

Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer

Adopted by Council
March 20, 2007

**ACAT Meeting
February 22, 2007
Via Videoconference/Teleconference
Boardroom 9A, Commerce Place
10155 – 102 Street, Edmonton**

Present: Boardroom 9A: Lucille Walter (Chair), Dietmar Kennepohl, Merla Bolender, Olive Yonge, Larry Hlushak, Marg Leathem (Director), Wendy Richer (Research Assistant)

By Videoconference: Catherine Eddy, Doug Hart, Carl Edozien, Kathleen Massey

By Teleconference: Peter Haney, Marylea Jarvis, Gord Nixon

Absent: Anne Kae Todd, Fred Carnew, Dustin Fuller

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed Council to the third meeting of the 2006-2007 academic year.

2. PLAR Update

The Chair advised that she had met with the Minister on the Final Report of Alberta Recognizes Learning, and that he agreed that Advanced Education and Technology (AE & T) should proceed in the crafting of a Policy Framework on PLAR. A draft is underway. As well, a follow-up PLAR Workshop is tentatively scheduled for June 12, 2007 at West Edmonton Mall. There were concerns that this date is a conflict with the SAO meeting as well as with institutional convocations. ACAT will look at changing the date to the end of May.

The Chair also indicated that she has been asked by Bonnie Kennedy of CAPLA to participate on an advisory committee that will draft a policy framework on foreign credential recognition and the recognition of prior learning. There will be a meeting of the advisory committee in April in Toronto. The Chair sees this participation as an opportunity to hear from PLAR experts from across the country on what components are important in such a framework.

3. Admission to the Transfer System

Members suggested a number of changes to the Admission to the *Alberta Transfer System* document. The Chair encouraged members to thoroughly review the document and provide any comments and feedback, since they are to be posted on the ACAT website to inform post-secondary institutions which wish to become members.

Members discussed the *Council Principles, Policies and Procedures* document and suggested a number of changes. Moved and seconded that the ACAT Principles, Policies and Procedures be adopted as edited.

CARRIED

The Chair once again request that members thoroughly review the document and provide further comments and feedback so that the document can be posted on the ACAT website. It was suggested that the Chair communicate the change in policy to all member institutions via an e-mail. However, it was suggested also that the Chair send an individual letter to Nunavut Arctic College, AuroraCollege , and DeVry Institute of Technology – Calgary indicating that their memberships will be grandfathered, and that the changes in policy will not affect them.

The Council then turned to discussion on the Admission to the *Alberta Transfer System Questionnaire* and a number of changes were suggested. Moved and seconded that the Alberta Transfer System Questionnaire be adopted as edited.

CARRIED

Final suggested changes will be reflected in the documents which will be posted on the ACAT website.

4. **BC/Alberta Transfer System Protocol**

The *BC/Alberta Transfer System Protocol* was adopted by Council by e-mail assent. The document will go to BCCAT on March 9th and then will be forwarded to the BC department of Advanced Education for approval. The Secretariat will explore the next steps in moving this forward in Alberta as part of the MOU process. The Chair drew Council's attention to two articles on recent research done by BCCAT regarding engagement level of transfer students as compared to students entering from high school and another on partnerships between colleges and universities which guarantee places for incoming transfer students.

5. **ACAT Consultation**

The Chair reminded Council members of the upcoming consultation scheduled for March 29th at Mount Royal College from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Chair indicated that participation by Vice-presidents (Academic) from all member institutions is critically important if this event is to have the intended impact. The Consultation is timely given the changing nature of the post-secondary system in Alberta and approaching end to the term of the Chair. Having full participation by member institutions is the goal. There was some discussion on conflicts with the date and the possibility of a change of date. A decision was made to proceed as planned and that the Chair would send a reminder e-mail to raise the profile of the consultation and encourage members who are not able to attend to send alternates if possible.

Members discussed the purpose of the consultation. The Chair asked members for their suggestions on questions for the consultation.

6. **ACAT Chair and Secretariat Reports**

The Chair provided an update on recent activities and noted that most of these have been or will be covered under regular agenda items.

The work of CAQC continues. There are a large number of applications before council and they are working through them on a first-come-first-serve basis. Members were encouraged to check the CAQC website for updates if they are interested in additional information.

Articulation

Engineering

A meeting was held at the UofA in December . The Chair suggested to the group that they might proceed in future as a group independent of ACAT. However, the Engineering group stressed that the facilitation by the Chair and Secretariat was critical to its meeting. There were no new articulation issues.

