Articulation Committee Meeting MINUTES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Via Zoom

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Chair: Wendy Osborn

Vice-Chair: Nathaly Verwaal

Attendees:

Wendy Osborn (Chair), University of Lethbridge (UofL)
Nathaly Verwaal (Vice-chair), University of Calgary (UofC)

Stephen Graham, Lethbridge College (LC)
Rossitza Marinova, Concordia University of Edmonton (CUE)
Franko Carlacci, Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC)
Libero Ficocelli, Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC)
Namrata Khemka, Mount Royal University (MRU)
Steve Chattargoon, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)
Cam MacDonell, MacEwan University (MEU)
Jeff Clemens, Bow Valley College (BVC)
Sharaz Khan, Bow Valley College (BVC)
Erin Gates, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)
Amos Ngai, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)
Ken Wong, University of Alberta (UofA)
Andrew Tappenden, King's University
Steve Letkeman, Medicine Hat College (MHC)
Eric Dohei, Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfers (ACAT)

6. Welcome from chair and introductions

Wendy Osborn welcomed all, thanked all for attendance, and acknowledged that the meeting was being hosted on Treaty 4,6,7,8,10 and the Alberta Metis Nation land.

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

2. Adoption of Agenda

Discussion: None

Motion: Wendy Osborn

Moved: Rossitza Marinova

Seconded: Cam MacDonell

Carried

3. Reviewing and adoption of minutes from 2019

Discussion:

Motion: Wendy Osborn

Moved: Steven Chattergoon

Seconded: Steven Graham

Carried

4. Updates from secretariat (Eric Dohei)

COVID-19: sharing info on ACAT website, Transfer AB site and links to member institution pages with COVID-19 information. General questions related to student aid, tution, etc. will be maintained and populated on an ongoing basis.

Transfer credit awarded pilot: 10 institutions participated and shared data. Now available to these institutions. Could potentially be used as a performance measure for institutions. Also looking at including transfer credits from non Alberta institutions, providing opportunities to share and track student transfers and student mobility and getting non-member data in the system. The goal to make it easier to share institutional decisions related to transfers and to have non-member data.

Question by Libero Ficocelli: is the website stable now?

Due to migration in 2017 there was some problems with the website. We didn't lose the data and we've been working to get the data to what institutions are wanting. Tools are currently stable.

What is protocol to get it fixed and have data included again?

Either contact secretariat or upload the data as a transfer credit.

Question from Sharaz Khan: how can we tell if institutions are compliant?

We don't have a data source to see if a student got credit for courses taken at another institutions. One way to measure is looking at transfer credit data in LPS. We only have data about transfers that were awarded. It is similar in BC, they also don't have a way to measure how much transfer credit was awarded.

Question from Nathaly: how can this data be used as a performance measure?

There will be an expectation that institutions provide transfer credit awarded data. Student mobility is a priority. Not clear what the expectations are exactly.

5. Alberta Higher Education Updates

No updates.

6. Institutional Updates

- Updates from King's University (Andrew Tappenden)

1. Program changes (new or deleted courses or programs of study)

   Nothing to report apart from the general chaos of preparing for the possibility of an online semester next fall. At King's we will know by June 1st, perhaps earlier, what our teaching parameters are for the fall.

2. Admissions requirements changes for high school and transfer students

   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 67 undergraduates (CS majors).

3. Admission or transfer trends or issues

   We have been steadily growing over the past four years. This is very welcome given our small size. This seems to be in keeping with the generally good numbers for CS programs across the province.

4. Any new transfer agreements – courses, block transfer, or new partner institutions. Any challenges with sending students or assessing transfer credit from other institutions.

   Nothing to report

5. Other updates (new or retiring faculty, new facilities, institutional re-organization, etc)

   The current Dean of Science has been promoted to be the VP Academic; I have been promoted to the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Science. This will be my last ACAT meeting for the foreseeable future. At King's the Deanship is a half-time appointment so I will still be teaching some CS courses, in addition to my other duties. Future communications to the Chair of CS for King's should be directed to Michael Janzen, *michael.janzen@kingsu.ca*.

   These meetings have been a pleasure and I've enjoyed meeting with you in May for the past 9 years.

- Updates from Lethbridge College (Stephen Graham)

1. Program changes (new or deleted courses or programs of study)
    - No CIT program changes. Proposing 2 new programs for Fall 2021: CIT-Systems and CIT-Developer (tentative names). These would complement the existing General Diploma.
    - VXR – Virtual and Augmented Reality Certificate completed its first year this spring with. It will be continuing in the Fall.

