



WestCAT Annual Meeting 2018

(Newly Adopted Name Going Forward: CATCan Network)

Meeting Date/Time	Meeting Location
October 24, 2018 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	University of Calgary, Rm ENB112 Schulich School of Engineering

ATTENDEES

Councils on Admissions/Articulation and Transfer and Similar Organizations in Canada (CATs):

ACAT: Ann Marie Lyseng, Eric Dohei, Clare Ard, Wendy Pruden

BCCAT: Rob Fleming, Mike Winsemann, Robert Adamoski

CATNB: Regrets – Philip Belanger

CampusMB: Kim Grenier-Mintenko, Carley McDougal

NSCAT: Ruth Blades

ONCAT: Yvette Munro

STCLPC: Jim D’Arcy, Barb Gustafson

University of Calgary: Christine Johns, Senior Director, Academic and International Strategies

Advanced Education: Gilbert Perras, Executive Director, Operations

Guests:

Advanced Education: Anne Ryton, Director

Alberta Learner Pathways System institution representatives

MEETING NOTES

Host Institution Welcome:

- Christine Johns (former Acting ACAT Chair) welcomed attendees to the UofC Engineering Campus and highlighted program and infrastructure initiatives regarding this campus site. University of Calgary is an active partner in the Alberta Transfer System involved in both transfer and Dual Credit Pathways

ACAT Secretariat/Advanced Education Welcome and CATs Introductions

- ACAT/Ann Marie Chaired this CATCan Network meeting and thanked the UofC for providing the meeting space and technical support for this annual meeting.
- Alberta Advanced Education/Gilbert thanked the attendees for meeting in Alberta.



- Alberta's ABC Review of ACAT Council has been completed, with recommendations that the work of ACAT should continue regarding learner pathways and mobility.
- A new council is anticipated to be in place (under a new governance model) in spring of 2019 as a part of a new Learner Pathways Action Plan. In the interim, the ACAT Secretariat will continue to carry out work as guided by the 2017-19 ACAT Council Action Plan.
- Advanced Education/Anne spoke to the development of the new Learner Pathways Action Plan for Alberta.

Review and Approval of Agenda

- **Approved** unanimously

Review and Approval of 2017 Annual Meeting Notes (October 10, 2017 in Edmonton, AB, hosted by ACAT)

- **Approved** with noted revisions.

ACTION ITEM – PROCESS CHANGE: Going forward, append action items to an agenda and track action items in minutes **AGREED**

ACTION ITEM - PROCESS CHANGE: Meeting notes posted on the website will not include detailed Action Items and instead include a summary of the action items only. – **AGREED**

For Approval: CATCan Network Terms of Reference, Collaborative Initiatives Template, Draft Webpage, Announcement/Communication

- **CATCan Network name – APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
- **Terms of Reference – APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
- **CATCan Network Webpage (hosted on ACAT's site):**
 - Confirmed that the webpage audience is CATs and provinces interacting with CATs.
 - Add a Resources page – contain summary of links to CATs' activities; CATs summarize items they want to highlight with a blurb and link to the CATs source; include CAT research plans; CAT focused space for operational activities.
 - PCCAT website – discuss with PCCAT having a link to the CATCan Network webpage on the PCCAT website to highlight the CAT's operational work and to also have on PCCAT's site the CATs strategic and policy items as those align with PCCAT's mandate.
 - Recommend a CATCan Network Technology and Data Working Group further discuss webpage content in consideration of the collaborative initiatives discussion.
 - ACAT to investigate the possibility of a password protected section of the webpage for document sharing, hosting, transitioning between annual meeting years, etc. or a section on its ACAT SharePoint site.
- **Announcement/Communication re CATCan Network:**
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Communication about the new name will be done in 2019 when the website is ready to share.



