

WestCAT Fall 2017 Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 11- 8:30 am to 3:15 pm

Alberta Room, Government House
12845 – 102 Avenue
Edmonton, AB

Attendees:

ACAT (Council and Secretariat): Alberta
Christine Johns, Acting Chair, ACAT Council
Ann Marie Lyseng
Eric Dohei
Clare Ard
Carolyn Guinchard
Shawn Pick
Wendy Pruden
GoA: Government of Alberta
Gilbert Perras, Advanced Education, Executive Director, Operations

BCCAT: British Columbia
Rob Fleming
John Fitzgibbon
Anna Tikina
Rob Adamoski

CAMPUS MANITOBA
Dave Neale
Kim Grenier-Mintenko
Kathleen Fehr

CATNB: New Brunswick
Phil Belanger
Brigitte Arsenault (via teleconference)
Mary Butler (via teleconference)

ONCAT: Ontario
Alana Wiens (via teleconference)
Lia Quickert (via teleconference)

NSCAT: Nova Scotia
Ruth Blades

STCLPC: Saskatchewan
James D'Arcy, University of Regina
Barb Gustafson, Saskatchewan Polytechnic
Alison Pickrell, University of Saskatchewan (regrets)
Karen Gauthier, University of Saskatchewan

Regrets:

Alison Pickrell, University of Saskatchewan (regrets)

MEETING NOTES:

1. ACAT Host Welcome – Christine Johns

- a. Participant Introductions/Roundtable
 - ACAT Acting Chair welcomed attendees
 - Round table and teleconference participant introductions were made
 - Meeting goals were summarized

2. Alberta Advanced Education Welcome – Gilbert Perras

- On behalf of the Ministry of Advanced Education, welcome to Alberta
- Mr. Perras shared his role with the Ministry and provided an update on the Agency, Board and Commissions (ABC) Review in regards to the ACAT Council and Secretariat
- The Department is working with the ACAT Council to further enhance engagement with the system and it's pan-Canadian work, and develop research and data around pathways and student mobility leading to their success

3. Review & Approval of Agenda

- Approved as submitted

4. Review and Approval of Annual Meeting Notes from Sept 20, 2016 (Campus Manitoba, Winnipeg)

- There being no errors or omissions, the 2016 Annual Meeting notes were, by consensus, approved

5. Discussion: Re-Define “WestCAT” Mandate and Roles, Information Access/Website, and Communication

- Jurisdictions have expanded across Canada so discussion has begun about how to enhance WestCAT relationships with organizations such as PCCAT while maintaining a separate and distinct identity/role
- It is agreed that WestCAT serves a vital role in supporting jurisdictional discussions for all provinces and supporting a national articulation strategy across the country
- After discussion, it was agreed:
 - ACTION ITEM: Strike a committee to review existing and/or develop new WestCAT governing documents including how it functions (i.e. operational guide, official structure, its functions) and provide recommendations for review and approval at the next annual meeting.
 - Committee Members include Christine Johns, ACAT Secretariat (facilitator – Ann Marie Lyseng), James D’Arcy, Ruth Blades, Rob Fleming, Phil Belanger and Kim Grenier-Mintenko
 - The Review Committee will meet via teleconference, as needed, leading up to the annual meeting
- Ann Marie (lead contact for this project) provided an update on the development of the WestCAT website housed on the ACAT website. This website will not be public until the work is completed and approved. A tour of the site in progress was provided and shown that it will not feel like an ACAT page
 - ACTION ITEM: Committee agreed that a resource link should pop up on the PCCAT and all jurisdictional websites when the page goes live

- ACTION ITEM: Committee agreed all WestCAT documents – governance, MoU, TOR, etc. – are to reside on this site.
- Ann Marie also provided a tour of the new Transfer Alberta (student facing) and ACAT (institution facing) websites currently in development

6. Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT) Updates and 2017 MoU Discussion

a. PCCAT Action Items Already in Progress

- Phil Belanger provided a status update re PCCAT Executive and Annual Conference Committee work
- Next Annual Meeting is June 20 – 21, 2018 and in conjunction with CACUSS and ARUCC (MoU signing in progress)
- Dave Neale shared that a marketing and communications plan re the PCCAT website and social media plan has been established; WestCAT participants are asked to share, at every opportunity, both WestCAT and PCCAT initiatives with their stakeholders
- Currently the only revenue source for PCCAT is the annual conference and since incorporation operational costs have increased – strategic planning is underway to determine potential revenue opportunities

b. BCCAT – Program level data on interprovincial mobility into BC

- Anna and Rob Adamoski provided a PowerPoint report that will be emailed to all attendees
- Highlights:
 - Work on credit mobility data gathering has been occurring over the past 5 – 6 years
 - Institutional policies influence data
 - Ontario is the major sender, with Alberta second, transfers to British Columbia
 - The majority of credits is moving towards arts and sciences – overwhelmingly
 - Definition of one credit hours = 15 hours
 - Are working with the 4 large institutions to perhaps do a snapshot study/student transitions project where that data can be merged with central data and use it for analysis re a standalone info sharing agreement
 - Ann Marie shared that a joint project with CARI institutions and ACAT, with BCCAT is in discussion but resource support is not available at the moment
 - Gilbert stated that ACAT and Alberta Advanced Education will be in touch to further discuss this data share opportunity with BCCAT
 - Statistics found in the credit mobility data gathering by BCCAT was shared in detail

