Articulation Committee Meeting MINUTES

Thursday, May 2, 2019

Room ICT 424C, University of Calgary

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Chair:  Wendy Osborn

Vice-Chair:  Nathaly Verwaal

Attendees:

Wendy Osborn (Chair), University of Lethbridge
Nathaly Verwaal (Vice-chair), University of Calgary
John O'Loughlin, SAIT
Sandra Lee, SAIT
Andrew Tappenden, King's University
Franko Carlacci, Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC)
Libero Ficocelli, Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC)
Stephen Graham, Lethbridge College
Dwayne Rurka,  NAIT
Steve Chattargoon, NAIT
Namrata Khemka, Mount Royal University (MRU)
Jeff Clemens, Bow Valley College (BVC)
Steve Letkeman, Medicine Hat College (MHC)
Ken Wong, University of Alberta
Clare Ard, Advanced Education (ACAT)

**Via Video/Tele-conference:**
Cameron MacDonell, MacEwan University
Rossitza Marinova, Concordia University of Edmonton
Paul Lu, University of Alberta

**Welcome from chair**

Wendy Osborn welcomed all and thanked for attendance, acknowledged that the meeting was being hosted on Treaty 7 land and then conducted the safety moment.

**Introductions**

All in attendance introduced themselves, stating their name, institution and position.

**Review and Adoption of Agenda**

Review of agenda, highlighting that afternoon part of agenda would be joined with BCCAT.  Moved (Namrata Khemka) and seconded (Libero Ficocelli) and carried.

**Reviewing minutes from 2018**

Moved (Andrew Tappenden), seconded (Jeff Clemens) and carried.

**Institutional Updates**

**Updates from secretariat (Clare Ard)**

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- Due to recent political events, decisions on ACAT's future directions and funding have been in abeyance for the past while.
- The proposed Learner Pathways Action Plan did include a budget to support the work of articulation committees, but this proposal is currently on hold.
    - o We currently have no project funding for articulation committees, some interesting projects but no funding. As soon as a decision on funding is received, Articulation Chairs will be notified. The plan is to be able to compensate Articulation committee members (e.g., with a course release) instead of asking them to in effect donate their time.
    - o The proposal is in for more funding to continue research on transfer and transfer success (we had a budget of $50000 for initial research), did 6 reports, but the work the researchers put in was disproportionate to their compensation. Again, as soon as a decision is reached, Chairs will be notified.
    - o Comment from Wendy Osborn re funding:  Hosting of next meeting: if in Lethbridge: need 2 night stay, would be nice to have funding for this.
- Council structure is under review.  Wanted this to also include academic representatives and, admin staff from registrar's offices at post-secondary institutions, not just representatives from senior Administration to get input from all levels.
- Advanced Education is still its own ministry.
- No update from AB education

**Updates from UofL (Wendy Osborn)**

- New combined degree (Computer Science and New Media (part of the Faculty of Fine Arts) has been approved, with an implementation date of May 1st, 2019.
- Otherwise, no other changes to our program.
- Currently, our enrollment sits at approximately 280 students across all of our programs.  This is an increase from 242 students a year ago. It is also close to our previous high of 290 students, which was back in 2004.
- With respect to our post-diploma students, at 46 students this number is continuing to increase, from 12.3% (the lowest it has been since 2000) to 16.4%. We are optimistic that our post-diploma transfer amount will return back to the 20-22% range of a few years ago.
- Transfer agreements:
    - o Bow Valley College Software Development program (2+2 agreement)
    - o Lovely Professional University, India (block transfer)
    - o Have accepted a few ad-hoc block transfers for international students.

- o   Also have accepted for transfer credit several courses from various institutions across Alberta, Canada, and internationally.
- Construction of the new Science and Academic Building is complete.  Computer Science will not be relocating into the new building – however, we will have the same access to the new classroom space that all other programs do. We also hope for additional space in the existing building where we currently reside.
- No hires or retires in the past year.

