

Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer

ACAT Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2009
Rm AH100, Anderson Hall, University of Lethbridge

Present: Mr. Ron Woodward (Chair); Ms. Anna Kae Todd; Dr. Fred Carnew; Dr. Catherine Eddy; Mr. Peter Haney; Dr. Olive Yonge; Mr. Alastair MacKinnon; Ms. Stella Shrum; Ms. Susan Radke on behalf of Dr. Gord Nixon; Ms. Ann Tierney via conference call; Mr. Jeff Agnew; Dr. Dietmar Kennepohl; Mr. Vincent Steinhauer; Mr. Bert Seinen (Executive Director, Campus Alberta Partnerships); Ms. Janice Park (ACAT Director); Mr. Eric Dohei (ACAT Manager)

Absent: Mr. Larry Hlushak; Dr. Robin Fisher; Ms. Alice Wainwright-Stewart

Guests: Ms. Lisa Fox; Director, Business Integration and Consultation; Dr. Andrew Hakin, Vice-President, the University of Lethbridge

Recorder: Ms. Wendy Pruden (ACAT Administrative Assistant)

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Ron Woodward provided opening remarks and welcomed the new ACAT Manager, Eric Dohei, plus guests Lisa Fox, and Dr. Andrew Hakin.
- Dr. Andrew Hakin welcomed everyone to campus and provided an update on the current and upcoming projects for the UofL.

2. Decision Items:

2a. Advice to Minister Horner

Feb. 12 Letter from ACAT Chair/ April 7 Letter from Minister Horner (letters included in the meeting package)

- Bert Seinen advised Council that ACAT's experience is a valued example for the Campus Alberta Administration (CAA) as it develops. Determining the ACAT Council member structure based on competencies is supported.
- Also recommended that the need for, and available support for, future articulation committees be determined prior to their creation.
- Reiterated that the Minister recognizes that ACAT is broader than the 6 sector model with First Nations post secondary institutions playing a role.

In response, ACAT Council members requested clarification of the roles of the ACAT Council and of the ACAT Secretariat in relationship to the concept of Campus Alberta Administration (CAA).

2b. ACAT's Role in Campus Alberta Administration (CAA)

The CAA Governance Framework document was distributed to Council for information.

Ms. Lisa Fox explained that the CAA concept was developed to create efficiencies, enhance collaborations and have one accounting structure and common administration structures all within one umbrella organization. To date the CAA membership structure and logistics have yet to be determined.

Next steps - the model and implementation plan will be developed based on the feedback received from the institutions. A Business Case will be submitted to Cabinet for approval and legislation would then be created for inclusion in the *Post-secondary Learning* ACT. This process is expected to take one to two years.

ACAT is being asked to provide their view as to how they feel they would align within the CAA concept.

2c. ACAT Governance Model

- In discussion Council determined it will defer any decision on its governance until it had clarification from the Minister on ACAT and the Secretariats role within Campus Alberta in relation to the Campus Alberta Administration (CAA).
- Given the deferral of the governance decision, Chair Ron Woodward, recommended that current Council members be extended a year in order to maintain continuity.
- Council members agreed with this action.
- Discussion resulted in the decision to merge the response to the Minister's April 7, 2009 letter and the response to Deputy Minister Annette Trimbee regarding CAA.

2d. Enhancing Articulation Pilot Options

An articulation sub-committee was struck to investigate the BC articulation model, review the existing articulation committee model in Alberta and work on the development and implementation of additional articulation committees.

Further articulation committees must give consideration to the impact on resources (including member institutions and the Secretariat), enhance the transfer system and ensure that they are in alignment with the strategic initiatives of the Ministry.

The following members have agreed to participate – Dr. Olive Yonge, Mr. Vincent Steinhauer, and Ms. Stella Shrum. Dr. Robin Fisher will be approached as he is familiar with the British Columbia system.

The recommendations of this committee will be presented at the October 2009 Council meeting.

3. Decision Items

3e. Members in Good Standing – Approval of Letters

The process and evaluation system were explained by Ms. Janice Park. It was determined that:

- The “needs improvement” letters will be individualized to explain their evaluation and how ACAT can work with them to enhance the opportunities.
- The “outstanding” letters will be changed to “exemplary.”
- The letter identify the timeframe over which the bench marks were measured.
- Letters will be addressed to the President and cc'd to the Vice-President Academic and Contact Person.

3f. Annual Report – Draft

A first draft of the annual report was distributed to meeting attendees and feedback is requested prior to going to a final draft.

4. Discussion Items

4a. Report Back on “Canadian Perspectives on the Bologna Process” – Olive Yonge

Dr. Olive Yonge provided a presentation, for information purposes, on Europe’s Bologna Process. This process aligns learning outcomes amongst institutions in 46 European nations when considering how programs compare for transfer purposes.