c. ARUCC/PCCAT Transcript and Transfer Guide –Next Steps

- Ann Marie is the Secretary for the ARUCC/PCCAT Transcript and Transfer Guide Working Group
- Accepting Chair nominations at present and please send them to Ann Marie
- Committee is discussing updates, next steps, processes, communication plan and doing presentations across the country
- Suggested contacts of key organizations and groups (who can funnel info to their members) is appreciated and are to be sent to Ann Marie

- Website development continues and will house a variety of items including tools, how to tutorials, templates, resources, etc. that will be refreshed/updated regularly – any suggestions are welcome
- d. Proposed Action Items for Provincial Partners/Signatories
- Provincial capacity and institutional interests regarding inclusion of more comprehensive inter-provincial transfer agreements in our various transfer guides

7. ARUCC Groningen and Student Mobility Steering Committee Update

- A project briefing was distributed to attendees outlining the project vision, benefits, status update, next steps and steering committee membership info
- Rob Fleming, BCCAT, will work on getting this item on the CMEC agenda
- Highlights:
 - Presentations have been conducted to more than 100 registrarial and data exchange experts both provincially, nationally and internationally
 - The international Groningen Network distributed ARUCC project info to more than 1400 data exchange and student mobility experts around the world
 - Direct consultations and requests for input occurred with more than 50 organizations, vendors and national data exchange experts
 - Sixteen submissions arrived in response to an international Research Information Request
 - Eight submissions arrived from application centres and student data hubs in Canada
- Next steps:
 - Continue next stage consultations and planning with post-secondary and data exchange experts
 - Review and analyze findings from the Research Information Request
 - Develop a business case and associated potential models for the national data exchange network in Canada, and identify funding opportunities and a roadmap towards implementation

8. Provincial Round-Table: Update and Discussion Regarding Learner Pathways and Mobility Initiatives

- Provincial Partner Updates
 - Campus Manitoba
 - Broader conception of mobility
 - BC has allowed Manitoba to clone their open textbooks site
 - “access to education” is at the heart of everything they do
 - Took BC’s transfer database, updated it to a new .net platform and shared it back
 - mbhub.ca – Manitoba Flexible Learning Hub
 - for collaboration in producing online courses especially for institutions that don’t have the resources to do so
 - they provide the instructional designers, and everything else needed
 - goal is for all courses that have been developed to be open source, creative commons – not all can do this but that’s the ethos
 - need to renew their mandate – mostly government directed which can be a barrier for partners re cooperation

- Saskatchewan – James D’Arcy – U of Regina
 - Group created in 2016
 - no formal infrastructure as yet but making progress and have some support from the Ministry
 - working on a gap analysis and about to post early results on a website
 - no formal reports at this point as looking more at strategies within working groups
 - learner pathway promotion group is working on a visual identity and promotion of success stories
 - are surveying frontline people in transfer credit assessment
 - focus on opportunities for indigenous students
 - want to preserve their history including developing a document retention process
 - dual credit working group has been established
 - SK Polytechnic has the most (12) dual credit courses at this point – each PSI has their own approach regarding dual credit

- NSCAT – Ruth Blades
 - MyNSFuture.ca website. NSCAT does not have a separate public facing website
 - Does have a search tool for finding courses to transfer into NS
 - Block transfer information as well, just a list at this point, not the details
 - Spring and Summer courses – to meet needs of students needing a specific course during the summer
 - 3rd tool: electronic transcript service – 4 institutions ready to accept online high school transcripts
 - Based on PESC Standard
 - Hub and spoke system – each hub can send and receive transcript requests
 - Hoping to bring PEI and NL in – already working with NB
 - Academica is a good source of info

9. Provincial Round-Table: Update and Discussion Regarding Learner Pathways and Mobility Initiatives

- Provincial Partner Updates (cont’d)
- CATNB
 - Progressing on recognition of prior learning and working with NS on electronic transcripts is a number 1 priority goal
 - 2nd priority goal is recognition of prior learning and providing info on jobs their credential prepares them for by linking to the NBJobs site and contact info to assist with job search counselling for the private sector

- BCCAT
 - Provided and on-line demo including transcript exchange, Educationplannerbc.ca (will transition to a standalone tool)
 - Highlights:

