



# ACAT Council Meeting Minutes

**October 8, 2015**

**Grande Prairie Regional College, Executive Suite Board Room #E211**

- Present:**
- Council Members:**  
Robin Fisher (Chair), Christine Johns, Susan Radke, Madeline McVey, Brenda Leskiw, Susan Bangsrove, Emily Macphail, Jim Gibbons, Jonathan Strand
- Via Teleconference:**  
Bob Boudreau (Vice-Chair), Craig Monk,
- Government Resource Members:**  
Gilbert Perras (IAE)
- Observer:** Gilbert Guimont (Observer, AE)
- Secretariat:** Ann Marie Lyseng, Eric Dohei
- Recorder:** Wendy Pruden, ACAT Secretariat
- Regrets:** Marc Scholes, Roy Weasel Fat, Tessa Cocchio, Merla Bolender (AE)
- Guests:** Rob Schlender, Ranuka Jinadasa, Ahmed Elhamahmy (LPMI Initiative, ITM Team)

## 1. Introductions and Greetings

- a. Chair
  - Welcomed attendees
  - Round table introductions were made
- b. Guests
  - Council was welcomed to campus by Susan Bangsrove, GPRC Vice-President Academic

## 2. Approval of May 2015 Meeting Minutes

- Approved with the addition of Helen Salzl as an attendee

## 3. Chair's Welcome and Update

- Dr. Fisher thanked GPRC for their hospitality in hosting today's meeting
- Completed Activities since last Council meeting
  - Learner Pathways Modernization Initiative (LPMI) continues to move forward as directed by motions from Council at the May 2015 meeting (see below)
    - (Motion 1: Proceed on the basis of this report's recommendations by continuing to work with ITM/IAE to further define LPMI next steps for Phases 2-4.**
    - Moved by Jim Gibbons / Seconded by – Susan Bangsrove
    - CARRIED- Unanimous

**Motion 2:** Proceed on the basis of this report's recommendations by continuing to dialogue with and leverage collaboration with BCCAT and other interested jurisdictional partners for LPMI next steps for Phases 2-4.

- Moved by Christine Johns/ Seconded by - Madeline McVey
- CARRIED- Unanimous)

- Inter-provincial collaboration with BC, SK, MB, ON and NB re common platform continues
- Formalized partnerships will involve the advice and assistance of ACAT resource legal experts for developing documents for signature
- ACAT/Learner Pathways Review– Gilbert Perras (Executive Director - IAE) will provide a ministry update on the Review's status
  - The review was delayed due to the pending election
  - ACAT is enthusiastic about it getting underway which is expected in the new year
- Site Visits completed in 2015 thus far since the last meeting:
  - Nechi Institute: Centre of Indigenous Learning
  - NAIT
- Meetings:
  - **Inter-Provincial Transfer Forum (IPTF) Sept. 21, 2015:** The Forum was very successful and another will be scheduled per participants request
  - **IAE Minister Sigurdson Meeting Sept. 28, 2015:** ACAT Chair thanked the Ministry for their support on a number of projects currently in progress.
    - LPMI Initiative and the progress already made
    - Research projects development and pending funding approval
    - Learning Outcomes work currently underway
  - **Senior Academic Advisor (SAO) Meeting:** Will be attending and updating on participants on ACAT initiatives
- Orientation for new Council members occurred yesterday
- Council Member Appointments: New appointments are not expected until the New Year; those currently stepping down due to other job related commitments will, time permitting, continue attending meetings until a replacement is appointed by the Minister

#### 4. ACAT Committee Updates/Discussion

- **Articulation Committees (Marc Scholes – Chair):** Currently 17, 2 in development, and 1 system inquiry
  - Eric reported on behalf of Marc Scholes
    - Ten articulation committee meetings are committed for Fall 2015
    - Studio Based has been split into music and visual art sub-committees per the disciplines request
    - Discussions in committees revolves around learning outcomes
    - Mathematics Committee is collaborating with BCCAT and resulting info will be shared publicly on the ACAT website
  - **PLAR (Ann Marie Lyseng):**
    - ACAT is taking a leadership role and collaborating with the province re: an initiative to move PLAR credit reporting to another format to improve accuracy and fix lack of data validity currently experienced in the system
    - This is still in the planning stage and includes collaboration with LERS staff at the ministry, the PLAR Articulation Committee, and advice from CAPLA
  - **Dual Credit (Ann Marie Lyseng):**
    - Committee member structure was provided to Council as background
    - Work re: common language, CASS partnership grant reporting, CASS partnership data collection is underway