2. Admissions requirements changes for high school and transfer students

    - Computer Information Technology Diploma (2-yr) is a accepting up to 90 students for Fall 2020.
        - Generalist program in information technology including hardware, software, networking, database, systems analysis
        - No admission requirement changes: High school diploma including English 30-2 (minimum) plus Math 30-2 (minimum)
    - Virtual and Augmented Reality certificate (1-yr) is accepting up to 30 students for Fall 2020
        - Specialist program covering virtual reality and augmented reality technologies and content development.
        - No admission requirement changes: High school diploma including English 30-2 (minimum)

3. Admission or transfer trends or issues

    - Despite current distancing conditions, applications and admissions are on track with last year. Some decrease in international applications, but still strong.
    - Approximately 30% international students in CIT
    - Approximately 6% international students in in VXR

4. Any new transfer agreements – courses, block transfer, or new partner institutions. Any challenges with sending students or assessing transfer credit from other institutions.

    - No new transfer agreements.

5. Other updates (new or retiring faculty, new facilities, institutional re-organization, etc.)
   There are some re-alignments of programs. The School of Information Technology is being collapsed and the School of Media and Design is being split. The new schools are:
    - School of Media and Information Technologies (Computer Information Technology, Digital Communications, and Multimedia Production)
    - School of Spatial Design Technologies (Architectural Animation Technology, Interior Design Technology, Virtual and Augmented Reality)

- Updates from Medicine Hat College (Steve Letkeman)

1. Program changes (new or deleted courses or programs of study)

   No changes

2. Admissions requirements changes for high school and transfer students
   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?

   No changes.

   Background: We offer a 2 year diploma with a Software development stream and a Networking Administration stream. The common first semester accepts 35 students.

3. Admission or transfer trends or issues

   International students from a number of new countries and decreased numbers from India. English language skills significantly better with increased screening processes in place.

   Question from Cam MacDonell: are you expecting international students for this fall?

   Planning: 50% online and 50% in the lab. Optimistic that we'll be open to some level and that international students will be able to attend. Assuming that international students will be able to travel to AB.

   Follow up from Stephen Graham: preparing for going completely on-line in Fall if needed. Looking at compressed courses to create smaller classes if needed. Other possibility: make some parts incomplete to be deferred to later. (Especially where lab component is essential.)

   MRU: Decision regarding going on-line in the fall will be made by June 30. Exceptions on a case-by-case basis: need to indicate why to postpone or make exceptions.

   GPRC: No plan yet.

   Cam MacDonell: likely similar to MRU.

4. Any new transfer agreements – courses, block transfer, or new partner institutions. Any challenges with sending students or assessing transfer credit from other institutions.

   No changes

5. Other updates (new or retiring faculty, new facilities, institutional re-organization, etc)

   Significant faculty layoffs across the college due to government funding cutbacks but no layoffs in our area.

- Updates from MRU (Namrata Khemka)

1. Program changes (new or deleted courses or programs of study)

   B.Sc. in Computer Science has been approved for July 1, 2020. We will offer Year 3 of the program in Fall 2020. We are offering three new courses this upcoming year:

   1. *COMP 3649 - Operating Systems:* This course introduces the principles and techniques for designing and implementing operating systems. Topics include performance measurement; concurrent computations; the management of information, files, process, and security; memory, and processor resources.

   2. *COMP 4635 - Distributed Systems:* This course covers the design and implementation of distributed systems. Topics such as grid computing, virtualization, cloud computing and principles such as multithreading, communication, synchronization, replication, fault tolerance and security are also covered.

   3. *COMP 3614 - Algorithms and Complexity:* The design of algorithms and the analysis of their efficiency. Greedy algorithms, divide-and-conquer strategies, recursive backtracking, and dynamic programming are studied. Heuristic algorithms and NP-completeness are introduced.

   The **Computer Science University Transfer** program has suspended intake as of October 1, 2019.

   Bachelor of Computer Information Systems has one new course:

   1. *COMP 3505 Software testing:* This course covers the fundamental principles and techniques associated with software testing in the four main areas of functional testing, usability testing, penetration testing, and performance testing. Test management techniques such as test planning, test case design, test selection, and prioritization will be reviewed and students will learn concepts, methods, techniques, processes, and tools available for different types and levels of testing. The state of the art in automated testing technologies for object and service-oriented applications will be reviewed in this course.

2. Admissions requirements changes for high school and transfer students
   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?

