

Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer
Biological Sciences Articulation committee
Minutes of meeting May 12, 2021

Minutes submitted by Carol Kroeker, Chair

In attendance (via ZOOM):

Carol Kroeker, Chair, UCalgary; Gary Grothman, Vice-Chair, St. Mary's; Blaire Legaree, Keyano; Dorothy Hill, MRU; Heather Addy, UCalgary; Joanne Reynolds, MHC; Jocelyn Hall, UAlberta; Randall Barley, ULethbridge; Brett Selinger, ULethbridge; Sheryl Gares, UAAugustana; Robert Cuny, Lakeland; Kevin Friesen, GMU; Sandra MacDougall, RDC; Sean Irwin (GPRC), Heather Prior, Kings U; Kim Harcombe, MacEwan U; Shun Li; Portage College; Joanne Reynolds; MHC; Sophie Kerneis- Golesteyn, Lethbridge College; John Mee, MRU; Corey Davis, UAlberta

1. **Welcome Announcements / Introductions**
2. **Minutes of 2020 Meeting:**
 - Reviewed and approved.
3. **Institutional Updates (Reports received are attached)**

Keyano College (Blaine Legaree)

- No program changes, no new initiatives or concerns
- Similar numbers to last year
- Loss of joint Environmental program with MRU – Keyano will continue with their 2 year program

University of Lethbridge (Randall Barley)

- No major changes to the program
 - continued implementation of our new curriculum from 2019/2020 and all the associated growing pains.
- Continued challenges with labs due to COVID
- 1st yr transfers from some BC-based institutions continue to be problematic
- New Bio-statistics course

MacEwan University (Kevin Friesen)

- No major program changes
- Plan for recoding Biochemistry courses
 - BICM 200 Introductory Biochemistry
 - BICM 310 Intermediary Metabolism (offered every year)

- BICM 340 NEW. Structure and Function of Biological Molecules (offered every other year) – this course has a lecture and lab component
- BICM 450 NEW. Biochemistry of Viruses (offered every other year)
- BICM 320 (Structure and Function of Biomolecules) and BICM 330 (Nucleic Acid Biochemistry) are being restructured into the new BICM 340.
- All other re-numbering is put on hold as the university decides on a 4 number coding system
- GENE 370 now is a lab course
- Plan to incorporate Professionalism, Integrity and Ethics, as well as Evolution (PIE/E) into courses

University of Calgary (Heather Addy)

- No new or deleted programs or courses
- No new transfer agreements
- Continuing discussion of changes to the program structure
 - Considering 3 concentrations
 - Biotechnology
 - Genetics / Evolution
 - Biodiversity and Conservation
- Due to capacity issues with BCEM 393, U of C is currently allowing more flexibility in transferring in BCEM from other institutions.
- On-line for the past year but hoping for face-to-face in the fall (have been told to be ready for any delivery)

Lakeland College (Robert Cuny)

- No major changes to admissions, transfers or programs
- UofA approved second cohort of pre-AATEP (Aboriginal Teacher Education Program)
 - Students will take their first and second year at Lakeland College
 - The courses of the years 3 and 4 are taught online by University of Alberta professors
- Lakeland College Schools of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences have offered Applied Bachelor's Degrees for several years. The Alberta Institute of Agriculture AIA will recognize grads as Professional Agronomists if they have taken introductory biology courses (e.g. BIOL107 and BIOL108 of the UofA).
- Most students continue to pursue education (in Alberta) and nursing (in Saskatchewan). Few students transfer into science, pharmacy, business, and arts. This year we had a motivated group of pre-veterinary medicine students.
- An enhanced partnership MOU has been signed with the School of Education at the University of Calgary. Students can take a combination of non-education courses with us.
- The University Transfer Department is not losing or gaining positions due to further cutbacks.

Red Deer College (Sandra MacDougall)

- RDC is hoping to change to a Polytechnic designation
- Red Deer College got approval to offer a new Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences degree
 - The program will begin in September 2021, and current second year students will be able to enter their third year of study at RDC.

- Areas of study in the new degree include animal physiology, molecular genetics and heredity, botany and ecology.
- The following new courses will be offered this year as we bridge into offering our four year degree:
 - Community and Population Ecology (BIOL 3401)
 - Evolution (BIOL 3411)
 - Quantitative Biology (BIOL 3101)
 - General Botany (BIOL 3301)
- The high admission GPA for the University of Calgary has made it difficult for transfer students in the 3.0 – 3.3 range. However, this will be alleviated with our new Degree offering additional completion options.

