictions

- Nothing to report

11.3 Technology sharing initiatives

11.3.1 BCCAT and McGill

- Mike updated the group on discussions with McGill and indicated that BCCAT's web technology was available to all public institutions.

11.4 Report/update on provincial repositories of inter-provincial articulation agreements.

- Nothing to report

12. Review of Work Plan and Committee Going Forward

12.1 Review of current status of committee, benefits, issues, and work plan

- Participants agreed that the work of WestCAT is important and that meetings should continue. However, more detailed discussion about the role and future of the organization would be best placed when the final shape of PCCAT is determined. Members agreed to table this discussion until next year when the structure and priorities of PCCAT are more likely to be finalized.
 - Rob led a review of the WestCAT Collaborative Workplan 2011-12 and noted the following:
 - 1.c Rob to contact Natalie regarding Saskatchewan's interest in WestCAT.
 - 1.c Add Alberta and BC collaborating on articulation committee structures and learning outcomes.
 - 2.b Delete
 - 3.b Replace actions with work on data definitions and Devron Gaber with Rob Adamoski as lead for BCCAT and Kevin Shufflebotham for Alberta. Timelines to change as required.
- the updated Work Plan is attached

12.2 Relationship among articulation committees across provinces

- John reported that two of BCs articulation committees are western Canadian in scope as Electronic Engineering Technology and Criminology have representation from and regularly meet across western Canada. However, opportunities for other committees to adopt this model are limited and it is unlikely that there is enough transfer across provinces in specific disciplines to justify the cost and time of interprovincial meetings. Cross province discussions on transfer and articulation may be better served by attendance at the Western Deans of Arts and Science meetings.

13. Other Business

- All members to review information on the WestCAT webpage (currently hosted on the ACAT website). Items will include minutes from the meetings and reports that have been referenced or members have committed to distributing.

14. Next Meeting

- The next WestCAT meeting will be in Edmonton, date for this meeting TBD by email.

15. Adjournment – 3:00pm