   B.Sc. Computer Science – 50 seats are available in the first year (although the Registrar's office admits 55), roughly 30 in the second year, and 25 have transferred to B.Sc. Computer Science for their third year. Therefore, we currently have 110 students in our CS program. The admission requirements are a minimum of 60% in English Language Arts 30-1 and a minimum of 65% in Mathematics 30-1.

   Bachelor of Computer Information Systems – The total number of students in our CIS program is 450 approximately. The admission requirements have not changed and are a minimum of 60% in English Language Arts 30-1 and a minimum of 60% in Mathematics 30-1.

3. Admission or transfer trends or issues
   Computer Science has 506 applicants to 50 seats. So far 35 out of 50 have registered (75%). **Computer Information Systems** has 467 applications to 100 seats and currently is at 60 registrants (60%) for Fall 2020.

   The registration numbers have definitely gone down for both the programs in comparison with this time last year. Similar trends have been seen across the university.

4. Any new transfer agreements – courses, block transfer, or new partner institutions. Any challenges with sending students or assessing transfer credit from other institutions.

   No changes.

5. Other updates (new or retiring faculty, new facilities, institutional re-organization, etc)

   Dr. Maryam Elahi was hired in a Teaching Scholarship Service (TSS) position starting July 1, 2019. Dr. Elahi's research interests are in the design and performance analysis of networked and distributed systems.

   New tenure track (TSS) position – We are currently reviewing candidates for interviews in our department to conduct research and teaching in Computer Science.

   Cam: What is a TSS position?

   TS: expected to do SOTL research, TSS: expected to do research, SL: focus on teaching

   Senior lecturer position - Interviews are in place for a senior instructor position.

   B.Sc. Data Science - The Letter of Intent (LOI) for the Data Science degree has been approved internally in our Faculty.

- Updates from UofC (Nathaly Verwaal)

1. Program changes (new or deleted courses or programs of study)

   New courses (starting 2020-2021 calendar)

   - CPSC 251
   - CPSC 351

   Program changes

   - Undergraduate programs:
     - Replace
       - discrete math, statistics and automata theory/computability (CPSC 313) with
       - CPSC 251, 351 and any CPSC 300 or above option
     - Replace
       - CPSC 359 (Computing Machinery II) with
       - any CPSC 300 or above option.

- Internship programs:
    - BSc and BSc Honours in Computer Science Internship is no longer through Computer Science. Instead, it is centralized through Science: BSc and BSc Honours Internship in Computer Science.
- Graduate programs
    - Professional certificate and master's program now available in:
        - Data Science (master's component now added)
        - Information security and privacy

2. **Admissions requirements changes for high school and transfer students**
   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?

   No significant change. Still based on space availability and grades.

   Undergraduate programs:

   - BSc in Computer Science
   - BSc Honours in Computer Science
   - BSc Internship in Computer Science
   - BSc Honours Internship in Computer Science
   - Minor in Computer Science
   - Minor in Data Science (jointly with Math department)

   Students can also choose a concentration in: Computer Game Development, Software Engineering, Theoretical Computer Science, Scientific Computation, Human-Computer Interactions, Computer Graphics, Information Security, Networks and Distributed Computing, Visualization and Analytics.

3. **Admission or transfer trends or issues**

   No change, still same problems as last year. (High demands, growing enrollments.)

4. **Any new transfer agreements** – courses, block transfer, or new partner institutions. Any challenges with sending students or assessing transfer credit from other institutions.

   None

5. **Other updates** (new or retiring faculty, new facilities, institutional re-organization, etc)

   Departmental Lab/Tech support absorbed by central IT.

   Lost: Tony Tang (HCI)

   Hired (hopefully?) to start July 2020:

   - Instructor rank: Jonathan Hudson
   - Instructor rank (Data Science focus): Leanne Wu

- Professorial rank (Networks)

Still interviewing with aim to start July 2020:

- Professorial rank (Human Centered AI)
- Professorial rank (Games)
- Professorial rank (General CS)

- Updates from UofL (Wendy Osborn)

1. Program changes (new or deleted courses or programs of study)

Our new combined B.Sc. Computer Science/B.FA. New Media degree started in September 2019. Enrolment: 1 student so far

2. Admissions requirements changes for high school and transfer students
   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?

   No changes.

   B.Sc.: 208
   Post-diploma B.Sc.: 42
   Computer Science and Management: 16
   Computer Science and Geographic Information Systems: 13
   M.Sc.: 22
   Ph.D.: 8

3. Admission or transfer trends or issues

   No new issues.

4. Any new transfer agreements – courses, block transfer, or new partner institutions. Any challenges with sending students or assessing transfer credit from other institutions.