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- Discussed that the CATs will draft mutually agreed upon wording for the announcement and send out using a similar process as that used for the PCCAT MoU for transfer and mobility – have common core text all CATs agree to, then each CAT will be responsible for sending the announcement to their stakeholders using their jurisdiction’s processes.
- **ACAT** will initiate initial draft wording for CATs’ review following confirmation of the webpage contents by the CATs and the Technology and Data Working Group.

Collaborative Initiatives Template and Recommendations

- Add an outcomes column to show completion/dates information
- **Scan of CAT/Government/Institutional relationships:**
 - SK and NS have done one and will share with this group
 - NSCAT and BCCAT will also share their studies (through ACAT) and all will be discussed by the Research Working Group re: landing on key categories and next steps
- **ACTION ITEM: Develop CATs Research Working Group**
 - Focus on sharing key projects and work/planning being carried out
 - CAT participation – BCCAT, ACAT, NSCAT, ONCAT, STCLPC, and CATNB with CMB participating as an observer
 - **ONCAT/Yvette** will convene this group to establish Common Nomenclature
 - Group related to transfer, articulation, and related pathways for all CATCan Network members
 - Build on and include items in the ARUCC/PCCAT Transcript and Transfer Guide
 - Review what is in the Transcript and Transfer Guide and identify what updates and additions are needed. **BCCAT/Mike** will complete a gap analysis to identify next steps
- **Assessment of Transfer and Pathways System Success** (e.g., metrics, etc.)
 - CATs can report about this at the next CATCan meeting and further investigate assessment metrics for system success in the Research working group
- **ACAT/Alberta PSI Initiative – Provincial Transitions Articulation Committee and Data Collaboration**
 - CATs’ interest in receiving a copy of the terms of reference and staying updated re this committee’s work and providing input if applicable.
 - **ACAT/Clare** will follow up with the CATs for future awareness and input.
- **ACTION ITEM: Establish a Technology and Data Working Group**
 - Focus includes sharing best practices, confirming and managing CATCan Network web content, discussing technology systems and data standards and sharing, etc.
 - **BCCAT/Mike** will lead this group and initiate a meeting. Members – BCCAT, ACAT, NSCAT, ONCAT, STCLPC, and possibly CATNB and CMB pending their follow up/reply.
- **BCCAT and ACAT interprovincial transfer research project**
 - Planned joint research project for research intensive universities. BCCAT and ACAT will provide more information to the CATs when available.



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- **ACTION ITEM: Establish an Alternative Pathways Working Group**
 - Focus on alternative pathways as a part of RPL, including PLAR pathways for interested CATs
 - **ACAT/Ann Marie** to lead this group, initiate meetings, and invite interested CATs
- **ACAT Admissions and Transfer Integration Feasibility Study**
 - Study in progress and will be requesting input from CATs with a focus on connections among CATs transfer databases for one of the topics – Topic 4.
 - **ACAT/Clare** will share more information via a summary of the study's relevant findings with the CATs.
- **ACTION ITEM: Linkages between application systems and transfer systems**
 - **ACAT/Eric** will set up a teleconference meeting with ONCAT and BCCAT to discuss as recommended by the CATs, including planning for an ACAT/BCCAT pilot

National Updates and Discussion

- **PCCAT**
 - Ruth, Rob F., and Jim provided an update.
 - 2019 Annual Conference will be in Regina, SK on June 20-21.
 - 2020 event may again partner with ARUCC.
 - Becoming a signatory to the Groningen Declaration.
 - Membership criteria will change to allow for the current individual category and adding a new organization category.
 - New members to the PCCAT Organizing Committee include Eric Dohei (ACAT), Anna Tikina (BCCAT), and Carly McDougal (CMB).
- **ARUCC/PCCAT Transcript and Transfer Guide**
 - Ann Marie provided an update
 - **ACTION ITEM: Identification of Relevant Reps for Vacancies for ARUCC/PCCAT Guide**
 - A Vice-Chair, ARUCC, and PCCAT Board reps are needed and suggestions can be submitted to Ann Marie, Information Officer for the working group. Formal requests for these reps have also been sent to the Chairs of PCCAT and ARUCC.
- **ARUCC Groningen and Student Mobility Project**
 - Yvette and Rob F. provided an update.
 - The project is a 3 year project and work done to date was shared.
 - Next step is to secure one-time funding contribution.
 - CMEC has been approached and once that response has been received, a call will go out to other organizations for a one-time contribution for the remaining need.
 - RFP will be launched.
 - OnCAT and BCCAT data exchange projects have been initiated.
 - Online survey with interviews (data, data exchange, gaps, how to address the gaps).
 - Projects wrapping up in Spring 2019.



