

Lethbridge Community College
Computer Information Technology Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Thursday, April 4, 2002
Lethbridge Community College - Canbra Room (CE1305)

Present:

Jimm Valentinsen, Wayne Krywolt, Susie Kennedy, Christine Skow, Matt Lynch, Ron Dubien, Tim Frantz, Stephen Graham, Lynn Laventure, Rae Neufeld, Don Reichert, Barry Robinson, Paul Krizan, Ian Wormsbecker and Karen Wojtowicz

Regrets:

Terry Allred, Brian Hood, Barry Gergel (first-year student), Tim Symmes, and Jean Valgardson

Welcome:

Jimm called the meeting to order at 6:25 PM and welcomed guests, inviting each to introduce him/herself.

The agenda was revised to include [comments from Don Reichert](#).

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the January 31, 2002 meeting were reviewed. Susie noted that the change in CIT program credits in Year 1, term 1 should read as 20 - not 23 - credits, for a program total of 84 credits. Minutes approved.

Old Business:

Curriculum Changes:

Curriculum changes have now been approved by the LCC Board. The major change is that C Programming has been moved up to be delivered in year 1, term 1 and C++ in year 1, term 2.

SATC:

Tim Frantz advised that SATC is now officially a non-profit society. Four CIT students attended the last meeting. Anyone with a technical orientation/background is encouraged to join. The next meeting is April 18th (3rd Thursday each month) at 8:30 am in the city hall (Culver Hall). Request was made that Susie continue to circulate information from these meetings.

Stephen moved that the CIT Committee approach SATC and request that one member from SATC be appointed to the CIT Advisory Council. Seconded by Matt. Carried.

A letter will be drafted to SATC requesting one member to serve on CIT Advisory Council

ACTION: Susie and Jimm

New Business:**Fieldwork:**

Lynn thanked all businesses for taking on students. All but 11 of 44 students have been placed for current practicum rounds.

UofL IS post-diploma transfer:

Susie noted that an agreement is being negotiated with the UofL to accept students under the "2+2" program (LCC CIT 2yr diploma grads can transfer to UofL, receiving credit for first 2 yrs, but required to take 2 yrs within UofL faculty of management program). UofL is proposing LCC students have Organizational Behavior prior to transferring. Several students are talking with the UofL faculty to pursue this. Minimum GPA required is 3.00, otherwise "bridging courses are required". UofL could be accepting 8 - 10 CIT students each year and are very accepting knowing they are quality learners. Susie handed out transfer Program Planning Guide.

CIT - XML Seminar:

Matt will be guest presenter for an XML/HTML learning session to be held Wednesday, April 10. Seminar has been strongly received and is already full. This session is of interest to those with an HTML & JAVA background and will discuss methods of validating XML and implementing JAVA. Susie extended a special thankyou to Matt for presenting.

Centre for Media & Computing - Open House:

Wayne noted the Centre's/CIT's plan to increase student intake in the fall. It is important to market these programs and target the high school students. The Centre will be inviting students and community to drop by during our forthcoming Open House. Event will offer an opportunity to visit with our program leaders and view our facilities first hand. Invitation extended to all Advisory Committee members to attend on Thursday April 18th, from 3:00 - 7:00 pm. Don indicated he would raise awareness with school councilors and through internal systems.

Student Comments:

None available due to absence.

SAIT Advisory Committee:

SAIT Computer Technology (CT) program also has an advisory committee and Susie attended this year's committee meeting. Susie reported their program has experienced enrollment drop off. While SAIT programs

are broken down, eg: database management, CT, etc, they are concerned and are also pursuing marketing strategies.

Susie noted that even though SAIT has had fewer students, they are also having a harder time placing Co-op students (eg: TransCanada Pipe and CIPS are not willing to take any students when historically they took on a number of them). As the LCC CIT program grows, how do we handle the same pressures? Some discussion followed regarding corporate cutbacks during the tough economic decline. Industry support should return as economic recovery returns.