   No new transfer agreements

5. Other updates (new or retiring faculty, new facilities, institutional re-organization, etc)

   Budget reduction continues to limit what we can do to increase offerings and update our program.

- Updates from Bow Valley College (Jeff Clemens)

1. Program changes (new or deleted courses or programs of study)

   Information Technology Systems diploma
   Cybersecurity post-diploma

2. Admissions requirements changes for high school and transfer students
   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?

   Information Technology Systems Diploma - ~ 60 students
   Software Development Diploma - ~120 students
   Software Development Post Diploma - ~40 students
   Digital Design Diploma - ~40 Students
   Data Management and Analytics Post-Baccalaureate - ~20 students
   Cybersecurity post-diploma - ~20 students

3. Admission or transfer trends or issues

   We've had the programs filling well. No real trends or issues

4. Any new transfer agreements – courses, block transfer, or new partner institutions. Any challenges with sending students or assessing transfer credit from other institutions.

   Looking at new transfer agreements.

5. Other updates (new or retiring faculty, new facilities, institutional re-organization, etc)

   We have a new Associate Dean Sharaz Khan who joined us recently.

   Our Dean David Allwright retired in April so we have a temporary dean right now with a shared dean of Leah Wack from our regional department.

- Updates from Concordia University of Edmonton (Rossitza Marinova)

1. Program changes (new or deleted courses or programs of study)

   New program Bachelor of Science in Information Technology started in Fall 2019

   - 4-year program
   - Program requirements
     45–60 credits required, to include:
     - IT 110 (Computer Systems and Platforms) and CMPT111 (Introduction to Computing Science)
     - IT 201 (Information Security), IT 210 (Operating Systems), IT 213 (Networking), and IT 270 (Applied Cryptography)
     - CMPT211 (Introduction to Software Development) or IT 202 (Web Design)

- IT 302 (Database Systems), IT 310 (System Paradigms), and IT 331 (Advanced Cybersecurity)
- IT 450 (IT Work Experience), IT 451 (Senior Project Capstone I), and IT 452 (Senior Project Capstone II)
- 1.5 credits in IT 460 (IT Seminar)
- 6–21 credits of unspecified senior-level Information Technology or Computing Science courses including 3 credits at the 400-level courses

In addition to the above, students must complete:

- MAT 120 (Linear Algebra I)
- CMPT260 (Discrete Structures) or MAT 321 (Introduction to Discrete Mathematics)
- 6 additional credits selected from
  - MAT 114 (Elementary Calculus I)
  - MAT 151 (Introduction to Statistical Methods)
  - any senior level MAT courses
- 3 credits of ENG courses.
- DRA 252 (Fundamentals of Public Speaking)
- One of
  - PHY 111 (Introduction to University Physics I)
  - PHY 121 (Introductory General Physics I)
  - PHY 131
- ECO 101 (Introduction to Microeconomics) or ECO 102 (Introduction to Macroeconomics)
- 3 additional credits offered by the Departments of Social Science or Psychology (CNST, ECO, HIS, INDG, POEC, PSCI, PSY, SOC)

New program Master of Science in Information Technology will start in Fall 2020

- Course based 16-month program, 33 credits
- Program requirements
  33 credits required, to include:
  - IT 501 (Advanced Programming Techniques)
  - IT502 (Modern Database Systems and Applications)
  - IT503 (Data Communication and Networking)
  - IT504 (IT Infrastructure Management)
  - IT505 (IT Project Management)
  - IT506 (Information Systems Analysis and Design)
  - IT571 (IT Research Methods)
  - IT572 (Emerging Information Technologies)
  - IT581 (IT Project)
  - IT550 (IT Internship)
  - 6 credits in unspecified graduate (500 or higher) level information technology courses

2. Admissions requirements changes for high school and transfer students
   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?

   CUE offers the following programs

   - 4-year Bachelor of Science degree program in Information Technology with
     - **47** students as of May 20, 2020

    - Admission requirements: same as other BSc 4-year degree programs
- Minor in Information Technology and Computing Science
    - **30** students as of May 20, 2020
- Master of Science degree program in Information Technology with
    - **24** students planned admission
    - Admission requirements:
      In addition to the Admission and General Admission requirements for the Faculty of Graduate Studies, there are some program-specific admission requirement for the Master of Science in Information Technology program, which include: Students should have a background in one of the following areas: mathematics, sciences, or engineering.
      Students without an IT background should take courses regarding the fundamentals of programming and networking. Students without sufficient background in information technology-related areas will be required to take undergraduate courses before enrolling in graduate courses assuming certain prerequisites. This includes courses on programming, networking, data management, and infrastructure. CUE offers a number of undergraduate courses in Information Technology and Computing Science that will serve to prepare new applicants without sufficient background for the MSc IT program. Admission requirements may be waived if experience can be demonstrated.

