

Articulation Committee Meeting MINUTES
Friday, May 25, 2018
Room AA318A, Heritage Hall Building
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Chair: Jim Murtagh
Vice-Chair: Nathaly Verwaal

ATTENDEES

Jim Murtagh (Chair)	SAIT
John O'Loughlin	SAIT
Cam MacDonell	MacEwan University (MEU)
Andrew Tappenden	King's University
Dwayne Rurka	NAIT
Charles Hepler	Mount Royal University (MRU)
Jeff Clemens	Bow Valley College (BVC)
Nathaly Verwaal	University of Calgary (U of C)
Clare Ard	Advanced Education (ACAT)
Wendy Osborn	University of Lethbridge (U of L)
Maria Saunders	SAIT

Via Teleconference:

Steve Letkeman	Medicine Hat College (MHC)
Rossitza Marinova	Concordia
Paul Lu	University of Alberta (U of A)
Marek Ejsmont	Keyano College
Franko Carlacci	Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC)
Stephen Graham	Lethbridge College

Welcome from the School of ICT

Jim Murtagh welcomed all to SAIT, acknowledged that the meeting was being hosted on Treaty 7 land and then conducted the safety moment. Jim announced he will be retiring from 36 years at SAIT this June.

Introductions

All in attendance introduced themselves, stating their name, company and position. Jim thanked Paul Lu for conducting last year's meeting.

Review and Adoption of Agenda

Moved, seconded and carried

Reviewing minutes from 2017

Moved, seconded and carried

Election of new chair (three year term) & confirmation of vice-chair

- Wendy Osborn from University of Lethbridge was nominated and has accepted to be the new chair
- Nathaly Verwaal from University of Calgary was nominated and has accepted as the vice-chair

Increasing diversity in Computing Science programs

Nathaly Verwaal

- In the Computer Science area there is a strong white, male presence among the faculty members and students. The women are underrepresented and the Native American and other racial ethnic groups are grossly underrepresented.
- Lots of studies have shown there has been little change, that it is very difficult to change the numbers. It is believed to have to do with the culture in the Computer Science world in what way we say; what is computer science, what it means to be a computer scientist, how we teach our courses, how we send assignments, how we present ourselves.
- What your classrooms look like? What efforts have been made in your department/institution to make changes?
 - **U of L:** Faculty mostly Caucasian male, and especially the students. There are more female ratio in other majors
 - Have outreach programs to help attracting female students but need to do a better job of attracting first nations and other nationalities. At the Dean level there has been some effort to put together some programs for that, but we could do better at the department level.
 - For some classes, in the course projects tries to keep wide open so students can pick their own choices which allows some students from different cultures to make different choices
 - **MEU:** Same situation. Out of 12 faculty, 2 fulltime were women and there are some faculty from different ethnic backgrounds. The students are at similar stats. This year there were about 10% ratio of female students. We have had a handful of First Nation students make it through. It's not a new situation and faculty is working on it
 - **King's University:** The last 5 years 14% female students, whereas the whole university averages about 42% male students. There is no clear answer to the question. One female out of the three faculty members. Not up to the female instructor to address the issue.
 - Regarding international students, they have difficulties expressing the content into the frame that is given to them. Possibly look into allowing translators for the students to use in the oral final exams, so the international students could answer in their native language and have the interpreter translate for them.
 - **BVC:** Just had interviews and found all that were interested were male Caucasian while any others of different ethnics did not return.
 - Working with others to see if the barriers can be found, but nothing yet.
 - **GPRC:** Have a greater female to male ratio in the college but reversed in the Computer Science program. A faculty member attended a CS conference in Italy and estimated there were 40 – 45% of the attendees were female. Is this just a North American issue or is it also overseas? Can the mindset be changed?
 - **U of A:** Concerns: 1) Quotas and/or 'filtered courses' hit minority groups (especially gender diversity) greater than the majority groups. 2) Professional behavior, what is acceptable vs not acceptable. Can cause negative interaction amongst students
 - **MHC:** At approximately 10% female ration, but they stay once they are in the door. Have greater diversity and ethnic background, but don't know why many do not come through the door.
- **Discussion followed** amongst the members

ACAT Council/Secretariat and Advanced Education Updates

- Curriculum redesign is ongoing and hope it goes through
- Still undergoing their agency review, which means the council is officially dormant
- Hope to have new council by Spring, 2019
- Looking for new way to offer course by course transfer options. Support Learner Pathways
- Launched a new website acat.alberta.ca for their stakeholders
 - About ACAT
 - Alberta Transfer & Pathways
 - Articulation. Can manage your own committees
 - Research
 - Transfer Alberta (Owl icon) is for students

