

Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer  
Biological Sciences Articulation committee  
Minutes of meeting May 11, 2023

**Minutes submitted by Carol Kroeker, Chair**

**In-person attendance:** Carol Kroeker, Chair, UCalgary, Dorothy Hill, MRU, Heather Prior, Kings U, Ran Barley, Uleth, Gordon Campbell (Lakeland)

**In attendance (via ZOOM):**

Shauna Henley, NWP; Blaine Legaree, Keyano; David Smith, Keyano; Tomislav Terzin, UAAugustana; Sandra MacDougall, RDP ; Sophie Kerneis- Golesteyn, Lethbridge College; Delsa Fluney, Lakeland; Russell Krasnuik, MHC;

1. **Welcome Announcements / Introductions**
2. **Minutes of 2022 Meeting:**
  - Reviewed and approved.
3. **Institutional Updates (Reports received are attached)**

**Keyano College (David Smith)**

- Continue with first year transfer courses for BSC students
- 2 year program Environmental Technology program is continuing
- Students are successful in their transfers
- Changes to admission requirements for international students from India
  - No longer require Biol 30 equivalent for BIOL 108
- Lab renovations in upcoming year

**MacEwan University (presented in absentia by Carol Kroeker)**

- Re-design of the Ecology/Diversity stream is planned
- Added STAT 151 as a pre-req for BIOL 208
- Students are transferring in with very little “live” lab experience as a result of the pandemic effect.
- Kim Harcombe is the new Biology Chair
- New biology teaching lab being constructed

**University of Calgary (presented in absentia by Carol Kroeker)**

- Suspension of Ecology program (leading to termination by 2028)
- Three new concentrations starting in 2023:
  - Biodiversity and Conservation
  - Genetics and Evolution
  - Biotechnology
- Also students take BioCore courses
  - Biol 241, 243, 311, 313, 331, 371, BCEM 393
- After BioCore – programs diverge with an additional 27 credits (9 courses)
- Expected numbers in each concentration to increase to 50-100 students per concentration
- Admission from high school remains very competitive
- Maintaining flexibility in transfers – particularly Biochemistry
- 4 retirements and 5 new hires in the next year

#### **Lakeland College (Delsa Fluney)**

- Continue to teach first year transfer courses and some second year courses
- BIO 107 now a required pre-reg for nursing students – so enrolment is increased
- Education students take BIO 108 as a science elective
- Now offer dual credit for students in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Most students transfer to U of A or U of S.
- Partnership with Northern Lakes College (LPN) and with Athabasca U (14 degree paths)
- Education collaborations with both U of A and U of C (Calgary program allows most of the students to stay at Lakeland for the majority of the program)
- Nursing Collaboration with U of Saskatchewan (allows for pre-nursing courses (non-clinical) at Lakeland)
- Robert Cluny has retired. Gordon Campbell hired.

#### **Red Deer Polytechnic (Sandra MacDougall)**

- No changes to admissions, transfers, or other courses.
- First year of Biology degree students will graduate this year
- Retention of students is remaining steady
- Offering new courses
  - Botany
  - Conservation biology
  - Cancer biology

#### **Mount Royal University (Dorothy Hill)**

- New courses to be offered:
  - Biol 3110 – Comparative biomechanics
  - Biol 4230 – Field Biology
- Block Transfer agreement

- Lethbridge College BIO 1160 + 1161 = MRU BIOL 1220 + 1221
- These courses are 6 credits of human anatomy and physiology for Nursing and Midwifery students. We have had some Lethbridge College students transfer into our Midwifery program.
- Requesting that transfer agreements be dual – as many students are transferring from MRU to U of C and vice versa (for example) or between U of A and MacEwan (both directions)
  - This item will be further discussed
- New Integrative Physiology lab space to be developed

#### **Medicine Hat College (Russel Krasnuik)**

- New diploma program in Environmental Biology and Reclamation Technology has been approved for the 2023-2024 year (Formerly called Environmental Reclamation Technician Diploma)
- Students are looking for more clarity on transfer agreements
- Joanne Reynolds will be retiring

#### **Augustana University (Tomislav Terzin)**

- Because of transfer issues with Augustana Science Foundations, the separate labs in the science courses will be reversed back into the regular courses
  - Effective Fall 2023, AUBIO 111, AUBIO 212 and AUSCI 115 (lab course) will revert back to AUBIO 111 (with lab) and AUBIO 112 (with lab). These are equivalents to UofA Faculty of Science BIOL 107 + 108.
- Dr. Neil Have will begin a phased-in retirement