3. Admission or transfer trends or issues

   No known issues

4. Any new transfer agreements – courses, block transfer, or new partner institutions. Any challenges with sending students or assessing transfer credit from other institutions.

   Transfer agreements are performed at a regular basis. Too early to comment on challenges with sending students or assessing transfer credit from other institutions.

5. Other updates (new or retiring faculty, facilities, institutional re-organization, etc)

   A new faculty (Dr. Baidya Saha) was hired in 2019. Presently interviewing for another faculty in IT

- Updates from MacEwan University (Cameron MacDonell)

1. Program changes (new or deleted courses or programs of study)

   Numerical Methods was taught for the first time and a Machine Learning topics course is being converted into a regular course.

   A new Digitial Experience Design Minor is being offered by our School of Design (now all at our downtown campus). The focus is on User-Experience Design (UXD) and this has attracted some CS majors.

2. Admissions requirements changes for high school and transfer students
   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?

   Within the Bachelor of Science we have a Computer Science Major and Minor. We have nearly 400 registered majors (we do not cap) and will graduate 49 majors this June. We have instituted a requirement of completing three CS courses and Calculus to declare the major. The goal is to get a clearer idea of "true" majors.

   BSc entrance switched to competitive admissions (mid to high 70s likely needed)
   Courses very full.

3. Admission or transfer trends or issues

   While still one of the most popular majors, our courses are not as absolutely full as before (with long waitlists). We now have some seat capacity in senior classes.

4. Any new transfer agreements – courses, block transfer, or new partner institutions. Any challenges with sending students or assessing transfer credit from other institutions.

   No new agreements at this time.

5. Other updates (new or retiring faculty, facilities, institutional re-organization, etc)
   New Dean of Science and new incoming president. Should be an exciting year for a variety of reasons.

   Working on defining degrees by learning outcomes rather than courses taken.

   Question: who is your new president?

   Former president of U of Winnipeg is new president.

- Update from UofA (Ken Wong)

1. Program changes (new or deleted courses or programs of study)

   New courses in 2020/2021 calendar:

   CMPUT 331 Computational Cryptography

   *3 (fi 6) (either term,3-0-0)

   Cryptography is the science of secure communications. This course is an introduction to computational methods for encrypting and deciphering messages, with an emphasis on computer implementation. Prerequisites: CMPUT 201 and CMPUT 272.

CMPUT 416 Foundations of Program Analysis

*3 (fi 6) (either term,3-0-0)

Introduction to the main concepts of program analysis such as intermediate representations, inter-procedural and intra-procedural analysis techniques, call graphs, pointer analysis, and analysis frameworks. The course will also include relevant research papers that introduce both classical and state-of-the-art research in the field. The course will give an overview of the program analyses that work and those that do not work in practice and how to design program analyses for modern software systems. Prerequisites: CMPUT 201 or 275, and CMPUT 272.

Topics courses likely to become calendared in the next two years:

Reinforcement Learning
Introduction to Natural Language Processing
AI for non-scientists

2. Admissions requirements changes for high school and transfer students
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?

No admissions requirements changes.

BSc (Honors) in Computing Science ~170
BSc (Specialization) in Computing Science ~380
BSc (Specialization) in Computing Science - Software Practice ~120
BSc (Specialization) in Computing Science - Business Minor ~30
BSc (General) with Major/Minor in Computing Science ~630

3. Admission or transfer trends or issues

Recently, increasing enrollments in our programs. Admissions based on grades and seats. But lower arrivals this fall is likely of international students.

4. Any new transfer agreements – courses, block transfer, or new partner institutions. Any challenges with sending students or assessing transfer credit from other institutions.

No changes. Reviewed individual course transfers for MacEwan, Mount Royal, Athabasca.

5. Other updates (new or retiring faculty, new facilities, institutional re-organization, etc)

New faculty:

Matt Guzdial (games)
Nidhi Hegde (AI)
Rupam Mahmood (robotics)
Matt Taylor (AI)

Retiring faculty: Lorna Stewart (theory)

New Dean for Faculty of Science (started July 2019): Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell

New President (to start July 2020): Bill Flanagan

New budget model and performance metrics: Budget reductions and expanding enrollment mean fewer non-career academic teaching staff, less frequent offerings of small enrollment or "boutique" courses, and limited experimentation with new courses.