Regarding curriculum issues, Susie advised SAIT CT does not provide "C" programming. Java comprises 39% of the curriculum. Their system design material is based on object oriented programming. Discussion developed as to which programming methods are most appropriate. Noted that UofC's Intro Computing course has returned to PASCAL. It is efficient at building the skills required of most programming models. Tim Frantz noted there is a niche for people who have specialized skills, but CIT would not be doing any favors by not delivering a curriculum with course breadth. Wayne felt it is important to focus on our strengths and supplement this with some of the up and coming industry trends. The industry trends could be supported perhaps as options/electives. Matt also noted that core fundamentals were important, delivered through versatile programs Visual Basic, but that some training in wizzy/racier material would supplement this. Further roundtable discussion regarding preference of Object Oriented language use vs structured programming in building foundation basics. Some suggestion that programming should start with "C" first as it provides good basis for logic.

CCH's Computer-Based Courses:

Don provided background of CCH's computer based courses offered to high school students. They have made it mandatory for grade 10 to take a computer fundamental course. The course deals with file management, key boarding and standard office packaged software (word processing/spreadsheets). Grade 11 students take on some advanced word and spread sheet tasks and are introduced to HTML. Don would like to offer some C, but is restricted by time challenges. Problems faced: many kids taking core courses can't fit a computer elective into their schedule; a lot of the students already have strong basic computer skills. The last issue is a similar experience for CIT program. Wayne highlighted that our curriculum change down to 20 credits in the first term allows students requiring computer skills room to fit it in with their required program content.

Tim Frantz asked where CIT had any means of allowing students to assess their skills. Susie advised that LCC does provide for a self assessment process, but that CIT was considering developing several seminars to more accurately qualify student skills.

New Curriculum:

CIT would like to obtain constructive feedback from the committee on the development of the following 3 courses:

- CIT 259, Advanced Internet Systems (3 credits)
- CIT 263, Advance Database Management Systems (3 credits)
- CIT 272, E-Commerce Administration

Input is sought for course learning outcomes, accessible resources and technology requirements. Susie handed out course description sheets for each with room for feedback on the flip side.

CIT 259 - Several books were distributed for review as possible textbooks for the course. Barry walked the committee through the vision for course content. The course would begin with lab work on internet connection sharing followed by SOHO- and router- based material. Then students would configure web servers and move on to VPNs, tunneling and firewall content. Students would then learn the process of connecting servers through unsecured links with the objective of setting up devices and getting them to work and allow information to flow. Programming is not the emphasis of this course. Some feedback from the committee was to be aware of how much content can effectively be delivered through a 3 credit course.

CIT 263 - Barry identified the objective of this course was to use Oracle as a means of presenting database management concepts. While the intention is not to be certified in Oracle, we could offer the testing facility to provide for it. Several textbooks also distributed. Susie noted that the preferred textbook would be Oracle 8i by Thomson Learning. The course still requires some further consideration for the technology needs and feedback is welcome.

CIT 272 - Course content is in development. Matt suggested a number of ideas to consider including the following:

- Internet programming for administrators
- Application servers; need for a "class pass" eg: WebSphere/Web Logic. Pick one and go with it.
(Note you can get free download for WebSphere. No horizontal education info available from Web Logic)
- heart beat testing

- horizontal / vertical scaling
- transferring control of systems
- message theory
- portals to XML/UML
- certifying servers
- encryption
- protocols - layering
- session management
- studio tools to keep sites alive
- need awareness of Java
- EJB - difference between state full and state less
- Pooling

Some group discussion centred around web application and browser development. Tim suggested there was a gap in the current learning outcomes by not including web browser interface content. Wayne suggested some future bridging would link the web server environment with administration functions. Matt suggested using Java as a means to provide exposure to web applications. At some point there needs to be a cross over between programming and administration.

Committee Chair:

Confirmed that Stephen is currently 2nd Chair

Meetings for next year:

Susie expressed appreciation of the industry contact and would like to continue with 3 meetings next academic year. The committee agreed.

Next Meeting:

The next CIT Advisory Committee meeting will be held after Thanksgiving day on Wednesday, October 16th, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The location has yet to be decided.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M., followed by Birthday cake with Jimm!