

Lethbridge Community College
Computer Information Technology Advisory Committee
MINUTES

Tuesday - October 3, 2006
Lethbridge Regional Police Services

Present:

Jimm Valentinsen, Matt Lynch, Ken Chapman, Karen Wojtowicz, Susie Kennedy, Barry Robinson, Terry Allred, Marty Boogaart, Jonathan Hartney (2nd Year Student), Cheryl Polmuller, Kelly Gorrill (Recording Secretary).

Regrets:

Welcome:

Jimm welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Introductions:

Round table introductions were made.

Order of Agenda Revised:

Item #10 – Lab Space Concerns will be moved under - **#4 College Structure Reorganization.**

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of Tuesday, March 7, 2006 were approved by Matt Lynch and seconded by Karen Wojtowicz.

College Structure Reorganization:

The college has recently undergone some structural reorganization. The CIT program, which focuses on the business aspect of computing and technology, has decided to remain with the Centre for Applied Management. As part of the reorganization, centres have been further divided in to Clusters; as the CIT program fits well with Business, it has been grouped with Business Administration, Office Administration Assistant, Professional Golf Management, and Unit Clerk in the School of Business, headed by Cheryl Polmuller.

The question of shared teaching within the Centre was raised; within the Computer Information Technology program, we do have shared teaching responsibilities that come from the Business Administration instructors.

A question about competition with other programs was raised, and whether students ever show interest in, or move to, other programs. With regard to competition among other programs, yes - at one time there were a few directly-competing programs, but we survived. Some students have come into the program not knowing exactly what they were getting in to, and a few found that they were looking more towards Multimedia, Electronics, or engineering/design and drafting, with some having transferred.

Lab Space Concerns:

Due to a few issues, late in July one of our two “standard image” labs was taken away, and replaced with a general access lab. We rely heavily on certain specialty applications – such as Microsoft’s Visual Studio, the Borland Development Studio, and Oracle – which, due to licensing restrictions, may or may not be installed on other computers on campus, or on student computers. Due to the late decision regarding our labs, ITS was not willing to update other labs on campus to accommodate our students, so we are now faced with what is hoped to be a temporary lack of space.

The main issue right now is limited availability to specialty software – students who have breaks during the day cannot find the availability in the lab to work?

One of the reasons the lab was replaced was due to the Games Programming not starting up in September.

If you do have specialized software, would the students be able to access this from home? Students have an issue when they are on a two hour break before the next class and the lab they need to get into is full?

We should get our lab back by next year when all the renovating has been completed. The Cousins Building has been totally remodeled and is not being used at this point. Other programs on campus have no labs right now, so there is a major shortage going on. Students feel they need lab time during the day, especially ones that have family or work part time. We are working with and helping students the best way we know how.

Students at this point are renting lab-tops from LCC and they cannot use their personal ones due to loading issues. LCC downloads programs and languages due to an agreement and license.

Lab-top Sub Committee – Susie

We have 40 first year students – 8 of them are from Japan – number is down from last year (50) so we are down due to Games Programming not in the media this year. Returning for their second year are 26 students – others have chosen a different major with a couple who didn't return at all.

We are fortunate to have 2 individuals in our area marketing our programs and getting the word out to people. Andrea will be heading out next week towards Saskatchewan and Manitoba....

PC Service – Program Revival Update:

We did some work and sent this to Academic Council where it was stopped due to personnel issues. Should we go forward with this next year or wait on it.

The CIT Advisory Committee Members strongly consider reviving the PC Service program with their full approval.

Games Programming Certificate Update:

If we could get 25 students in 2 weeks we could have ran the Games Programming – Susie called students that showed interest and they could not commit in such a short time, but would definitely be interested next year. We decided to wait until next year when we are totally organized instead of trying to run it early. We are promoting the program for next year. Andrea Knecht will be promoting Games Programming in the High Schools that she will be traveling to as our Marketing person.

Why not have a Games Competition where students use their favorite programs (languages) against each other to promote the Games Programming. It would generate student's interest for everywhere. Also there could be a Games Competition or a mixture of both.

Curriculum Build Update:

Changes to the curriculum of the courses CIT 155 and CIT 272 were discussed by the sub committee. The changes recommended were the moving of selected material from CIT 255 and CIT 259 down to CIT 155 to fill the extra hours in the new course. This will allow further exploration of new material in the advanced networking courses. Also CIT 272 will be extended by compress the existing curriculum, allowing for an earlier project completion schedule, and then adding advanced topics in Application Server technologies.

Career Conference:

Radical and Bioware have been invited to the Conference. This is a day off for the students so they can go to the conference and see sessions. Karen Wojtowicz and Shaun Megaw will be speakers for the conference, if you would be interested in being a speaker for the Career Conference – let Susie know. The display will hopefully be set up and a game will be installed for the day so students can play.

CIT Program 10th Anniversary:

Since it is our 10th Anniversary we would like to have a Party. Susie would like to invite all Alumni to come back for this special Anniversary. We would like to have this during Graduation – April 27th. Should find out where our Grads are at and who they are working for, make it a real splashy event.

Student Reports:

We do not have a 1st year student at this point since the course just started a month ago. It has been difficult to choose someone who could represent the group. Susie may ask 2 for the next meeting.

Jon (now 2nd Year) is happy with the way things have been going, enjoying this year and have future plans moving forward and feels confident for placement in the Job Market. Workload right now seems to be alright – not too heavy at this time.

Fieldwork is usually done in January where we can keep count of our students while they are still on campus, it would work better if they did Fieldwork in May when they feel more confident with their skills, this will take place next year.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be on Tuesday - March 6, 2007 at 6:00 PM on campus in the Garden Court Restaurant.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM and Jimm thanked everyone for coming.