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- **CanPESC**
 - Ruth provided an update.
 - Survey of Institution Code use discussed
 - The survey identified that there is no consistency re institution code use
 - GEO Code project assigning each institution and high school a GEO code to create consistency across Canada and globally CANCat Network members – Ruth and Mike – can provide updates as they are members of the CANPESC project and provide suggestions regarding how this work effects transfer and jurisdictional work

- **CAPLA**
 - Ann Marie, in Philips absence, shared the work to date regarding PLAR and RPL re: recognition of prior learning, experiential learning and credits awarded.
 - AB, SK, NB, and NS have had meetings with CAPLA.
 - ONCAT has had an initial meeting with CAPLA re their focus and direction.
 - CATs to participate in a new CATCan Network Alternative Pathways Working Group, including PLAR pathways for those CATs members interested. Initial meeting will be set-up by ACAT (Ann Marie) inviting those CATs who have identified their interest.

- **Lisbon Recognition Convention**
 - Ruth provided an update.
 - This has been ratified and is presented as legally binding.
 - Canada is a signatory and communication is occurring.
 - More discussion is needed regarding practical implications for us all, and the 2019 PCCAT Conference would be an ideal opportunity for that discussion or at a future meeting.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Approach the PCCAT Board to invite this group to present at the 2019 Conference or at a future meeting.

Provincial Partners Technology Data Updates

- **BCCAT**
 - The BCCAT website refresh has been completed, included better ways to present/share research, updated the BC Transfer Guide. The BC Transfer Guide is going through an external review and a scan of all transfer websites; this info will be made available to all CATs.
 - Launched a new transfer credit evaluation (TCS) with now allows for out-of-province agreements with the goal of a national transfer database in the future.

- **ACAT**
 - Provided a summary of key initiatives updates: governance update, research priorities identified, Learner Pathways Action Plan update with a Spring 2019 estimated timeline for implementation, transfer credit student success research reports and more sustainable research plan, transfer credit awarded pilot, GBA+/inclusion considerations, new provincial transitions articulation committee, proposed IB/AP articulation committee, need for common



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definitions for transfer/transfer assessment, how to get the right people on the articulation committees in an updated articulation model (e.g., outcomes-focused committee, subject-focused community of practice), Admissions and Pathways Integration Feasibility Study.

- The Learner Pathways System update was provided and collaboration discussions with BCCAT and others has helped solve bigger picture items together.
- Shared the LPS applications development (Catalog, TCES, DCAR, DCRO (dual credit)), sharing transfer decisions with the public.
- Best Practices work continues.

Provincial Partners Pathways and Mobility Round Table

- **CMB**

- Waiting for results of ongoing governance project for next steps.
- OER and online learning growing.
- Manitoba's Flexible Learning HUB growth continues re: capacity to develop on-line courses and modules in the system.

- **ONCAT**

- In the midst of a government audit.
- A new research plan and RFP is occurring.
- In process of redesigning the ONTransfer and ONCAT websites.

- **NSCAT**

- In final stages re: collaboration with CATNB to use NSCAT's common application system.
- An ad-hoc Nova Scotia Transfer Symposium occurred and included initial discussions re credit assessment, etc.
- Current focus is on data mapping info between post-secondary institutions; high school to post-secondary is slated for a later phase.
- The Hub initiative is in its final phase and expected to go live in Fall 2019.
- New NS Transfer Symposium will meet annually.