Cheating: case with 40 students. Using paid services to cheat. (Chegg)

New MOOC: The first year MOOC on teaching python (start in MOOC) hasn't panned out. Backing off hybrid approach.

COVID: all grades converted to credit/no credit.

FoS: going through degree renewal process: create some consistency related to number of credits, amount of depth, amount of breadth.

Question (Cam MacDonell): Can MOOCs be taken for credit?

Current CS ones are not for credit. They can be taken for free. The hybrid course was not getting high enough enrollment to make it worthwhile. Considering making them for credit.

Right now: big jump in enrollment in all MOOCs across campus.

- Updates from GPRC (Libero Ficocelli)

1. Program changes (new or deleted courses or programs of study)

   Last year we reported that GPRC was moving forward on a degree proposal for BSc Computer Science. We submitted a draft proposal for feedback from Dr. Osborn University of Lethbridge, Dr. Schaeffer University of Alberta, Dr. Casperson University of Northern BC (thanks to each of you). In mid-June, after incorporating the feedback, the revised proposal was submitted to the VP Academic (Dr. Tim Heath).

   Formal Systems and Logic course (CS2720) we have re-appropriated (taught for a long time by the Math faculty). We wanted to give it a more computer science flavor.

   No other changes to our program.

2. Admissions requirements changes for high school and transfer students
   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?

We offer a two-year diploma in Computer Systems Technology, a two-year university transfer program (our primary transfer institution is the U of A) as well as a 3 + 1 collaborative degree stream with Athabasca University.

Last year the overall year 1 intake comprised of approximately 50+ students. We anticipate that we will have 20+ students in year two/three courses.

3. Admission or transfer trends or issues

   Last year we saw a jump in first year enrollments from low 30s to low 50s. A good portion of that increase was attributed to jump in international students. Given the COVID crisis, we anticipate seeing lower enrollments overall but especially from international students group.

4. Any new transfer agreements – courses, block transfer, or new partner institutions. Any challenges with sending students or assessing transfer credit from other institutions.

   We did encounter some issues with assessing credentials/courses from overseas.

   Some major omissions in our GPRC transfer credentials as listed on the ACAT website.

   Otherwise no other changes.

5. Other updates (new or retiring faculty, new facilities, institutional re-organization, etc)

   Due to budget reductions, the Engineering university transfer program was eliminated. This resulted in the loss of one full time tenured member (Engineering) as well as a full-time sessional Math instructor and a full-time sessional Physics instructor.

   The interim VP Academic had committed to increasing the CS budget to allow hiring of another CS faculty. However, given the anticipated enrollment decline due to COVID, we are no longer considering this an option.

   General Information:

   The College announced that it has eliminated the Educational Technologies department and formed a partnership with Athabasca University to increase/improve delivery of our online courses (details are extremely vague). This will involve dropping the current Moodle platform and adopting Athabasca University PowerED delivery tools.

   The College President Don Gnatiuk retired. The new President Dr. Robert (Bob) Murray assumed his position in December and was formally installed on March 6.

   The VP Academic resigned – the Dean of Arts/Science took on the interim VP position. The Director of Research and Innovation is taking on the role of acting Dean Arts/Science.

   The Dean of Health, Wellness and Career studies accepted a separation package.

The Dean of Trades, Agriculture accepted a separation package.

No direction from administration as to how the fall semester might look like. No discussion nor consultation with faculty has occurred. Some of us are very curious as to how labs will be delivered and whether there will be some more clearly defined guidelines for administering quizzes and exams.

- Updates from NAIT (Steve Chattergoon)

1. Program changes (new or deleted courses or programs of study)

DMIT completed its Curriculum Review and Renewal process, and we are planning on adding the following content.

- Data Sciences
- IoT
- AR/VR
- Machine Learning
- Python
- Azure

2. Admissions requirements changes for high school and transfer students

DMIT in a multi-career path program that offers nine different paths in various areas that support the diversity of the media and IT fields. We offer Computer Software Development, Web Design/Programming, Visual Communications, Business Analysis, Systems Administration, Digital Cinema, Animation, Game Programming and Game Design. With the recent and ongoing expansion that the GOA has approved, DMIT currently has approximately 1600 students across all semesters.

DMIT entrance requirements remain unchanged, but there have been changes in how we handle Open Studies students:

- Grade 11 English
- Math 20-1 or Math 20-2 or Math 20 Pure or Math 20 Applied

OR

Successful completion of DMIT1001, COMP1017, and ORGB1500 through NAIT Open Studies with an overall minimum GPA of 2.0; however, competitive entrance requirements do apply. Applicants who successfully completed other Digital Media & IT courses through Open Studies with a minimum grade of C or higher before August 2019 may use three of those courses in lieu of the high school requirements.