- Doing lots of testing on the transfer credit system
- Key new tools around expiry and renewal dates
- Xml data is very portable
- System can be used by institutions as an internal workflow including international data
- Allows institutions to draw from a common source to populate their own institutional websites
- An Indigenous Panel is scheduled for Nov 17 and registration is open
- Various projects are in progress regarding interdisciplinary programs, program , prerequisites, inputting agreements into database, articulation programs (67 committees in BC)
- Articulation Committee work showing themes, which inform work plans, around internationalization, indigenization, K-12 transitions to PSIs to improve admissions – all are a first for BCCAT
- Research on admissions data can be found on BCCAT.ca and the South Island Project is a good example for others looking to do similar research
- Working with Registrars re more inclusive gender declaration and admission policies for under-represented groups
- Current project underway to update block transfer agreements in the BC Transfer Guide and what's listed on the institutional websites – expected completion date by end of 2017
- ACAT
 - Goals include research, collaboration (all levels including international)
 - Key goal is connection to this group and the Phase 3 of the LPMI Initiative and the LPS tools
 - Highlights:
 - Extensive tool build occurred over the last year and a lot of transition work from the old to the new tools
 - Partnership with WestCAT has been valuable help to inform the tool build and we want to share our tools and build experience if it would help any WestCAT partners
 - The new Articulation website is designed to help support articulation committees
 - Academic Upgrading is also part of this work along with the new High School Transition Module in progress and ACAT offers an open invitation to WestCAT colleagues to join in this work
 - Clare is doing research directly comparing direct entry student vs. transfer student success within one institution
 - Work on CAPLA and PLAR continues toward developing a standard
 - Phase 2 – Tools Info
 - Have developed a companion set of tools
 - 1st the Catalogue, which is a repository for all the data (moved from TAARS to the new LPS system) and includes courses, programs and agreements - involved a lot of data clean-up - and also includes IB and AP info
 - Used the most recent 7 years of data all provided by the PSIs
 - TCES can create transfer agreements with these tools and has other functionality
 - Coming Soon – a High School Transitions Module
 - Videos are being created to demo the tools and will be posted on the ACAT YouTube channel

10. Post-secondary Institution and Organization Discussion: Learner Pathways and Mobility Priorities and Recommendations

Participating Post-secondary Institutions:

Ambrose University
Athabasca University
Bow Valley College
Burman University
Concordia University of Edmonton
Grande Prairie Regional College
Lakeland College
MacEwan University
Maskwacis Cultural College
NorQuest College
Northern Lakes College
Olds College
Red Deer College
Rocky Mountain College
University of Alberta
University nuhelot'jine thaiyots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills
University of Calgary
University of Lethbridge
Yellowhead Tribal College

- Topics:
 - Identification of learner pathways and mobility initiative priorities to best support students and institutions across boundaries?
 - Discussions included:
 - AE example, at Bow Valley College, of a Career Pathways program to expedite learner progression addressing the barrier of needing to upgrade to required pre-requisites
 - Definition clarity needed – example: what is a bridging program, etc.
 - A systematic approach is needed so each learner knows exactly what is required of them
 - Mature adult and 2nd language learners may have unrecognized skill sets that could be considered – example: adult learners with no high school diploma – institution flexibility benefits the learner
 - A common definition of non-matriculated adult student credits and a standard approach would be ideal
 - Recommendations for increased institution/organization transfer and pathways agreements articulation and collaboration, informal sharing, and communication across Canada?
 - Discussions included:
 - PSIs trust in the use of articulation agreements must be enhanced, particularly in singular decisions about transfer credit and will help in quickly evaluating and awarding transfer credit to the learner
 - It is important to encourage institutions to enter these agreements for the benefit of students planning their PSI pathway
 - Barriers to credit assessment by PSIs was shared and suggestions re TCES enhancements suggested
 - Barriers include:

- locating course descriptions/outlines especially in other jurisdictions
 - ownership of outlines
 - no standardization of course outlines making data/info sharing more challenging
 - calendar description is not equal to course outline which is not equal to faculty course description
 - the BC articulation model helps with the best practice of the business process of the institution to build a collective understanding of institutions all working at the same level
 - There is value in continuing to attend articulation meetings and perhaps invite academics as well as they can offer be a valuable resource
- Recommendations for transfer and pathways research, data collection, and information sharing across Canada?
 - Need research to look at success of transfer students to support what we think we know and to help support students by gaining awareness in how many students are transferring
 - Research may find things like the root cause of unsuccessful transfer situations and possible solutions
 - Having this data available is crucial and informs decision making re how to enhance the learner experience and ensure their success
 - Final Thoughts:
 - It is important to establish a culture of transferability
 - In Manitoba, transferability is a question asked when programs are first proposed/developed and is a given for their online course HUB
 - Note: accreditation was recently granted to NIAB and WINHEC
 - Should ACAT have a seat on CAQC

11. Other Business Next Meeting – Date and Location

- Special Note from Attendees – having this conversation with the Alberta institution guests was invaluable and very important
- Summary:
 - A repository of course descriptions/outlines is definitely a need and working collaboratively might make some progress.
 - Communications between institutions, CATs, registrars and shared model (BCCAT/ONCAT) has some merit for Alberta
 - Additional research re success in transfer agreements and value to students and having data around success is very valuable
 - We know work is occurring and has happened across jurisdictions
 - We need to identify gaps and do research in that area as organizations
- 2019 Host Province and Location: University of Calgary, Alberta
- Date: Mid-October (to be determine by availability poll done by ACAT Secretariat)

12. Adjournment: 3:20 p.m.