- **CATNB**

- Regrets from CATNB for this meeting.
- NSCAT on behalf of CATNB: Collaboration with NSCAT re: the common application system highlighted the need to update mandates regarding mobility as students move within and between provinces.
- CATNB is engaging in an experiential learning initiative similar to the STCLPC initiative.

- **STCLPC**

- Dual Credit is growing rapidly in Saskatchewan.
- Data collection for military credit assessment (N-APPL) is hoped to be available by end of 2018.
- Current initiatives encompass learner pathways, PLAR agreements with institutions, SaskPoly OER, and mapping pathways from high school to PhD, and discussing the need to create an



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experiential learning group to identify common nomenclature around experiential learning and develop KPIs and benchmarking.

- New logo will be launched soon.
- In the process of identifying articulation-related committees.

- **ACAT**

- Shared that work on the ACAT Council governance is in process and includes a new mandate structure for Council and the need for pathways research funding. This work is being done in consultation with stakeholders and students.
- Research priorities have been identified, including enhancing research pathways, mobility data impacts, metrics on completion rates, and transfer credit awarded.
- Continue to improve tools for student planning and institution transfer decisions process.
- We have a robust articulation model and are always looking for ways to enhance it.
- Shared Learner Pathways Action Plan update with a Spring 2019 estimated timeline for implementation.
- Additional Updates: research findings re: transfer student success reporting (reports are on the ACAT Website), transfer credit awarded pilot, GBA+/inclusion research considerations, research funding and plans search plan, new Provincial Transitions Articulation Committee, proposed IB/AP articulation committee, need for common definitions for transfer/transfer assessment, will be updating articulation model including addressing membership best practices, and Admissions and Pathways Integration Feasibility Study in progress.

- **BCCAT**

- The BCCAT governance model discussions are similar to what is happening with ACAT with some differences in approach.
- Current priorities:
 - Truth and Reconciliation Commission work.
 - K-12 renewal and new grad requirements.
 - Dual Credit and international students and thinking through system challenges and benefits.
 - BCCAT research plan was shared; many reports have been recently completed and process/results were discussed.
 - Some research questions are considered voluntary disclosure questions to respect student identity.
 - Also doing work on credits to graduation and high mobility pathways and comparison between the cohort that isn't transferring to one that is transferring.



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Post-secondary Institution/Organization Discussion – Learner Pathways and Mobility Topics

PSI attendees:

ACAD (Hannah Butler); AmbroseU (Laura Cochrane); AthabascaU (Helen Salzl); GMU (Tony Norrad); GPRC (Jennifer Robertson); MHC (Sandy Henderson); NAIT (Debbie Little); PortageC (Robin Tizzard); TRU-O (Marjorie Budnikas); UAlberta (Jennifer Alabiso); UCalgary (Angelique Saweczko); ULethbridge (Renae Hougen)

PSI attendees, joining remotely or in person, were welcomed and thanked for their time and input into provided questions.

• Question 1 – Research

- Alberta data is focused on mobility and there is a gap regarding transfer credit data.
- University of Lethbridge has an out-of-province transfer database and this information could be shared
- There are different levels of development around admissions and transfer in Alberta and across Canada.
- A lot of transfer research is focused on where students came from and where they are going to: tracking program changes, not just institutional changes would be helpful. Is this captured in the SIS? Probably not if the transfer process is not started until the student is admitted; only the previous school would be captured.
- BC found huge variance on when transfer credit assessment is done.
- Transcripts can often show application of transfer credit Research of perceived transfer challenges and how to share information and meet program requirements and tracking results of transfer requests would be very valuable.
- Can we track denial of application due to lack of PSI program space (turn-aways)?
- **Recommendation:** Research on admissions and gathering more information on this topic, including high school and adult student admissions.

