

• Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer

ACAT Meeting Minutes – October 7, 2013

Bow Valley College

Room N231

332–6 Avenue SE, Calgary, AB

Present:

Council Members: Ron Woodward (*Chair*), Bob Boudreau, Jim Gibbons, Bill Connor, Christine Johns, Jonathan Strand, Larry Hlushak, Vincent Steinhauer, Anna Kae Todd, Susan Radke

By Conference Call: Tessa Cocchio

Guests: (*appointments in process*) Marc Scholes, Susan Bansgrove, Madeline McVey (*via conference call*)

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

Secretariat: Ann Marie Lyseng, Eric Dohei, Wendy Pruden (*recorder*)

Regrets: Helen Salzl (*Guest*)

1. Welcome and Introductions

- ACAT Chair, Ron Woodward, is retiring from Council on November 3, 2013 after two terms (6 years) of service. Council expressed their appreciation for his dedication and contributions to the success of Alberta's transfer system.
- Mr. Woodward reflected on the evolution of Council both provincially and nationally.

Bow Valley College (BVC) Opening Address

- BVC President Sharon Carry welcomed attendees and provided an update on the institutions expansions and collaborative initiatives being undertaken by their institution and regional partners.

2. Chair's Report – Ron Woodward

- Meeting with Minister Lukaszuk discussion:
 - o Council's active leadership role in reviewing the Post-secondary Education Act and Campus Alberta; it was agreed that regular open dialogue would occur
 - o Learning outcomes and student mobility research are a high priority but limited resources impacts the ability to get involved in opportunities
 - o ACAT has no direct authority or power and its fundamental pillar is working very collegially and on consensus
- Dual Credit
 - o Ron Woodward is a co-chair of the dual credit initiative
- Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT)
 - o The June 2013 Conference, organized and hosted by ACAT, was the first as an incorporated national not-for-profit society. Wendy Pruden, ACAT Secretariat, was elected as a Director and on the 2014 Planning Committee
 - o PCCAT is very involved in national student mobility initiatives
- WestCAT
 - o ACAT and Saskatchewan institutions are discussing a partnership to address learner cross border transfer barriers. Member in Alberta's transfer system is being explored.

3. Ministry Updates

a. Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education – Christine Savage

- Christine Savage was called away so Ann Marie Lyseng provided the Ministry update regarding a variety of initiatives currently in progress.
 - o The Alberta Public Agencies Governance ACT (APAGA) is now in force and any Council appointments now require CVs as part of the recommendation to the Minister
 - o The department and ACAT are collaboratively reviewing current system learner pathways and mobility with the objective of improving learners experience and opportunities.

- The Government of Alberta launched the Provincial Dual Credit Strategy on May 6, 2013. It is a tri-ministry initiative to support the development and strengthening of high school to post-secondary learner pathways. The steering committee includes school authorities, post-secondary institutions, business and industry. The College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) as a key partner in the process.
- Fifteen aboriginal college projects have been funded to enhance access, increase retention, and improve learning outcomes for Aboriginal students.
- The Advanced learning and Community Partnerships division is undergoing an internal structural review. Will keep Council posted.

b. Alberta Education – Merla Bolender

- Merla Bolender advised the curriculum redesign updates can be found on the Alberta Education website.
- Implementation date is not set. Once curriculum is approved, a readiness survey will determine use in 2016.
- Dual credit intake was encouraging and shows an enthusiasm for increasing opportunities. A number have been approved and a number are pending.
- Diploma exams are not slated for change for the next 4 to 5 years at least.
- Provincial Achievement tests are changing towards learner assessments. September 2014 will be the pilot achievement test for grade 3 to write at the beginning of the year. Full implementation is expected in 2015 and will be mirrored by grade 6 and 9 the next year.
- ACAT suggests that the Admissions Sub-committee would be interested in providing input for including pathways in the curriculum development.

4. Discussion/Decision Items

a. Strategic Planning Session Priorities Confirmation

- A volunteer sub-committee strategic plan draft, including Directional Statement, was approved and will remain a living document to be updated as required.

b. Action Plan Sub-committee: 2013-2016 ACAT Action Plan (Draft)

- Council approved the Action Plan 2013-2016 with discussed changes.

c. Membership Sub-committee – Columbia College Application For Membership Recommendation

- A site visit was conducted resulting in the sub-committee's decision that all membership requirements have been fulfilled.
- MOVED by the ACAT Membership Sub-committee, that Columbia College, Calgary be accepted as a member of ACAT. SECONDED by Vince Steinhauer. CARRIED

d. Governance:

i. ACAT Chair (Applications and Process for Recommendations)

- **In-camera discussion and review of applicants**
- A committee was established to conduct interviews with two candidates and provide a recommendation to Council for approval (via email). Committee members are Vincent Steinhauer, Bob Boudreau, and Susan Radke.

ii. Review and Alignment - APAGA, Government Priorities, and ACAT Directional Statement

- **Election of Council Vice-Chair**
 - Council determined a need for a Vice-Chair position to assist with the business of Council when the Chair is not available. This position is not a ministerial appointment but an elected position, of a Council member, by Council members.
 - ELECTION: Christine Johns nominated Bob Boudreau. Nomination was accepted. There being no further nominations - nominations ceased. All in favor - CARRIED Unanimously.

- **ACAT member in Good Standing Letters**
 - o After discussion it was agreed a new style communication piece will be drafted by the Secretariat and circulated, via email, to Council for review and input prior to sending to the ACAT member institutions.
- e. **Review and reflection on ACAT's Past Year**
 - i. **Key Questions**
Council agreed that the Secretariat should send the key questions to Council members with a response deadline for end of October. Results will be shared at the next Council meeting.
- f. **Research (3rd Party)**
 - i. **Presentation – Rob Fleming, Executive Director, British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT)**
 - Mr. Fleming opened dialogue regarding cross provincial collaborative research opportunities between BCCAT and ACAT.
 - The National Transcription Project headed by PCCAT and the Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC) was discussed. ACAT's participation opportunity will be shared with the Ministry.
 - **Learning Outcomes Research Project(s)**
 - Rob Fleming shared the BCCAT experience regarding data collection and reporting.
 - Opportunities to work collaboratively with Alberta on evidence based interprovincial in and out flows trends would be valuable.
 - Misalignment of terminology and inconsistent practices across jurisdictions is a current barrier.
 - A student identification number that tracks between secondary/post-secondary systems would assist with having long-term relevant data.
 - The Secretariat, Marc Scholes, and Christine Johns are asked to draft a proposal data collection plan, using the BCCAT example, for consideration at the next Council meeting.

5. Updates

- a. Council Sector Recruitment
 - There are a number of Council member appointment/re-appointment recommendations in process.
- b. ACAT Sub-committee – ***Tabled until next meeting***
 - Learner Pathways
 - Admissions
 - Articulation
 - Membership Application and Process Review
- c. Non-member Alberta Transfer System Agreement – ***Tabled until next meeting***
- d. New Student Mobility Reporting – ***Tabled until next meeting***
- e. Spotlight – ***Tabled until next meeting***

6. **For Information Items**

These items are not discussed unless Council has specific questions related to the documents.

7. Next Meeting Date/Location

- The next meeting is confirmed for February 2014 in Edmonton. Date TBD.
- May 2014 meeting will be determined at the February meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.