**Updates from MRU (Namrata Khemka)**

- We submitted Part A for a new B.Sc. in Computer Science. It is presently before the Ministry. Part B is ready for submission. We are hoping to start offering the degree in Fall 2020. This will replace our U. of C. transfer program (though students will still be able to leave our program and apply to the U. of C.)
    - o   Needed work term for government approval
    - o   Don't have resources for this so proposed alternatives and currently waiting for a response.
    - o   Told to have part B ready.
    - o   Had to move from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020 start date of new program: Plan is to have 4 year CPSC degree starting Fall 2020
- Students not successful at transferring to UofC even with a high GPA
- Increasing pressure on both BCIS and CS/UT programs. We increased the intake in the BCIS program from 80 to 100. It is becoming more difficult for our CS/UT students to gain admission to the U. of C. because of increased pressure there.
- As mentioned above, not all of our outgoing students are able to successfully transfer to the U. of C. because of increased application pressure there.
- We hired a new faculty member this year replacing a retirement. We will be hiring a new faculty member this coming year also. This also replaces a retirement. We still have not replaced all of our past retirements.
- MRU has a new president

**Updates from GPRC (Libero Ficocelli)**

- GPRC has been given mandate to become a degree granting institute.
- Initial offerings include a 4 year BA in Psychology and a 4 year BSc CS degree.  We will be submitting Part A of the CAQC proposal in the next month or so.  We hope to launch in Fall 2020.
    - o   We are leveraging our existing two-year UT transfer as intake to our own degree.
    - o   Hoping for transfers from 2 year CST diploma program, which already has 16 courses that are UT transfer.
    - o   Working on a design that will allow diploma students to transfer with only minimal loss of credits.
- Transfer trends: increase international students (no clear reason).  Asked if we wanted a cap on international students, have no cap at the moment.

- No new transfer agreements.
- No new facilities
- New VP academic who previously was at Lethbridge college (Tim Heath)
- College President is retiring no later than March 2020

**Updates from Lethbridge College (Stephen Graham)**

- No changes. Undergoing program review this year. CIPS re-accreditation visit in Fall 2019.
- No changes to admission requirements.  But different types of students.  Needed to put cap (of 90) on number of international students.  We have a large number of international applications, predominantly from India and Africa. Capacity has been increased to support up to 90 first-year students.
- Lethbridge College offers a 2-year Computer Information Technology diploma. (https://lethbridgecollge.ca/cit)
- This is a generalist IT program which includes hardware, networking, database, programming, html, operating systems, systems analysis and design, and introductory business courses. There is a 200-hour practicum course as a capstone to the program.
- We have capacity for 90 first-year students and typically have 60% retention between first and second year, but we are working on some new retention initiatives.
- Admission requirements at Lethbridge College: https://lethbridgecollege.ca/departments/admissions/admission-requirements
- Additionally, Grade 12 Math (Alberta Math 30-2 or higher)
- No new transfer agreements
- Our program received provincial funding for additional seats last fall.
  - o With that funding we were able to hire another faculty member and provision a second programming lab. Anticipated enrollment for 19-Fall is 78 students with about 30% international students
- Computer Information Technology has been moved from the School of Business to a new School of Information Technology within our Centre for Technology, Environment & Design.
- The School of Media and Design has officially launched the Virtual Reality / Augmented Reality Certificate (19-Fall).

**Discussion on International Students**

- o Question from Wendy Osborn: Is this due to recruitment efforts?  No recruiting efforts, increase due to word of mouth.
- o Comment/Question from Sandra Lee: are we encouraging diversity if we don't go global. Is that something that has come up?  Response: Entire class filled with students with international students from one area is not diversity. Current make-up of international students: 30% international: 1/3 india, 1/3 africa, 1/3 everyone else.
- o Question from Sandra Lee: SAIT noticed that international students struggle with language, academic expectations, etc.  Is this similar at Lethbridge College?  Response: Yes, and they are reluctant to take advantage of opportunities.  We have orientations to

introduce to academic rigor in North America.  There is a lot of pressure on students studying internationally: especially if goal is to move to Canada.  Lethbridge College takes responsibility that the students are educated about the culture and expectations.

