

Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer

ACAT Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2012

Olds College

Rm. 954/955 Bell Learning Centre
4500 – 50 Street, Olds, AB

Present: **Council Members:**
Ron Woodward (Chair), Jim Gibbons, Bill Connor, Christine Johns, Robin Fisher,
Jonathan Strand, Larry Hlushak, Robert Boudreau, David Aldrich

By Conference Call:
Alice Wainwright-Stewart, Tessa Cocchio, James D'Arcy

Government Resource Members:
Christine Savage (Enterprise and Advanced Education), Merla Bolender (Alberta
Education)

Secretariat:
Kevin Shufflebotham, Eric Dohei

Regrets: Tracy Edwards, Vincent Steinhauer, Alastair MacKinnon, Paula Burns,
Anna Kae Todd

Recorder: Wendy Pruden (ACAT Secretariat)

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Ron Woodward welcomed members and thanked Olds College for hosting the meeting.
- Dr. Thompson, President and CEO of Olds College, welcomed Council and gave an opening address. Olds College has offered to host Council again in the fall 2013 as part of their centennial celebrations.

2. Chair's Report – Ron Woodward

- Ron Woodward provided an overview of the recent Ministry changes noting that Honourable Stephen Khan has been appointed Minister of Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education and David Morhart is the new Deputy Minister.
- Tracy Edwards has announced her retirement as President of Lethbridge College. Upon receiving her resignation letter from Council, the ACAT nomination process will begin.
- The site visit at Yukon College on April 20 was very informative. They are very enthusiastic about being part of the Alberta Transfer System and will be attending the Contact Persons' meeting in the Fall.
- A meeting was held with former Deputy Minister Bill Werry on April 30. With the recent GOA changes, a meeting with the new Deputy Minister will be requested.
- At the Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT) annual meeting in Ottawa, the Founding Consortium Committee will propose that PCCAT becomes a national registered society. The PCCAT Research Sub-committee will also be presenting the results from the national student mobility study.
- The Ontario Council on Admissions and Transfer (ONCAT) and the New Brunswick Council on Admissions and Transfer (NBCAT) have been formalized.
- The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) are working together to define a national project creating mechanisms to facilitate national transferability.

3. Updates

a. **Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education – Christine Savage**

- Christine Savage provided an update of recent GOA changes. Council will be kept informed about future developments.
- An overview of the European Union Tuning Project was provided. It was suggested that Olive Yonge, from the University of Alberta, be invited to the October Council Meeting to provide an update on the project. Bill Connor will extend the invitation on behalf of Council. The report will be shared with Council when it is completed.
- Two documents were distributed for information:
 - o *What We Heard – Campus Alberta Minister’s Summit on Learner Pathways – June 21, 2011*
 - o *Advanced Education and Technology Update – May 2012*
- The *What We Heard* document is available on the CAPs website. At Council’s request, an electronic copy will be distributed.
- The Ministry is compiling an inventory regarding activities supporting learner pathways. This will identify gaps and alignments as related to the *What We Heard* document. It is also examining mobility trends within Alberta and other jurisdictions and identifying barriers to access. This work is being done to support future discussions and decision making. The findings will be reviewed and discussed at the next Council meeting.

b. **Alberta Education – Merla Bolender**

- Merla Bolender advised of the recent Alberta Education changes noting the recent appointment of Minister Jeff Johnson and Deputy Minister Tim Wiles.
- The *Provincial Dual Credit Strategy* was approved by the former Minister of Education but requires confirmation from the new Minister. Council will be advised of further updates.
- New curriculum update was provided and a handout distributed – *Curriculum Redesign: Success for Every Student (Goal 1: Education Business Plan, 2012-15); Vision for Future Curriculum: Engaging curriculum that inspires every student every day.*

c. **ACAT Secretariat – Kevin Shufflebotham**

- Kevin Shufflebotham advised that the Secretariat would be developing a Communications Plan. The draft will be presented at the October meeting.
- The Contact Persons’ (CPs) meeting has been scheduled for October 15 at Medicine Hat College. The Secretariat will be engaging CPs in the planning of the event.
- The *Transfer Patterns Report* document is a snapshot of Fall intake and mobility. To reduce work for the institutions and ACAT in preparing this report, the Secretariat is investigating ways to leverage data currently collected by the department. The Secretariat hopes to have a draft of the new format for the Fall meeting and release it in 2013.
- The *Alberta Transfer Guide* is in production and is the same reduced format as in the 2011-12 publication. It was noted that next year the guide will be paperless.

d. **ACAT Sub-committee’s Update**

Articulation Sub-committee – Robin Fisher, Eric Dohei

- Robin Fisher advised that the Sub-committee met in Calgary on May 9, 2012.
- Additional articulation committees, for 2013, are being researched and recommendations will be submitted to Council in the Fall. We have grown from six committees in 2009 to eleven in 2012.

