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Lethbridge Community College
Computer Information Technology Advisory Committee
M I N U T E S
Monday, November 22, 1999
6:00 P.M. Garden Court Dining Room, LCC

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Present:

Timothy Frantz, Stephen Graham, Wayne Krywolt, Joe Feller, Jimm Valentinsen, Ron Dubien, Lucelle Prindle,

Susie Kennedy, Noreen Volk, Terry Allred, Matt Lynch, Chris Matthews, Christal Wildeman, Kelly Gorrill

(Recording Secretary)

Regrets:

Larry Batalden, John O'Neill, Pam Whitnack, Gwen Seal, Jean Valgardson

Welcome:

Jimm Valentinson welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7:35 P.M. and had round table introductions.

Approval of Minutes of Monday March 1, 1999:

The minutes of March 1, 1999 had been circulated and with one revision, (program outcomes to be attached

with the November 22, 1999 minutes) was accepted.

Chair and Co-Chair Positions:

Derek Gordon has relocated and will no longer be able to attend meetings, Jimm Valentinsen has graciously

accepted the duties and responsibilities of being the Chair for the Committee. Stephen Graham will be taking

over the Co-Chair duties and responsibilities.

CIT Staffing Changes:

LillAnne Jackson has relocated to SAIT and will no longer be with us. Susie Kennedy will be taking over the

Program Leader position for the program.

CIT Courses Online:

Propose that all CIT first year courses be available on-line. Purpose: To facilitate the demands for CIT; To

facilitate part-time students; To facilitate students from out-of-town; To facilitate students who need another

opportunity to complete a course and stay on schedule - completing in 2 years; To facilitate life-long learning.

All BUS and ENG courses are currently available in print form as distance delivery. All CIT first year courses

(including Math) will be available by December 2000 (except ETC 126 which is a hardware course).

Schedule for online course deployment:

C Programming - March 15, 1999

HTML & Web Publishing - March 1, 1999

Math, Database, Networking - December 1, 2000

CIPS Accreditation Update:

Canadian Information Processing Society - College Program Accreditation.

Confidential

Reviewed portions of accreditation report draft which are included in the minutes.

Draft Date: October 8, 1999

Accreditation Report of the Two Year

Computer Information Technology (CIT) Program at Lethbridge Community College

<u>Executive Summary</u>

This program is the two-year diploma Computer Information Technology Program (CIT) at Lethbridge Community College, Lethbridge, AB.

This report presents the findings of the C.I.P.S. Accreditation Visit of September 30, October 1, 1999. It is based on materials provided by Lethbridge Community College and a site visit conducted on September 30, October 1, 1999. The visiting team consisted of: John Blackwell, I.S.P., Rodney Rambally, PhD, Wilson Verge.

<u>Program Strengths</u>

- The program effectively meets the needs of the local employment market and industry for I.T. and Information Systems workers.

- The program enjoys high placement success rates for its graduates. In excess of 90% of graduates commence careers based on skills taught in the program. Many of these positions are in major centers, not just in the Southern Alberta region.

- Employer representatives on the Advisory Committee report a high degree of satisfaction with the program and hire graduates of the program.

- The curriculum appears to be current and up-to-date.

- The faculty are current, enthusiastic and very dedicated to the program.

- The program appears to be responsive to the industry advisory committee's suggestions.

- The Chair, Team Leader (Dean), and Vice-President of Curriculum have actively supported the program's growth and evolution since its inception.

- The program is rigorous and focussed on producing graduates to start a career in technical aspects of Information Technology. It is focussed on the design, development, implementation and support of software systems. It also includes basic business courses.

<u>Issues</u>

- Although the program is effective in meeting local community and market needs, it may wish to consider evaluating employment opportunities on a more national and global scale, given the high mobility of IT workers and the worldwide skills shortages in this field.

- The program should evaluate the potential impact of the World Wide Web. Online Learning, and the Internet-based Technology delivery over the next few years.

- As far as technical content is concerned, there is a concerted move towards object technology, programming using graphical languages, desktop systems, and networks. The eventual aim is to include more significant training in Visual Basic, Database application development, JAVA, Windows NT, and WWW development. The direction the program is moving is both appropriate and timely. The staff continues to adapt the program as they search for the best blend and sequencing of courses that will help their students when they go on their work experience practicums.