- o Wendy Osborn: students got into trouble with taking employment, did not feel able to say no to more and more hours, and school work suffered.  Directed international support services that students should be warned about this.  Also, at UofL started to demand resources to manage increase in international students sincey they could not manage more without resources.
- o Libero Ficocelli asked everyone how much international students are charged in comparison with local students:  Double in some, triple in others.
- o Steve Chattargoon: concern that international students are displacing local students.
- o Andrew Tappenden: International students can't work off-campus.  Correction from Rossitza Marinova now international students can work anywhere with Wendy Osborn adding that hours of on-campus work is unlimited, but a maximum of 20 hours off campus.  If the work is part of a course, it is considered on campus.

**Updates from Medicine Hat College (Steve Letkeman)**

- No changes to admission requirements but improving vetting process for international students.
- Background: We offer a 2 year diploma with a Software development stream and a Networking Administration stream.  The common first semester accepts 35 students.
- Waiting list for international students.
  - o They come in with low English ability
  - o Don't assume computing skills: but some have never used a computer before!  This is really challenging.
  - o Complaints from domestic students since the class has to accommodate lack of skill.
  - o Tremendous level of academic dishonesty (10 failing course, 2 removed from program) Been a difficult year because of this. 2 students removed put on suicide watch.  Students under tremendous pressure.  They are resorting to cheating.
- No changes over the last year other then we continue to add topics to our Emerging Technologies Course including Blockchain, machine learning, robotics, machine visual etc. (Nathaly: how managed?)  Steve has background knowledge in this area.  Students choose their own topics, rely on udemy for learning, instructor provides hard-ware and supervision.  Students submit a timesheet, teacher acts as employer.  Demo what they have learned.  Weak students worked hard but did not accomplish much. Strong student will do amazing things.  Difficult to evaluate. Works for 95% of students.  Some students fail.   Project has to be approved.)
- A new full time instructor was hired to replace the retired Larry Slack.
- We opened a secondary lab with a functional HP C7000 server with 16 blades and 132TB storage.  This hardware is used both from a hardware configuration experience for the students and is functional for running various virtual machines for student labs.
- MHC is now a certified testing centre.  Students had to go to Calgary, can now do this locally. (Eg A+, Microsoft, etc)

**Updates from Bow Valley College (Jeff Clemens)**

- Program changes:
  - o New IT diploma program
  - o New Cybersecurity Post Diploma program
  - o New Data Management Post Baccalaureate
  - o New Digital Design Diploma program
- Transfer Agreement
  - o Bow Valley College Software Development to University of Lethbridge 2+2 agreement
- Other updates: We're currently building a new IT lab
- New Dean: Cherylyn Cameron is retiring so we're now under David Allwright and partnered with the School of Business
- Changes in faculty:
  - o 9 new faculty across SCT
  - o 1 new faculty in Cybersecurity

**Updates from SAIT (John O'Loughlin)**

- Full institutional report attached.
- We have had significant growth in our student numbers in the past academic year. Starting in January of this year (2019) we have begun an additional intake for our ITSD diploma. This is due to a long wait-list of students who we had not been able to accept in the fall of 2019 due to the number of students who expressed an interest in our program. We expect to have another Winter intake in 2020, for two SD, one NS and one CS cohorts.
  - o A lot of contract instructors to manage additional students.
  - o Will run all courses for all semesters simultaneously
- Looking at all our programs for quality control: many meetings.  Fact finding: expecting changes.
- Four IT programs still the same: At SAIT, within the School of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) we offer a two year Information Technology diploma program.  This diploma has four concentrations, Computer Systems (ITCS), Networks Systems (ITNS), Software Development (ITSD), and Telecommunications (ITTC). The latter was formerly known as "Telecom Systems" (ITTS).
- Starting up certificate programs (Data Analytics, Blockchain, Information Systems Analyst): 9 month programs with possibly a practicum.
- Increase classes 32 -> 36, started last fall.  (Teaching without TAs)
- Attendance: used to have policy as part of grading scheme.  Also dropping professionalism requirement.  Capstone project keeps professionalism requirement.  But other courses it is not as relevant.
  - o Wendy: struggle with attendance.
  - o We still take attendance, but no consequence for lack of attendance.