#### **University of Alberta (in absentia presented by Carol Kroeker)**

- BSc renewal for entire Faculty of Science has been approved for fall 2024. In BSc renewal:
  - No longer specializations or general degrees
  - There will be Majors degrees and Honours degrees
    - Can take minors outside their field
  - Mandatory indigenous studies course
- For Biological sciences, the Majors and Honours programs will be:
  - Biological Sciences
  - Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology
  - Immunology and Infection
  - Integrated Physiology
  - Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
  - Paleontology
- Admission remains highly competitive. The Faculty of Science is allowing different programs within the faculty to set their own admission standards
- Increased enrollment trends continue -extra funding from the government

- Retro-fitting a new lab space for Biol 107 and 207.

**St. Mary's University (presented in absentia by Carol Kroeker)**

- Biology program review has been completed
- Expecting an honours stream for general Biology major to be approved
- Partially under "Extension Studies", we are offering an Urban Agriculture Certificate (5 microcredential courses, each one month long & asynchronous other than the final practicum microcredential), beginning in June.
- Two new tenure-track hires made this year as replacement hires (Mary Ann McLean is retiring)

**King's University (Heather Prior)**

- First offering of new Natural Science course (NatSci200) intended to meet our common curriculum science requirement (as the first of two courses in science)
- First offering of introductory physics course oriented to biology students: Mechanics at the Molecular and Cellular Level (PHYS233); pre-req: Phys20
- Other new courses relevant to biology: Human Genetics (BIOL399C), Chemicals of Communication (CHEM399B), Physiology of the Cardiovascular System (BIOL427/KINS427)
- Biology program requirements modified to allow greater choice in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year courses (12 credits of 3xx/4xx rather than requiring selections in 3 designated sub-disciplines)

**Lethbridge College (Sophie Kerneis-Goldsteyn)**

- No changes to admissions, transfers, or other courses.
- Have information sessions for students learning about transferring credits
- Work Integrated Learning Strategy continues to be implemented
  - All diploma programs
  - Certificate programs will add this components in the future
- Dual credit courses
  - High school students can add courses to their high school transcript
- Increased enrolment in our Interdisciplinary Science degree (many select biology as one of two concentrations); first ISCI graduate this spring
- Plans are underway for a new Centre for Excellence in Science building (start date uncertain)

**Northwest Polytechnic (Shauna Henley)**

- No changes to admissions, transfers, or other courses.
- Students are having more difficulty transferring into larger institutions as admission standards continue to rise
  - Particularly transfers to U of Calgary

### **Portage College (presented in absentia by Carol Kroeker)**

- BIOL207(introductory genetics) will be launched in 2023/24 school year.
- More BIOL230(Human Anatomy), BIOL232(Human Physiology), BIOL232(Pathophysiology) are offered to PN/paramedic students funded by expansion grants.
- We would like to pilot BIOL101(Cell Biology) and BIOL102 (Organisms in their environments) with virtual labs.

### **University of Lethbridge – not represented this year / no report**

- continued implementation of our new curriculum from 2019/2020.
- This is the first year that all students in BioSci will be under the new curriculum which should eliminate the need for chronic pre-req waivers.
- Following 2 yrs of online instruction and a protracted strike students are weaker than ever and supplemental tutorials are being offered in a wide range of courses to help students cope w/ their foundational deficiencies.
- Enrollments dropped again this year and they are now down 13% over pre-covid levels (only 435 this year across BioSci, Ag Biotech & EnviSci)
  - Over the past 5 yrs in BioSci, the top 5 transfer institutions are : Red Deer Polytechnic, Lethbridge College, MRU, Uof C and Medicine Hat College
    - Meeting with MHC for more curricular alignment
- Two resignations and two retirements within the Biology Faculty
- Ag-related research hires have been approved

### **Concordia University of Edmonton – not represented this year / no report**

#### **4. Other discussion topics**

- Student Mobility issues
  - Transfers should be dual as students are not only transferring to the “big 3 universities” – more work to be done on establishing these transfers
- Discussion on updating a master list of course equivalencies
- Remaining issues and changes after Pandemic
  - More Hybrid courses
  - More on-line course offerings
  - Integrity issues
  - Have students gained enough knowledge to move onto next courses

#### **5. No other new business was raised – Meeting was adjourned**

#### **Next meeting**

Date TBA – matched to UBEA meeting