Council has requested this be a standing agenda item in order to develop an “outcome” based approach in ACAT’s thinking and advocacies.

4b. Learner Progressions Project Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee was established comprised of Dr. Robin Fisher, Dr. Gordon Nixon, Dr. Dietmar Kennepohl and Dr. Trent Keough. Additional suggestions for committee members are to be provided to Janice Park within the next two weeks.

If there are no others then the committee is to proceed and meet before the end of June 2009.

4c. Taylor University College (Seminary)

Ms. Janice Park provided an update on the status of Taylor University College (Seminary):

- As of June 30, 2009, Taylor University College and Seminary will no longer offer degree programs but will continue to operate as Taylor College and Seminary, a private Christian Institution.
- ACAT Secretariat will assist them with their transition regarding the transfer system and make note in the 2009 -2010 Alberta Transfer Guide of the changes.
- Course transfer arrangements remain for the shelf life of the course which is determined by the institution. The ACAT Secretariat will provide an update at the October Council meeting.

5d. ACAT Principles, Policies, and Procedures

Given the deferral of a decision on ACAT’s governance to the October meeting and the critical nature of dispute resolution in governance the Council’s role in dispute mediation will be revisited at that time.

5e. First Nations Adult Education Institutions in Alberta

Ms. Janice Park and Ms. Claudette Rain, Director, Aboriginal Partnerships, met with Blue Quills First Nations College to discuss items such as support from the ACAT Secretariat and the Indigenous Languages Articulation Committee. A meeting with Maskwachees Cultural College is also planned.

5f. Business Plan

The ACAT 2010-2013 Business Plan is not available at this time due to the transition of ACAT Secretariat staff. The Ministry Business Plan has an impact as well as possibly the CAA model. The ACAT Council agreed to defer the approval of the 2010 – 2013 ACAT Business Plan to the October meeting. The 2008 – 2011 approved plan is in effect in the interim.

Mr. Jeff Agnew suggested that Council be a leader in a “green” approach by:

- Conducting meetings via live-meeting or teleconference.
- Since we already provide meeting documents electronically, Council could use laptops to access the material at the meetings rather than produce paper copies.

6. Information Items

6.a. BC Institution Policy – Next Steps

The Alberta policy is complete and has been sent to stakeholders for comments. There was no reaction from stakeholders.

***MOTION:** moved by Dr. Catherine Eddy, seconded by Mr. Dietmar Kennepohl that the ACAT Council approve the Alberta reciprocal policy as revised at the February 11, 2009 Council meeting.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.b. Secretariat Updates

Public Agencies Governance Framework – Provincial Implementation

In the future Council will need to see how the Public Agencies Governance Framework can be implemented. This is an ongoing agenda item and our changing governance model is based on this framework.

PCCAT Research Subcommittee

This research is being conducted by several jurisdictions. Alberta has \$15,000.00 committed to the project. A request to Council of Ministers of Education (CMEC) for additional \$40,000.00 was denied. A conference call with the subcommittee to discuss options/next steps has been scheduled for May 6, 2009.

Transfer Patterns 2008

The document was distributed to Council members and highlights discussed. Council has approved distribution. The “good news” story will be shared with Communications.

Upcoming/recent conferences and meetings

- **Annual General Meeting of Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT) - June 22-24 in Fredericton, NB.:**

Chair Ron Woodward, Ms. Janice Park, and Mr. Eric Dohei will attend.

- **Other**

Mr. Ron Woodward has met with the Alberta College and Technical Institutes Student Executive Council (ACTISEC) and will be meeting with new student leaders at their annual meeting on June 29, 2009.

New Managerial Staff at the ACAT Secretariat

Mr. Eric Dohei, ACAT Manager, commenced on April 20, 2009. Ms. Sonia Jevne, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) Manager commenced mid-April. She will attend the October meeting to update the Council on PLAR.

6.c. Post-secondary Institution Visits

Seven Northern Institute site visits have been planned between May 20 and June 17, 2009. They are Lakeland College, Vermilion; Blue Quills First Nations College, St. Paul; Athabasca University, Athabasca; Portage College, Lac La Biche; NAIT and NorQuest College, Edmonton; and Northern Lakes College, Slave Lake.

6.d. Tri-Council Collaborative Initiatives

The next meeting will be held in Regina on September 21, 2009. British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan will participate. Currently there are no plans to involve Manitoba as it does not have a Council.

6.e. Round Table Discussion

- Mr. Ron Woodward will discuss aboriginal student representation on this Council during the Blue Quills First Nations College site visit.
- Student representation on Council has been an essential asset and we look forward to continued participation by student representatives.

7. Set Meeting Dates for 2009

The dates have been selected as follows:

- October 28, 2009 in Edmonton at the University of Alberta
- February 11, 2010 in Calgary at Bow Valley College
- May 4, 2010 in Blue Quills First Nations College (location to be confirmed)

Other Business

No further business discussed at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.