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Steering Committee appreciates working with ACATs Dual Credit Committee along with their support at the Dual Credit Symposium scheduled at Olds College October 29<sup>th</sup></li> <li>➤ It is important to council dual credit students and high school counselors about how these credits will be regarded, especially by post-secondary faculty, and in regards to GPA calculations</li> <li>➤ Need to ensure counselors/students understand how a dual credit program fits or doesn't fit a students' post-secondary pathway choice</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Expansion of Articulation Committees:</b> A request from the system has been received to add a Religious Studies Articulation Committee             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Additional resources are needed to support additional committees</li> <li>➤ The Articulation Sub-committee will discuss further expansion and bring it to the next Council meeting for discussion/approval</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Annual Articulation Chairs Meeting:</b> traditionally this meeting is held just prior to the Winter ACAT Council meeting             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ the next meeting will be held in February 2016</li> <li>➤ a report will be provided to Council Members at the February 2016 meeting</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Admissions: (Jim Gibbons – Chair):</b> Committee last met in the Spring 2015             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Goal is to identify and collect information re admission practices and issues in the current system plus what data is already available</li> <li>➤ Research by the LPMI Initiative and Research Committee research will be helpful</li> <li>➤ Focusing on K-12 transitioning to post-secondary and their pathway</li> <li>➤ Capturing practices, gender factors and data from under-represented groups is challenging</li> <li>➤ Expect the committee to meet in Fall 2015 and additional members from Council are welcome</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Learner Pathways/SAO Committee (Marc Scholes/Susan Bangrove – Partnership):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Marc and Susan participate at each other's committee meetings to share information, discuss common initiatives, and coordinate a common direction</li> <li>○ ACAT and CAQC are collaborating on a learner pathways forum in the Spring 2016                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Marc, Susan, Janet Peterson and CAQC are developing a questionnaire re outcomes (how the initiative is viewed, interest by the system, internal institution supports, programming integrity, developing principles of working together re student mobility and pathways)</li> <li>➤ Survey results, institution feedback, and a report will be provided to Council at the next meeting</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Marc and Susan are working on an MoU/agreement with institutions SAOs regarding a learning outcomes agreement related to business diploma pathways</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>ACAT Research Initiative:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The ACAT Secretariat is working with the Ministry re: funding approval</li> <li>○ A research plan was developed in 2014 to proceed when funding has been approved</li> <li>○ Initial step is to explore data currently being collected by the Ministry and the post-secondary system to understand current environment and then move into qualitative connections</li> <li>○ ACAT Chair will be discussing the initiative at an upcoming meeting with the Deans of Education</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Learner Pathways Modernization Initiative (LPMI) Business Assessment Update and Inter-provincial Presentation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ITM Team members Rob Schlender (ACAT LPMI Initiative and Transfer System Redesign Program Manager), Ranuka Jinadasa (Business and Technical Analyst), and Ahmed Elhamahmy (Transfer Alberta Website Project Manager) brought Council up-to-date regarding:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Progress already achieved in Phase 2 of the initiative:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ consultation with the three LPMI Working Groups (Advisory, Transfer Credit Evaluation System (TCES), and Website Redesign)</li> <li>➤ collaboration with inter-provincial stakeholders regarding development of a common platform that can accommodate unique adaptations required by each province has been very successful and is ongoing</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- gathering and reviewing existing documentation from previous projects (Manitoba and British Columbia)
- researching best practices in a market scan of Provincial Transfer website programs and systems
- ACAT Chair has provided clarification at the Contact Persons Meeting, dispelling the misconception by the transfer system members that ACAT is taking the current BCCAT system as is as the new Alberta system
- ACAT Secretariat explained that as ACAT is not a legal entity, the GoA must be the legal signatory and certain requirements/process are required for any inter-provincial agreements
- Inter-provincial collaboration has resulted in beginning to build a common understanding re terminology and stakeholder engagement in the project
- GAP analysis is underway
- Council guidance re next steps is requested.
  - ACAT Council to develop business principles to ensure common data format/data fields for everyone, content is accurate and valid
  - Ideally to have a common course outline catalogue accessible by students and post-secondary system users (perhaps through uploading calendars that are updated as needed throughout the year); the course outlines are already part of the current agreements so perhaps this less onerous than we think; will be addressed in upcoming stages
  - Ensure data upload to new system is as a little work for institution staff as possible
  - ACAT Secretariat will post the LPMI Working Groups membership lists on the ACAT Council SharePoint site
- LPMI/ITM Executive Committee Established
  - Volunteers are Robin Fisher, Emily Macphail, Christine Johns, Madeline McVey, Susan Bangsrove, Ann Marie Lyseng and Eric Dohei
  - Meeting Date: November 19, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. – Noon
  - Location: Wendy Richer will connect with SAIT as a number of members are in Calgary on this date
- **Inter-provincial Consortium Update and ARUCC/PCCAT Research (Rob Fleming, BCCAT)**
  - Backgrounder re the origins of the technology review initiative was provided
  - BCCAT technology is 10 years old with refinements yearly
  - BCCAT and Campus MB have an agreement for the baseline platform development on Dot.net by late Spring 2016
  - Expect efficiencies and shared resources available in a common operating system with each jurisdiction adding their own unique requirements
  - The ARUCC/PCCAT Research Project is 2+ years in the process
    - Phase 1: verification research , Transcription Transfer Credit GAP analysis, terminology, building a new online accessible database (guided by Joanne Duklas and a Steering Committee)
    - Phase 2: goes live in November 2015 on the ARUCC website with a built in feedback function that is monitored and can be updated regularly, available to everyone but expect registrars will be highest users across all jurisdictions
    - International transfer challenges and the development of a best practices guide for use across Canada were discussed and Rob will take this back to the committee