Recommendations

- There is a need to review increased content for object oriented programming and Database development. There is a need to screen students for prior programming knowledge and provide a pre-requisite for those with no prior experience.

- Dedicated labs for the Computer Information Technology (CIT) Program need to be upgraded.

Decision on Accreditation

The Lethbridge Community College Computer Information Technology (CIT) is Accredited for a five-year period beginning December 1st, 1999.

Lethbridge Community College is entitled to include the following wording in its calendars, program descriptions or other documents:

"The Computer Information Technology 2 Year Diploma Program has been Accredited by the Canadian Information Processing Society. (CIPS)".

Student Report:

Crystal Wildeman from the CIT program has heard that we have a well-rounded program. Our program gives opportunities for students to go into different areas. Student's are excited to enter the job field with the skills that they have been taught. There has been positive feedback from graduates of the program. Students would like to see a more specialized stream of courses eg. (Programming, Database, Net, Hardware).

Small Group Work:

Purpose - To review current curriculum; To create a vision of possibilities; To develop a plan for future curriculum (resources, implementation); To determine how to best utilize the Advisory Committee.

Format

Choose to participate in one of the following groups: Lab Upgrades (Matt & Terry) Web Publishing - Multi Media (Noreen) Database (Susie) Member Profiles (Christine). One advisory committee member accept "leader/presenter" responsibilities. Take notes in your group for sharing with the larger group when we reconvene. Discuss: Reference Materials, Software, Hardware, Learning Outcomes, Relevance . . .

Discussion and Results

Database on 2 or 3 different platforms. Could there be a course on "What Used to Be" for companies that have not been upgraded for awhile that students may have to go to? Also something on Systems Enhancements - How to Upgrade Equipment?

Web-Design - Database Sub Committee

- CIPS advised more advanced HTML - Goal was to have us tell Noreen what is lacking in her topic areas. - What could be added to an advanced HTML course?

- Do more code in Notepad (HTML) - Should we do more in Front Page? Concensus was not.

- Necessary to still know code

- Group work is good

- Advanced HTML? - E-commerce - web delivery of courses/bank

- Direction of web development client side as well as server side

- Different to make a web page than to have a server site.

- Networking/Database/ Multimedia/ together as a final course?

- Data migration (from one to another)

- Database Admin. - Backup, etc.

- Huge possibilities! But only have 4 hours.

- Not books anymore - online resources are more popular in the field.

- One of the best resources (programming) is a web-site for programming

- Has a resource for Oracle 8 (LPS)

- More support resources (what would you specifically use in workplace).

Computer Lab Upgrade & Committee Member Profile Sub-Committee

- University charges a "technology fee", roughly $2.00 a credit campus-wide, and uses that money

- +or yearly upgrades of campus computer labs.

- 3-year cycle for upgrading computers in our labs should be the MAXIMUM, 1-year would be ideal, but 2-year would be a great compromise.

- Different ways of delivering a broader base of operating systems/environments was discussed. Ways suggested include: specialized back-end (servers) and a homogenous lab, mixed lab, or a combination of a mixed lab and specialized back-end.
- Use laptops was discussed, as an alternative for computer labs.
- Does the program require laptops? Would/should the curriculum change if laptops were utilized.
- Acadia college currently charges students $600 per semester (over 3 semesters) for a lease of a laptop.
- How many rooms would have to be wired? Would we still need a dedicated computer lab? How much of the CIT curriculum could be taught using ONLY laptops?

   Conclusions:

- Labs are outdated, and something NEEDS to be done IMMEDIATELY.
- Should a technology fee be considered? If so, should it be only for our program, or college-wide?
- Should we consider moving to a mix of laptops with a mixed and/or homogenous lab?

Frequency of Meetings:

Frequency of meetings was discussed and the conclusion was that we would like to have three meetings throughout the year! The next meeting will be taking place on February 8, 2000, from 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. hosted by Lethbridge Police Service in the Community Room. A supper will be provided.

Next Meeting:

March 21, 2000, has been set up for the final meeting of the year and that will be taking place at the University of Lethbridge from 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. with light supper included.

Adjournment:

Jimm Valentinsen adjourned the meeting at 8:40 P.M.