• Question 2 – Interprovincial Transfer Agreements

- More information on the data in the different jurisdictions would be helpful.
- Multiple systems maintenance is a key barrier between provinces and inter-system operability would be important and allow us to better maximize provincial tools; schools who are members of more than one CAT have a heavy information maintenance/publication burden.
- Course maintenance is also an issue; when a course is published, it is the responsibility of the publishing school to keep it current/accurate.
- **Recommendation:** The different provinces' systems work towards cross-system interoperability for transfer decisions/agreements as there would be a greater ability to share institution databases with CATs databases.



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- **Question 3 – Communication**

- **Recommendation:** Continue these types of conversations between institutions and CATCan Network at future CATCan Network meetings and as a part of initiatives as relevant.

- **Question 4 – Transfer Credit**

- University of Calgary shared their transfer credit assessment process; they do an initial assessment upon admission and require specific transfer courses for pre-requisites upon admissions. When students are admitted and engage an academic advisor, they get their transfer credit assessed in terms of what courses can apply towards their program. Over the summer, assessment continues. The internal-facing transfer database isn't automated and also involves manual records (UCalgary is working on automating this). Curriculum changes also need to be taken into account.
 - Once at the institution, students need permission to take courses elsewhere and 50% residency requirements apply; a database is in development to increase efficiency and consistency re equity of credit assessments as assessment between assessors, faculties, institutions, and over time can have inconsistencies.
 - To address this, UCalgary is moving towards a centralized model; try to do specified transfer credit, not block transfer or unspecified transfer credit, so that the same presenting course receives the same transfer credit; this model includes consideration of the challenges of moving towards PSI-wide transfer decisions.
- How do we define transfer student success:
 - Success has different definitions and intents by institutions
 - Students feedback, if didn't receive credit, is defining success currently
 - Need to look at the question from a student perspective rather than an institution perspective
 - BCCAT shared that their student transfer success is GPA-based and focusses on specific courses. TO institutions did not want to do this again as they felt evidence had been furnished of transfer students' success but FROM institutions wanted to continue gathering such evidence.
 - Metrics around student success were discussed and consideration of variables is needed when sharing transfer credit information with institutions
 - Need to identify how the metrics will be used before transfer credit information is received/shared by institutions
 - E.g., Did the student progress and complete the credential?
 - Measures for institution plans and goals?
 - Having recognition of complexity up front when working on measurement/metrics?
 - Ways to balance system measures with institution measures?



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ From the perspective of an institution focused on outward transfer, student success is being admitted and receiving the maximum number of credits possible. ▪ To truly measure transfer success, it may be necessary to look at granular level records i.e., what programs were chosen, how much credit transferred over, and what was the GPA before and after transfer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 5 – Course Outlines/Learning Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishing common principles and best practices might be a preferred way to begin this conversation versus trying to establish common data field in course outlines as these vary so greatly even within institutions and contain information that is not germane to transfer assessment (e.g., academic integrity regulations). ○ There are faculty-related challenges regarding uploading of course outlines. Clear connections to transfer assist sharing. ○ Consider how to remove transfer processes as being seen as stand-alone processes and see the connections with admissions. ○ Consistency is always a challenge, but there are opportunities for exploration. <p>Discussion Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation: Three key questions to explore emerged from this discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How is transfer credit awarded to students managed by institutions? ○ How can institutions support sharing transfer decisions on a pan-Canadian basis? ○ What could the research agenda be to support sharing of transfer credit awarded and transfer decisions data in Canada?
<p>Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members asked if they found the Post-secondary representative participation should be a standing agenda item – AGREED • ACTION ITEM: CATCan Network to maintain post-secondary institution participation as a standing agenda item at future annual meetings and/or other relevant CATCan Network meetings.
<p>Closing Remarks and Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unanimously Agreed – 2019 Host is BCCAT in Vancouver, BC in conjunction with the annual November BCCAT Joint Annual Meeting, either the day before or after that event. • ACAT/Ann Marie thanked participants for attending, and for the University of Calgary for hosting this meeting on campus. A special thank you to the staff for all of their assistance and support throughout the day.
<p>Adjournment – 4:30 P.M.</p>



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