**Updates from NAIT (Dwayne Rurka)**

- Program is growing.
- Now have 1400 students with three intakes per year.
- 4 new labs for expansion
- We were already full, even with new labs, still at full capacity.
- Not a cohort based program: a lot of students take 3 years to complete two year program. Students are not enrolling in 'full' course load. Makes scheduling very complex.
- Don't allow students from other programs to take our courses to manage high enrollment (no room in courses).
- Working on transfer agreement with Irish univ. (Limirick)
- Hiring: 4 temp staff last year, 4 additional 1 year temp contracts for the coming year. 1/2 dozen contract staff in general to manage diversity of courses.
- No concern about funding from institution to cover temp contracts: Boom in tech likely to be funded by new gov't.
- Charge 3.15x tuition for international students. (Cap removed in province for international students.)
- Students should take 18 credits per semester to graduate in 2 years. 72 credits for program. Charge per semester is the same after whether a student takes more than 9 credits up to 21 credits. Why? (to encourage students to take a full course load. Note: students are balancing a lot: personal life, job, studies. Benefit in NAIT programs is the option for taking a lighter load ( by not having a cohort based system.) Pressure to get them out faster impacts student mental health. )

**Update from UofA (Paul Lu)**

- No program changes. Ideas for course changes
- MOOC launched on coursera last June (2018).
  - Typical course: compute 174, Python, first course. 13 weeks.
  - The MOOC covers the first 2/3
  - Hybrid: expected to complete MOOC, show up for 4 weeks: then get 3 credits.
    - Midterm on 2nd day.
    - Final exam at end of 4 weeks.
    - Motivation: instructor can take 3 cohort every semester.
      - Popular with students that have programming background.
    - Two sections in fall, one in winter. Pilot went fine. Numbers not as high as hoped
      - New, students don't know about it or what to make of it.
    - October: some students didn't complete the MOOC (didn't take it seriously) failed the midterm and dropped the work. (> 10, < 20)
      - Communications work to do, clearly communicate expectations.
  - Honours take 274 and follow on course. Python, C++ and Arduino. Used MOOC to teach Python component. Not in advance, but at fast pace.

- o 275 (after 274), don't need to take intro algorithms course (204, algorithms I). Theory colleagues felt that they would need this for more advanced algorithms courses. So it is still required if they want to take senior algorithms courses.
- Admission requirements: no changes. Minimum entry : High 80s for faculty of science (or low 90s). At UofA can't control for computing science (free to enter once in science).
- Government mandated quality assurance, internal self-study of program and wrote a report. External evaluators provided recommendations which are currently being considered. One benefit of report that we now have numbers to show that we moved from 500 students in 2013 to more than 1000 in 2017.
- No news on transfers.
- No block transfers or institutional agreements.
- Maybe need to share info on approving transfers, information tends to be sparse. Nice to have templates.
- Updates:
    - o 2017-2018: hired 2 full time tenure track prof, and one cross listed with psych.
    - o Interviewing: hiring 3 more
    - o Faculty count has been flat with double undergrad students.
    - o Large increase in plagiarism and conduct cases. Looking for tools to prevent/discourage.


**Updates from King's University (Andrew Tappenden)**

- Last year the Computing Science program at The King's University underwent a program review. The external reviewer provided positive feedback and we have begun steps to implement the curricular changes arising from the review recommendations. While most of the changes will not impact the transferability of our CS courses, please be aware of the following change:

- CMPT 276: Data Structures (formerly CMPT 302)
    - o This course has been re-number from CMPT 302 to CMPT 276. While the course number is new, the course remains the same as CMPT 302 and we request that it be transferred similarly.
- Simplified list of required courses so students have more flexibility in option courses.
- The King's University offers a 4-Year B.Sc. in Computing Science. The King's University is a small faith-based university and the CS department consists of three Faculty and an enrollment of 48 undergraduates (CS majors).
- Better enrollments in first year (for last 3 years)
    - o Biggest challenge: many people don't know we exist.
    - o Aim for more space.
    - o If number of students grow -> grow faculty.