Institutional Updates

- **Program changes and updates (e.g. new courses, specializations, etc.)**
 - **U of A:** Refer to Appendix A
 - **GPRC:** The Ministry has given them the ability to grant degrees and hope to offer degrees at some point in the future. No changes in courses or programs
 - **Lethbridge College:** In the last 3 years a few tweaks made in their courses to allow for better flexibility, such as courses that had been named for specific languages was becoming problematic.
 - Recently moved a 2nd semester optional user centered interface design course to a 1st semester required course.
 - Piloting a new Virtual Reality diploma under the School of Media and Design and working towards cross center collaboration. Larger female representation
 - **Concordia:** Refer to Appendix A
 - **BVC:** New Data Management & Analytics program starting, and Cyber Security going to proposal
 - **King's University:** None noted thus far. Looking at making some curriculum changes after the program review has been finalized
 - **MEU:** In 2nd year of running three new streams of the Computer Science program
 - **U of L:** Refer to Appendix A
 - **U of C:** Refer to Appendix A
 - **NAIT:** Refer to Appendix A
 - **MRU:** No changes
 - **SAIT:** Refer to Appendix A. Looking into the Professionalism component in the program, is it necessary, how to teach it, etc.? Discussion ensued on Professionalism within other's programs/courses.
- **Intakes & admissions requirements updates. Could you also add, for the benefit of new committee members, information on what programs you offer and how large are they in terms of students?**
 - **U of A:** Refer to Appendix A
 - **Lethbridge College:** Admission, no changes, still accepting grade 12 Math. Intakes, experiencing continuing growth and demand and currently have over 80% of the size of current accepted (Sept-45 seats & Jan-12 seats, 35 now on the waitlist)
 - **Concordia:** Refer to Appendix A
 - **BVC:** Still offering 'first come first serve', but higher attrition rate
 - **King's University:** None noted
 - **MEU:** Offerings are 'first come, first served'. At this time currently full with waitlists for most courses
 - Students can declare any major without having taken any major specific courses. Causing issues for calculating numbers of actual majors
 - **U of L:** Refer to Appendix A
 - **U of C:** Refer to Appendix A
 - **NAIT:** Refer to Appendix A
 - Discussion ensued regarding applicants submitting a portfolio. It would be too much work (time) and who would volunteer to read each portfolio.

- **MRU:** No changes, but a slight increase in the GPA requirements due to slight increase in application pressures
- Admission model is problematical, if adding a 4th year student it will take away a full seat for a 1st year applicant/student. Trying to correct it.
- **SAIT:** Refer to Appendix A

- **Student Mobility: Transfer updates (e.g., new transfer agreements, transfer credit awarded, etc.)**
 - **U of A:** Refer to Appendix A
 - **GPRC:** Still have transfer agreements in place
 - **Lethbridge College:** No changes
 - **Concordia:** Refer to Appendix A
 - **BVC:** No transfer options available, but willing to discuss further as programs are getting larger
 - **King's University:** No block transfers, just one-off course transfers
 - **MEU:** No block transfers, but now one of the largest transfer 'in' institution in Alberta. Seen lots of U of A transfers, leading to lots of challenges
 - **U of L:** Refer to Appendix A
 - **U of C:** Refer to Appendix A
 - Discussion ensued regarding putting course equivalences (such as CPSC217 to DATA211) in the Alberta Transfer Guide. Clare informed members to email her regarding course equivalences transfers to look into putting on the Alberta Transfer Guide.
 - **NAIT:** Refer to Appendix A
 - **MRU:** None
 - **SAIT:** Refer to Appendix A

- **Updates on faculty, facilities, institutional re-organization, etc.**
 - **U of A:** Refer to Appendix A
 - **GPRC:** Losing one faculty member to retirement and in the process of hiring a candidate who has accepted the offer
 - **Lethbridge College:** Still at three, but would like to hire one more. The Dean is retiring and currently looking to replace
 - **Concordia:** Refer to Appendix A
 - **BVC:** Hiring four new faculty starting in the next month and a half
 - **King's University:**
 - **MEU:** Probably go to be hiring more this year in the Systems and Security, but hard to find
 - **U of L:** Refer to Appendix A
 - **U of C:** Refer to Appendix A
 - **NAIT:** Refer to Appendix A

- **MRU:** In the last two years, lots of restructuring. Provost left and then hired new Provost from the U of L, five Deans have left and now have a layer of Associate Deans that are still faculty.
- Department restructure, their department merged with the Math department.
- May hire more faculty if the department takes on more students
- Just built a new library
- **SAIT:** Refer to Appendix A

New Questions for discussion:

Due to time restraints, only U of A answered the following questions. It was suggested if other members had comments for these questions to bring them forward to next year's agenda.

- **What are your thoughts/experience/lessons learned regarding managing block transfers between institutions? (It looks like courses don't transfer anymore and we have a lot of students asking for pre-requisite waivers, etc.)**
 - **U of A:** no thoughts on how to address
- **What computing science topic(s) are you watching that suggest the need for creating a new course at the undergraduate level? Is there something currently being taught (at the undergraduate level) that should be discontinued in the near future?**
 - **U of A:** Machine learning are important topics to innovate on, but no future plans at this time. Discussed with peers of making students take more math courses to prepare for their computing courses, argued not an efficient use of student's time
 - Discussion ensued between members
- **How do we, should we, address the ethics of privacy with respect to computer systems/software development practice?**

Other business:

- None noted

Confirmation of Committee membership:

- Wendy Osborn to be the new chair
- Nathaly Verwaal as the vice-chair
- Steve Letkeman, yes
- Rossitza Marinova, tentative
- Franko Carlacci, yes
- Stephen Graham, yes
- All remaining members, yes

Next Meeting Date/Location and Potential Agenda Items

- **WCCCE is being hosted in Calgary on May 3 and 4 in 2019. Do we want to hold next year's ACAT Computing Science meeting on May 2 for those that attend both?**
 - Agreed among members to hold next year's meeting to coincide with WCCCE
 - Motion to hold next year's meeting in Calgary, motion accepted and seconded
 - U of C agreed to host next year's ACAT meeting

Adjournment and Plans for Confirming and Sharing Minutes and Institutional Updates on ACAT SharePoint Site:

- Bullets format
- Expandable headings
- On-line, more details
- Briefer