

Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer

ACAT Meeting Minutes – November 21, 2007 Teleconference, 1-3pm

Present: Peter Haney, Merla Bolender, Larry Hlushak, Robin Fisher, Deb Gougeon, Fred Carnew, Alex Kondra, Gord Nixon, Anne Ryton, Marg Leathem, Ron Woodward (Chair), Lisa Fox

Absent: Vincent Steinhauer, Catherine Eddy, Olive Yonge, Kelly Kennedy, Marylea Jarvis

Ron Woodward welcomed Council to the second meeting of the 2007-2008 academic year.

Members approved the meeting minutes from October 15-16, 2007 as written.

A. Response to Roles and Mandates Framework

Council members discussed the draft response document outlining ACAT's recommendations for the Roles and Mandates Framework. Members identified numerous suggested changes to be incorporated before the document is finalized.

Next Steps

- The ACAT Secretariat will incorporate recommended changes, and the document will be presented at an upcoming Roles and Mandates Planning and Access Working Group meeting as well as being sent to Advanced Education and Technology Minister Doug Horner.
- Ron will meet with Minister Horner in December in order to discuss opportunities to move forward on the recommendations.

B. Communications Plan- Implementation Plan

Council members reviewed the initial implementation plan designed to start work on the strategies identified in the ACAT Communications Plan that was approved at the October 2007 meeting.

Council members clarified that the intent of the "renewing visual identity" strategy was to move forward with new graphic design templates, and not intended to address a name change or URL change of Council at this time.

Next Steps

- The Implementation Plan was approved as written, and the Secretariat staff will report on progress at the February 2008 Council meeting.

C. Work Plan

It was identified that in order for ACAT to proceed with key initiatives that have been identified as a way to increase ACAT's leadership role in the post-secondary system, a work plan will need to be established to prioritize the key activities Council will undertake in the upcoming year.

Next Steps

- This item will be covered in the February 2008 meeting, and will incorporate discussions of how to move forward on recommendations outlined in the Roles and Mandates response document, as well as a discussion about the overall structure and governance of ACAT. Council members noted the importance of considering resource implications for institutions as ACAT moves forward with future strategies.

D. Public Agencies Governance Framework

In a review of the provincial government's response to the Board Governance Review Task Force Report, members discussed the implications that the proposed Framework will have on Council activities. It was identified that one potential issue is changes in the requirements for board appointments, as one of the recommendations was that members be recruited through an open competition process. As ACAT is a representative board, the current process of receiving nominations from appropriate post-secondary system bodies would need to be reviewed.

Members agreed that it will be necessary to review the finalized Framework once it is released in order to determine the impact it will have.

Next Steps

- Council agreed that the Guidelines Review Subcommittee established at the October meeting would review the report recommendations in detail and report back to Council on possible impacts. They may also approach the group leading the review for further clarification as required.

E. Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) Policy Framework

Council members were provided with a new draft of the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition Framework that had been updated to reflect the comments Council members had provided at the October 2007 meeting.

Next Steps

- Council members were invited to provide any feedback they had to Lisa Fox, Manager, Business Integration at Advanced Education and Technology by the end of November. The Ministry will continue to move forward with obtaining final approval for the PLAR Policy Framework.

F. Needs of Immigrants/Cross-Jurisdictional Issues

Council discussed some of the issues facing new Albertans in accessing post-secondary studies and transferring credit for their previous course work.

Specifically, Council discussed a significant opportunity to enhance Alberta's relationship with the British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT) in light of the BC-Alberta Transfer Protocol that was recently signed by both parties.

Next Steps

- Ron mentioned that he would like to meet with BCCAT before the February meeting in order to discuss opportunities for the two Councils to work together in the future.
- It was also mentioned that it would be beneficial to meet with representatives from SaskCAT, and to look at bringing all three western-Canadian Councils together for a future meeting.

G. Next Meeting

The next ACAT Council meeting will be held at Yellowhead Tribal College on Friday, February 8th, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.