Computing Science

A first meeting of the Computing Science Articulation Committee was hosted by the UofA. Members from the UofA and UofC agreed to work on a draft first-year core which would be shared at the next scheduled meeting on May 3 at the University of Calgary.

Social Studies (Secondary)

The Final Social Studies report has been sent to Education for their input and review.

Cree

A meeting is scheduled for February 23 at Yellowhead Tribal College in Edmonton.

Math (Secondary)

A meeting is scheduled for March 30 in Edmonton. All post-secondary sectors are represented on the committee. Alberta Education is conducting Math stakeholder consultations, scheduled between March 1 and April 6, at which participants can provide feedback. The draft is on-line, and members are encouraged to review it and request a one-on-one consultation. Merla Bolender will provide ACAT with this information, so that it can be sent to out on the ACAT listserve.

Members discussed whether there was a need to review students' English language skills and some indicated that this is an issue that has surfaced previously.

Pan-Canadian Consortium on Transfer (PCCAT)

The Chair provided members with information on the Pan-Canadian Consortium on Transfer (PCCAT) and indicated that council may wish to consider becoming members of PCCAT as it is open to all transfer credit professionals. Information is available at their website www.pccat.ca. The next PCCAT meeting is June 19-20 in Prince Edward Island.

The next ACAT meeting is May 8 and 9 at The King's University College in Edmonton. The Chair invited members to attend dinner at her home on May 8.

ACAT Secretariat Update

Wendy Richer provided an update on personnel changes.

Work has commenced on the production of the next Alberta Transfer Guide. As well, a number of new documents have been posted on the ACAT website and members are encouraged to visit the website.

7. Transfer Patterns

Marg Leathem provided a review of a number of key transfer pattern results. She indicated that there was a 3% decline in transfer. This may not be significant as overall enrolments for the system are up only 1%, which is 1-2% down from the previous year. She also relayed that transfers to universities have increased by 5% over last year and that numbers have also increased for University Transfer students. In addition, there is a 4.3% increase for into province transfers. Council members relayed that the information is interesting and commended ACAT for their work.

8. Roundtable

Merla Bolender, Alberta Education

- There is an increase in the number of ESL students coming through the system. The funding cap was increased from 5–7 years and starts with Kindergarten. Consultations are being held to continue to support ESL learners. A handbook for parents is being developed to assist students to communicate and become involved with the school and their child's education.
- Course clusters are being reviewed by stakeholders for upcoming consultations. Of particular interest to ACAT is the computing science cluster.
- Aboriginal teacher sessions were held to help teachers deliver aboriginal language programs.

Doug Hart, Grande Prairie Regional College

- The search for a new President continues for Grande Prairie Regional College and should soon be finalized.
- Lower enrolments continue to be an issue at the college.
- There appears to be a need to review the role of the rural college within the system.
- The college would like to be more involved in collaborative degree programs.

Catherine Eddy, Concordia University College

- The search for a new President for Concordia University College is underway.

Kathleen Massey, The University of Calgary

- The university is busy with matters concerning the implementation of PeopleSoft.
- There is a New Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

Peter Haney, The University of Letbridge

- Andy Haken will replace Seamus O'Shea upon his retirement.
- The process of self-reported grades for high school applications is going well.

Larry Hlushak

- Reiterated members' concern about the English language proficiency of students.

Olive Yonge, University of Alberta

- Art Quinney will be the acting Provost during Carl Amrhein's leave.
- The university is looking at funding for graduate students.

Dietmar Kennepohl, Athabasca University

- CAQC recommended approval on their first degree - Doctor of Education (in distance Education).
- Dietmar will be on a sabbatical leave for a year starting in August of this year.

Carl Edozien, ACTISEC

- There is no update from ACTISEC.
- The Chair inquired about ACTISEC's ACAT member for the following term and he indicated he would be putting his name forward for re-election.

Marylea Jarvis, Keyano College

- Keyano is working on increasing capacity and space for Apprenticeship and Allied Health training.
- As the population in the area is increasing and as growth continues, enrolments are expected to increase.
- Keyano is pleased with the collaborative degree model.

9. Upcoming Council Meetings

The next meetings are as follows:

- **May 8 & 9, 2007** - at The King's University College in Edmonton.
- **May 8, 2007 (evening)** – Dinner at the Chair's home.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.