***LUNCH – Provided***

**6. A. Innovation and Advanced Education (Gilbert Perras, ED, IAE Operations, Programming and Accountability Sector):**

- ACAT Secretariat Secondment and initiatives funding requests are in process
- The Department data and research collection and analytics branch are working on an initiative with Stats Canada re Alberta data. Each institution will be provided their student information including outcomes/program info
- New Deputy Minister (Rod Skura) has been appointed.
- New Minister (Lori Sigurdson) shared with Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour (JSTL)
- Adult Learning Review is happening and will keep ACAT Council apprised of developments and consultation opportunities

**8. ACAT Secretariat Updates/Discussion:**

- Transfer Alberta and App Data Analytics: will send data re mobile app activity to Council for information
- ACAT SharePoint Site Check-in: Will be using this communication tool more in future and Council can connect with Jim Samide at the ACAT Secretariat re their PIN numbers and training; feedback on the site is welcome
- Dual Credit Update:
  - Council is welcome to share any thoughts or discussion with the Secretariat and they will share it with the steering committee
  - Olds College is hosting a Dual Credit Symposium on October 29, 2015
  - Susan Banskrove and Madeline McVey shared a recent experience regarding outcomes process leading to a provincial pathway and will provide Council with a copy of a handout from Lana Rissling, Alberta Education
  - PASI and LERS discussion has begun re dual credit identifier on secondary side tracking and determining how to share it; an MOU to cover data sharing is already in place but cussing out how best to do that – testing historical data re tracking students while maintaining confidentiality
- Pan-Canadian CAPLA Research Update/Launch: Ann Marie Lyseng will be attending and taking part in the joint presentation and panel pieces representing both the GoA and ACAT Council. The CAPLA RPL Manual provides guiding principles for best practice from CAPLA – the national committee related to PLAR and other pathways.

**9. Next Meetings:**

- Winter Meeting February 26, 2016 at SAIT in Calgary
  - Dinner February 25, 2016 at SAIT's restaurant – the Highwood
- Spring Meeting May 2, 2016 at Lethbridge University
  - Dinner May 1, 2016 (location TBD)
- Fall Meeting October 14, 2016 in Edmonton (Wendy Pruden to make a request to MacEwan University) TBC
  - Dinner October 13, 2016 (location TBD)

***Adjourned: 3:00 p.m. Safe Journey***