- An Articulation Committee Chair meeting is being planned for October 10 or 12, 2012 in Edmonton to coincide with the next Council meeting. Council Members are welcome to attend.
- The Child and Youth Care Consortia group met and agreed to become an ACAT articulation committee.
- Recruitment of members for the Psychology and Sociology Articulation committees has begun.
- The Biological Sciences Articulation Committee is meeting in Red Deer on May 28. A Council Member is welcome to attend.

Learner Pathways Sub-committee – Eric Dohei

- Eric Dohei advised that the Sub-committee met and discussed next steps.
- A pilot study regarding transfer agreements based on outcomes is proposed. Institutions who already have defined outcomes based programs will be approached to participate. The first step is to look at agreements already defined by outcomes and see if they are meeting the needs of the learner.

4. Decision Items

a. 2011-2012 Annual Report

- Kevin Shufflebotham advised that for continuity, the format and look of the 2011-2012 Annual Report has been revised to match the recently approved Action Plan.
- The Annual Report focuses strictly on the Councils activities rather than including ACAT Secretariat activities.
- The Secretariat will update Minister information and Council member information.
- The Annual Report was approved with the above changes.

b. Terms & Definitions Document

- David Aldrich and Eric Dohei provided an overview of the definitions document.
- For the next Council meeting, the document will be reformatted. Definitions for learning outcomes, dual credit, and types of institutions, including private-for-profit, will also be added.

c. ACAT Council Evaluation Process Discussion

- Kevin Shufflebotham provided an overview of the Council evaluation documents.
- The draft documents were reviewed and approved with minor edits.
- The Secretariat will make the changes and send the forms to Members to complete and return to the Secretariat.
- The Secretariat will compile the data and provide to the Chair.
- The Chair will bring evaluations forward to Council for discussion.
- In addition, the Chair will provide individual feedback to members prior to the Fall meeting.

d. ACAT Secretariat Feedback

- The feedback from was approved. It will be sent to Members to complete and return to the Secretariat with the Council evaluation forms.

5. Discussions

a. Membership Review

- i. Private Vocational Training Discussion – Patti Papirnik
 - A presentation on private vocational training in Alberta was provided by Patti Papirnik, Director of the Private Vocational Training branch.
 - A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was distributed to Council.
- ii. BCCAT System Overview – Kevin Shufflebotham
 - Kevin Shufflebotham provided an overview of private providers in the BC transfer system as per background information provided in the meeting package.
- iii. Private-for-Profit Transfer Arrangements
 - Eric Dohei provided an update from the survey sent to Alberta Transfer System member institutions. Council was provided with background information as part of their meeting package.
- iv. Next Steps
 - It was agreed that the Chair would draft a letter to Minister Khan to include:
 - o Congratulations on new portfolio
 - o Introduction to the business of ACAT
 - o An update, in follow-up to the letter sent to former Minister Weadick in February, as to how Council is proceeding with the membership review. Council will be asked to review the draft letter prior to sending to the Minister.
 - It was also agreed to re-engage the Membership Review Committee with a renewed focus on enhancing student mobility.
 - Committee members to include Robin Fisher, Alice Wainwright-Stewart, Tessa Cocchio, David Aldrich, and one of the four CARI members on Council (to be determined). Ron Woodward will contact Art Quinney to see if he would like to continue his work on the committee.

6. For Information Items

e. Site Visits

- Council requested that they be informed of confirmed dates and locations so they can indicate if they are able to participate.
- It was also suggested future site visits include a meeting with Student Associations.

7. Next Meeting Date/Location

- The next meeting is confirmed for October 11, 2012 at Concordia University College of Alberta, in Edmonton.
- The Spring 2013 meeting will be hosted by University of Calgary in early February. Wendy Pruden will poll the Council for availability and bring to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.