**Updates from Concordia (Rossitza Marinova)**

- New program starting Fall 2019: Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
- New courses: 9 in Information Technology and 1 in Computing Science were added – all are required for the new program:
- CMPT 260     – Discrete Structures
- IT 110   – Computer Systems and Platforms
- IT 213   – Networking
- IT 270   – Applied Cryptography
- IT 310   – System Paradigms
- IT 331   – Advanced Cybersecurity
- IT 450   – IT Work Experience
- IT 451   – Senior Project Capstone I
- IT 452   – Senior Project Capstone II
- IT 460   – IT Seminar

- Proposing new program.  MSc Information technology.  Done part A, working on part B.  Need new courses, will hire temp instructors for teaching.

    - o  Course based masters
    - o  With work experience. (required to add)
    - o  33 credits
    - o  Research methods course
    - o  Project course
    - o  Emerging technologies course

- Hired new prof for new program

- 20/21 if application successful will hire more.

- Increasing number of international students.  Increased number of applications.

- Transfers reviewed and filed for many NAIT courses; no specific challenges


**Updates from MacEwan University (Cameron MacDonell)**

- A lot of changes in institution leadership team:
    - o  New president 2 yrs ago
    - o  Provost left 1 year ago.
    - o  Dean of Science became interim Provost and then became permanent Provost.
- Enrollments growing
    - o  177 declared majors
    - o  462 now (change in 3 years)

- Senior class sizes doubled (20 to 40), students could not get into classes.  If all classes full, they can't change classes once enrolled.  A lot of challenges with class sizes.
- Space issues: no space to grow downtown.
  - Need for new science building but not likely to happened over next 5 years
  - Question from Wendy Osborn : looking for new location?  Not likely: institution is build on single location vision.  Being where we are has a lot of advantages.
- New faculty: 2 (one transferred from sessional), one retirement
- Current faculty of 12 in CS, 13 as of July 1$^{st}$.

**Updates from UofC (Nathaly Verwaal)**

- Personnel Changes:
  - UofC has a new president.
  - Dept: lost two faculty members, gained one faculty member.
- Facilities: new facilities to support the professional certificate and master's programs in Data Science and Security.

- There are some upcoming changes to our programs that still need to be approved by upper levels at the UofC for the 2020-2021 calendar which would reduce the amount of required theory and computer architecture courses.

- We're having difficulty controlling enrollment numbers.  The Registrar's office seems to make an effort to keep the numbers reasonable but they make more offers than we have space, assuming that a certain percentage of students will reject the offer.  It seems that this percentage of students is much smaller than they estimate.  We are then required to make space for all these students in the required courses.  Every year, our classes seem to get bigger.

- The number of students that try to transfer into CS from other programs is large, and the grade requirements is very high.  Many students 'shadow' our program (they are officially in a different program but take the courses required for a CS program instead).  We've started reserving all seats in CS courses for majors (except for courses intended as service courses).  Other students can only register in these courses after the restrictions are dropped.

- There is a lot of discussion in our department to try to get some better control over these rising numbers.  Raising high school requirements seems very unsatisfactory since these grades are usually only indirectly related to skills needed for CS.  We'd like to be able to consider other factors such as: participation in coding competitions, participation in programs such as Technovation, etc.  But it is not clear if that will be possible since we don't have control over admission into our program.

**Closing of morning portion of the meeting.**

- NAIT to host next year.
- Request for remote attendees to  record afternoon meeting with BCCAT.
- Adjournment motioned (Franko Carlacci), seconded (Jeff Clemens) and carried.