OR

5 credits of Advanced Level Computer Sciences or Advanced Level Design Studies or Advanced Level Communication Technology courses taken within the Career and Technology Studies program Effective April 2, 2019, DMIT will no longer offer daytime seats for Open Studies.

Evening courses will be available for Open Studies students; however, only three of the available courses can be used in lieu of the DMIT Math and English entrance requirements: DMIT1001, COMP1017, and ORGB1500.

Competitive Entrance: 70% overall average or 2.7 GPA for admissions through approved Open Studies courses.

Expecting 30% drop in enrollment due to COVID, especially from international students.

Students did not want to take the on-line version but other students enrolled to take their place.

Expecting: if a decrease this year, followed by increase in the following year.

Admission or transfer trends or issues: DMIT continues to process a large number of transfer credits for students but we have not changed how we do it or have any issues with it.

Any new transfer agreements – courses, block transfer, or new partner institutions. Any challenges with sending students or assessing transfer credit from other institutions.

We are currently working on a transfer agreement with an Irish University that is in its early stages. To date, we have had no issues with TC's, and we continue to maintain our current standards for course comparisons.

3. Other updates (new or retiring faculty, new facilities, institutional re-organization, etc.)

With the GOA budget reductions, we have seen a small decrease in management, and there have been significant staffing reductions across NAIT. That said, there have been no staffing reductions, and have added five new full-time staff members.

New president coming in.

New admin model, but haven't heard what it is yet.

New assoc dean acad.

For fall: classes will be fully on-line. Preparing that we may not go back to face-to-face until Fall 2021.

- Updates from SAIT (Amos Ngai and Erin Gates)

1. Program changes (new or deleted courses or programs of study)
    - No program changes

2. Admissions requirements changes for high school and transfer students
   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?
   - Removed early admission and competitive entry for IT diploma
   - The IT diploma has 4 majors: Software Development, Computer Systems, Network Systems, and Telecommunications.
     - There are 16 cohorts (36 students each) per year over two intakes (Fall/Winter)

   High waitlists. Looking for ways to accommodate high demand.

   Got a donation to create School for Tech Innovation (name?)

3. Admission or transfer trends or issues
   - Demand is still strong for this program
   - Will be offering a Telecommunications intake for international students only in January 2021

4. Any new transfer agreements – courses, block transfer, or new partner institutions. Any challenges with sending students or assessing transfer credit from other institutions.
   a. No new agreements

5. Other updates (new or retiring faculty, new facilities, institutional re-organization, etc)
   a. Moving online has been a challenge with maintaining the hands on requirements of our outcomes

   No decisions on Fall delivery yet.

   Using online summer delivery to allow cohorts to catch up (no issues with on-campus space limitations).

   Dealing with budget cuts.

7. Discussion Items

- Move to online delivery

UofL: For Fall: mostly on-line. Possibly exception where needed, eg wet-labs. For the most part, successful transition. On-line is not for everyone! Looking to improve on-line delivery. Courses with HW component more difficult: not offered until Winter 2021.

Cam (MacEwan): Don't have a lot of international students so travel issues not as big. We've been told to plan what to do for 1/3 occupancy. Were asked to identify what can't be taught on-line, what will be difficult to do on-line. Fairly slow to make decisions. Planning for possible 2nd wave of COVID and asked

to plan for on-line. Questions: allowed to have synchronous lectures? Will students have uninterrupted access to computer? Access to good internet/technology?

Namrata (MRU): Most likely online in Fall, decision planned for June 30. Asked to ID which must be taught in person: will likely be cancelled/postponed. End of march, with move on-line, saw a lot of cheating. Idea: pool resources. Required to use Google meets (no access to Zoom meets). Would like a follow up meeting related to tech used.

Grapham (LC): Generally: have synchronous lectures, but record and post them so it is available asynchronously. Haven't seen a lot of academic dishonesty (or not more than usual). Ctr for teaching/learning is looking at on-line platform. Been using zoom, and big-blue-button in Canvas, not as good as zoom. ITS wants us to use teams: but not as good at large classes. We're planning for a hybrid thing for a year, allowing for physical distancing. Eg bootcamp courses: allow students to come in for the week. Make lab as condensed as possible to reduce amount of time students are together.

