

International Languages Articulation Committee

AGENDA – March 31, 2023

Virtual meeting on Zoom

Attendees:

Michael Dabrowski, Athabasca University
Eric Dohei, Learner pathways/ACAT Secretariat
XinXin Fang, Concordia University of Edmonton
Angela George, University of Calgary
Maria Teresa Grillo Arbulu, Mount Royal University

Regrets:

Natalie Van Deusen, University of Alberta, *Laurie O'shauhnessy*, Alberta Education, *Gabriela True*, St Mary's University &

1. Call to order 10:00 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Approved by *Angela George*, seconded by *XinXin Fang*.

3. Minutes from last meeting (April, 21, 2022)

Minutes approved by *Angela George*, seconded by *XinXin Fang*.

4. Results of Survey:

- Presented by *Angela George*. There were 192 responses to the online survey distributed via Qualtrics during Fall 2023. The targeted population was students taking a language course (other than English) at a university in Alberta. The largest number of responses came from University of Alberta and University of Calgary. There were 12 languages represented, with the largest numbers being Japanese, French, and Spanish. The top three main motivations for taking language courses were travel, career and to fulfill a program requirement. The top three desired upper-level courses students want to take in the future are courses that focus on cultural studies, courses with a language focus, and courses on translation and interpretation. The top four current and intended future uses of the language under study were to travel, to use the language in one's future career, to use the language to make and maintain personal connections, and to use the language to consume cultural media.
 - Discussion: There were some issues and difficulties with publicizing and distributing the survey, which could partially account for the number of responses. Since there is no Spanish major at Mount Royal University, they are choosing to focus on strengthening language skills, which appears to meet the needs of the students based on the survey responses too. Based on survey results, it is important to emphasize to students and stakeholders that languages are an asset for jobs. Language software cannot replace interpersonal communication nor cultural studies, but it can help in business settings. It has the potential to transform the way we teach languages.

5. Future Endeavors

- It would be great to have a representative from Alberta Education present to help with articulation between high school and post-secondary language courses.
- At our next meeting, we can discuss the data being collected on the first system level collection of transfer credit awarded for the 2021-2022 academic year (see Other Business below).

7. Other Business

- *Eric Dohei* (Learner pathways/ACAT Secretariat) informed us about the [Minister's Advisory Council on Higher Education and Skills \(MACHES\)](#), which provides oversight of the province's adult learning system which includes postsecondary. They will reach out to institutions for engagement at senior level and possibly program level too to discuss their work.
- *Eric Dohei* (Learner pathways/ACAT Secretariat) described the *Transfer and Learner Pathways* branch. The first system level collection of transfer credit awarded data is being gathered for the 2021-2022 academic year. The reporting institutions are members of the Alberta Transfer System comprised of all of the publicly funded post-secondary institutions in Alberta, 4 indigenous institutions, and some out of province institutions too. Eventually this data will be compared to the Learner Pathways System data, and the student mobility reports data.

8. Next Meeting:

Angela George will send an email to schedule the next meeting in Fall 2023. *Angela George* will continue to serve as *chair* and *Natalie Van Deusen* will serve as *vice-chair*.

9. Meeting adjourned @ 11:00am