

ACAT Languages Articulation Committee

MEETING MINUTES, Wednesday November 15 2017

10:00am-12:00pm

1. Welcome and introductions

Xavier Gutierrez, University of Alberta

Gabriela True, St Mary's University

Maria-Jesus Plaza, Mount Royal University

Mary Grantham O'Brien, University Calgary

Michael Dabrowski, Athabasca University

XixXin Fang, Concordia University of Edmonton

Clare Ard, ACAT

2. Approval of Agenda

Add item – possibility of student questionnaire

3. Terms of Reference

a. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Xavier will be on sabbatical in Academic Year 19-20 but can be Chair for two years; Marie-Jesus accepted the role of Vice-Chair so will step into the Chair role.

b. Our goals as a committee

- Add to goals: high school transition
- Promotion of international language learning in a global context

Other ToR goals look good

Action Item:

The Alberta Education representative will be Melody Kostiuik, Senior Manager, International Languages, Languages, Arts and Wellness Branch, Curriculum Division.

General discussion

- Alberta is a pioneer province with many immersion programs in K-12 but at post-secondary level are losing enrollments –
- Q: is the focus on instruction or broader opportunities e.g., study abroad, scholarships. Could tie into collaboration among institutions
- Q: advocate for language as a requirement at the University level – e.g., core courses, proficiency requirement for specified (Arts?) majors

Action Item:

Clare to add suggestions to existing text and draft new ToR document to send to committee to vote on at next meeting

4. ACAT Website

Demo by Clare - the **site is now live** : www.acat.alberta.ca

5. Articulation of language courses at university level

To find a common ground, information is needed for all languages:

- courses and levels available at Post-Secondary Institutions (PSIs):
- what is expected re: proficiency e.g., what does “beginners” “intermediate” mean for the particular PSI?
- Learning Outcomes (3 or 4) per course
- good tool for new to AB professors and for students -

Discussion

May get better buy in from some areas than others in larger PSIs – e.g., include Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) in Academic Calendar – not all areas want to do this

Action Item:

Xavier will start document e.g., in open access platform that all members can edit

Issue that Comprehensive Academic and Research Institutions traditionally did not enter sending information – waiting on this to be uploaded to the new Transfer Alberta system so that learner pathways between ALL PSIs can be established.

Also clarify e.g., course levels – first year begins with 1 or 2 – some schools use 3 vs 4 numbers, etc. Learning outcomes as a good way to do this (proficiency indicators)

6. Declining Interest in Languages at university level

Trend seen over last 10 years – if cut courses at lower levels impacts enrollment down the line in senior courses – increase enrollment – and advocate to (PSI admin) that core requirements for Arts students should include Language Other than English – improve critical thinking, different Point of View.

6a. Student Survey

This is where a student survey comes into play - when designing language pathways start with a needs analysis – what do students **want to know** when they come to learn a language?

One of this things to figure out how to do this

- E.g., get Research Ethics Board (REB) approval, Institutional Analysis and Research buy in, how to administer, etc.
- BUT work on common questions that can be sent to REBs, etc.
- Allows for more depth of analysis - if a survey is just internal data may not need REB approval

Q: benefits and outcomes? (to get buy in from PSI admin) – e.g., if students do not want literature based programs will PSIs respond positively to that?

Action Item:

revisit this at next meeting

- come up with possible uses of survey results
- potential benefits
- see if can add questions to existing surveys or if would need to be stand alone

7. Transition between secondary and postsecondary education

This was held over until the next meeting.

8. Next meeting: date, format and participants

Weds April 25, 2018, 10am-noon UAlberta videoconference room, Old Arts Building (can support up to 5 other locations)

- Will not invite language consortia representatives just yet as are still finding feet as a committee
- Suggest two meetings annually (Fall/Spring or November/April)