Ken (UofA): Faculty are asked which courses can be done remotely and which can't. Hardware courses highest need for in lab/person. Mostly students accessed labs remotely: they don't need to be there in person. Specified minimum computing sources to be able to participate in online delivery. Instructors are discussing options to avoid cheating. Options considered: timed questions, oral exams, spot checks: oral follow up when cheating is suspected. Discussions related to synchronous versus asynchronous. Mostly use zoom and Hangout meets. Adobe Connect did not scale.

Question for ken on use of proctoring software

Using remote proctor now. Levels available:

1. Observer watch (expensive)
2. Record

It passed privacy review issues.

Comment: proctor now can be very invasive.

Yes, and some students have tried to fake it.

Cam: MacEwan is evaluating TopHAT. (Student has to pay $30)

Steve (Medicine Hat College): Using MS teams. But the chat seemed to be non-stop and difficult to keep up with. Managing college wide too difficult: it was pushed down to programs and instructors. Will allow students remote access to lab computers. Students writing programming exams: impossible to monitor. Looking for suggestions.

Wendy: 1620 course: can't prevent students to look things up. If you google and it is wrong: they are responsible for it. Students were answered questions from a previous exam. Couldn't monitor emailing. Chose an asynchronous model. More difficult to help students that often came to office hours. On-line is not for everyone.

Cam: How to coordinate best practices discussion. Guidance from university: don't do long lectures on-line. A three hour nights class needs to be broken up somehow. 60 callers in a meeting: create a video. Instead use class time for office hours. Think how to use the time differently. If we come up with narrow questions online: causes problems when there are network problems. Asked to come up with different kind of test.

Rossitza: it would be great to meet at the end of June/early July to discuss further. Use of chat was extensive, maybe because they already knew each other in the past winter semester. Told not to monitor students due to privacy issues.

Libero: Question for everyone: Do people have access to their space? UofL: have to request access. Cam, security will let us in for brief access. Special access to labs were needed (eg feeding fish).

Libero: rural access to internet is limited. Was suggested to drive to parking lot and deliver from the car.

LC: not locked out but restricted access monitored by security.

Wendy: many of our students are from rural areas. Some had trouble accessing internet and joining on-line lectures and problems with exams.

Rossitza: Students really struggle. They need the interaction and the classes.

Andrew: zoomed with deans of sci across country. Most have severe restrictions to access on campus. Most are locked out or need to request access. Difficult for some students to go to campus to attend labs. As much as possible, should plan for on-line.

Wendy: did online meetings for demoes. They did also talk about this loss of in-person meetings.

Franco: how do you know that students are available? We are trying to be as accommodating as possible.

Nathaly and Rossitza: try to book around student availability.

Stephen and Wendy: book during lecture times when students should be available.

Cam: If you did have a scheduled class and you want to go online, will you give up that time? Take some of your lecture time when students are generally avaialbe, break it into slots and let students know when slot they have to attend. Some students did not like the move to asynchronous delivery: they expected the usual/lecture style delivery. Difficult for students to figure out all the different models. It may also motivate some students to skip which may reduce grades.

Ken: In the US, lawsuits from students: they are not delivering campus experience. There may be a backlash to asynchronous delivery.

Namrata: In intro programming: successful students have small cohort of friends. How will folks be approaching teaching on-line in fall to provide this experience and avoid it becoming a MOOC.

Cam: split of class for interaction.

Rossitza: create small online groups, breakouts in zoom? Maybe discuss more, there is so much to share.

Stephen: clarity is important with regard to when, how and why. It will go better with clear messaging. It is difficult when there is limited to no communication on where the institution is going in fall. Our dean and assoc dean have tried to be flexible but this has created uncertainty. Asking admin to provide clarity, which we can then also communicate to students.

Rossitza: Google meet more difficult to control than zoom or adobe connect. WebX is expensive. Zoom is very popular.

Wendy: I like zoom, but there is some security challenges.

Franco: Notability app to share notes linked with zoom. Helpful for students that have trouble connecting synchronously. Works with Zoom. It was difficult to adjust on the fly in the winter semester.

Libero: small classes where helpful: students felt comfortable with the transfer. Zoom with notability was sufficient to make the transfer.

-Dealing with budget cuts

Insuffiient time.

8. Confirmation of committee membership

Wendy will e-mail to confirm memberships.

9. Next meeting date/location and potential agenda items

Wendy will send out an e-mail with a poll to see if we want to meet via Zoom next year or prefer in person.

Time: Friday after May long weekend.

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

Discussion: Wendy will get site updated and send out link. Likes idea of Slack channel and meeting in sub-groups to help prepare for fall once we know what is going on in Fall.

Thanks you to everyone for joining.

Motion: Wendy

Moved: Rossitza

Seconded:Cam

Carried.