Mount Royal University (Dorothy Hill)

- No changes to admissions, transfers, or other courses.
- BSc – Biology major launched in Fall 2020 (incorporates former majors, Health Science and Cellular & Molecular Biology as the Anatomy & Physiology and CMB concentrations, in addition to a third concentration, Ecology & Evolution)
- BSc – Health Science and BSc – Cellular & Molecular Biology suspended (last intake was Fall 2019); we anticipate the majority of students completing those majors will graduate by 2024 or earlier.
- Previously, current MRU students wishing to switch into the BSc – HS or BSc – CMB majors did so through a major declaration process administered within the Faculty of Science & Technology. However, students wishing to switch into the BSc – Biology must now apply through Admissions.
- Had an increase in students transferring in, as apposed to transferring

Medicine Hat College (Jo-Anne Reynolds)

- No major changes
- Enrolment was down due to Covid but are showing some rebound
- The Evolution course (BIOL 221/321) to be offered in winter 2022 semester
- University Studies Science is now in the School of Arts, Science and Education (was in the Division of Science and Health Studies)

Augustana University (Sheryl Gares)

- No new transfers
- In fall 2021 our revised biology program, Integrative Biology begins:
 - Year 1 = 3 credits of introductory biology AUBIO 111 (lecture) + 3 credits of introductory biology AUSCI 115 (lab). The evolution and diversity introductory course AUBIO 112 has been deleted and will be offered in future in Year 2 as 3 credits of AUBIO 212 without a lab (beginning fall 2022).
- Using U. of A. Faculty of Science Biology courses as a comparator, this is how we will manage credit transfers from other institutions:
 - BIOL 107 + BIOL 108 = AUBIO 111 + AUSCI 115

- BIOL 107 only = AUBIO 111
- BIOL 108 only = AUSCI 115
- BIOL 221 = AUBIO 212

University of Alberta (Jocelyn Hall)

- No major changes to our programs:
- We had virtual External Review of our programs October 2020. We are working through recommendations, including program mapping and potential changes to course offerings.
- UoA is undergoing major restructuring, including student services and academic. It is unclear how University restructuring may impact our programs.
- UoA admissions of incoming high school students is a competitive average determined by the Faculty of Science each cycle. There are no changes to admission requirement for our honor/specialization programs (see above re: restructuring).
- Admission remains highly competitive. The Faculty of Science is increasing enrollment across entire Faculty, not just Biological Sciences.
- No new transfer agreements

St. Mary's University (Gary Grothman)

- No new transfer agreements
- No major program changes
 - New Secondary education program now in place
- With COVID - accepting ACCUPLACER test scores for admission (math equivalency)
- Most hybrid for 2020/2021 – On-line with some hybrid delivery of labs. Students got take-home kits for labs
- Hoping for face to face in the fall.

King's University (Heather Prior)

- King's Common Curriculum (for all King's programs) implemented 2019 requires all King's students to take two science courses
- New proposed science degree program – Inter-disciplinary
- No major changes to transfers or admissions
- Renaming of two courses:
 - Biology 422 Molecular Genetics (old name Biology 422 Molecular Cell Biology I)
 - Biology 423 Molecular Cell Biology (old name Molecular Cell Biology II)

Lethbridge College (Sophie Kerneis-Goldsteyn)

- No major changes in the transfer program
- Nursing program has removed Microbiology course (BIO1162) from its curriculum to replace it with Human nutrition (BIO1155)
- Currently reviewing opportunities for WIL in the Biological Sciences
- Lethbridge College has a Biosafety Level 2 microbiology lab used in our Microbiology lab course as well as in Microbiology research.

- Lethbridge College has a large capacity in Applied Research giving students from Lethbridge College and other institutions to engage in Applied research projects. Students can join:
 - The microbial Research Laboratory-Antibiotic Plant Project.
 - The Aquaculture Centre of Excellence
 - The Integrated Agricultural Technology Center
 - The AgEnt (Innovation and Entrepreneurship)

Grande Prairie Regional College (Sean Irwin)

- No major changes to the program
- BI2210 (Mechanisms of Evolution) transfers to Augustana Campus – University of Alberta as AUBIO212 (Evolution and Biodiversity).
- College is seeking a Polytechnic designation

Portage College (Shun Li)

- No new transfer agreements or program changes
- We plan to offer BIOL101 and BIOL102 in 2021/22 school year. Last year both were cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- A two-year diploma program named University Studies Diploma is launched at University Transfer program in hope that international students could be enrolled

6. Discussion on the Continuing Challenges with COVID

- Integrity issues with on-line testing
 - With on-line exams – many courses were seeing elevated grades
 - Discussion on how this may affect applications to graduate programs
- Tackling lab content on-line
- ZOOM fatigue and student stress
- Discussion of what 2021/2022 may look like in terms of hybrid or on-line learning
 - Most schools hoping to go back to face-to-face learning but readying for further on-line learning
- Budget changes

8. No other new business was raised – Meeting was adjourned

Next meeting

Date TBA – matched to UBEA meeting