

Lethbridge College
Computer Information Technology Advisory Committee
MINUTES

Tuesday – November 27, 2007
PA2110 – Prairie Room

Present:

Stephen Graham, Timothy Frantz, Jim Campbell, Ute Perkovich, Debbie Baggs, Cheryl Pollmuller, Terry Allred, Barry Robinson, Michael Reimer, Josh Stuckey, Marty Boogaart, Kelly Gorrill (Recording Secretary)

Regrets:

Ken Chapman, Matt Lynch, Tim Elhatton.

Order of Agenda Revised:

Welcome:

Stephen welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for being there.

Introductions:

Round table introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes for Tuesday – March 6, 2007 were approved by Timothy Frantz and seconded by Jimm Valentinsen.

8. Student Reports:

Josh Stuckey from 1st Year was disappointed that he couldn't get his A+ Certification after taking the hardware class (CIT152), commented that some of the teaching styles were not related to some of the students. He was happy with the well structured classes and the prepared instructors. During class time having computers right in front of you to practice what the instructor was teaching you was really beneficial in the learning process. Business classes were kind of boring and dry, but when you think about it – the knowledge you receive now will help you further down the road.

Michael Reimer from 2nd Year said that this year has been quite a change from last year, you are more responsible with projects or assignments and don't rely on the instructor so much. The 3rd semester students are a bit swamped right now. Business classes are boring and dry, need to make classes more interesting (fun) so students want to be there (could it be geared more to CIT), like computer classes much more. Power points don't work for students it is not easy to learn from them. Projects class was a lot of fun. Can't wait to get a job and start working. Miss Susie Kennedy, she was the best teacher. Faisal & Darren – not sure about the instruction they used? Debbie Baggs suggested that maybe there could be some training done for instructors to make things interesting. Jim Campbell made a very valid point that students who do well in Business classes fit into their jobs very quickly and move up the ladder faster because of the knowledge they received.

3. Fall Intake:

Enrollments across the board have gone down, but CIT went way up, we were happy to see this happen. Barry and crew have done really well managing the program and courses. At this point we have 79 heads enrolled in CIT – 2 females and 77 males. January we also have strong numbers coming in. There are some international students coming in from Africa & Asia.

Why are the numbers so high? The reasoning could be the promoting that we did for the games programming. Some students that came in were very interested in the games programming that did not end up running.

Games Programming - there was lots of hours and money went towards advertising for the Program many students that had graduated were called and students in the second year that were coming back were called to get more students interested in applying. Andrea Knecht went all over visiting schools getting students interested in the program and the interest was definitely there, but in the end there was four registrations and to run the program there needed to be 15.

Why was the option for Games dropped? Because Susie went on Sabbatical and Barry has had to increase the workload plus do administrative duties so there was no one available to teach.

4. Special Events Update:

- a. Career Fair – This year we had past graduates on web cam interacting with the students: Sean Megaw, Barry Gergel, Erin Libbert, Troy Madaford – some games were played and it turned out to be a quite fun & good event. There was a Question & Answer Period which it was an eye opening experience for the students. One parent made the comment “what would a student learn from taking a computer program” Look at today’s world and see how Technology is changing – it is always updating and there is a good market for students to get into. Terry was going around video recording things on his Camtasia and it worked really well recording things, but when he tried to play it back it wouldn’t play. Seems that maybe there was too much recorded and it overloaded.
- b. Homecoming May 2008 - As part of the 50th College Celebration – we would like to know what would bring our Advisory Committee back or draw you here – any kind of event (Golf Tournament, Maybe take a journey at the program in the 80’s or 90’s). Could the Advisory Committee Sponsor a Hospitality Room or something like that during this time. Maybe grads from anywhere could participate through a web cam like we did at the Career Fair.

5. IT Seminar:

- a. Night of Interviews - Once again we would like some volunteers to help us out with interviewing our students to help get the prepared for what they will be facing as they are looking for a job. If anyone is interested in volunteering their time to such a valuable cause – please contact Barry Robinson here on campus.
- b. Guest Speakers – If anyone is interested in volunteering their time to such a valuable cause please contact Barry Robinson here on campus.
- c. Exemplary CIT Alumni - Mike Weibe, AJ Coles.

6. .Net Technology:

Barry asked if it would be worth while to teach the .Net technology in CIT. According to the advisory committee, most applications today - including web sites - seem to use some form of .Net. It is therefore recommend that we bring it into the curriculum, at least in the e-commerce course.

However, there isn't a lot of "meat" to the .Net technologies, meaning we don't need to dedicate an entire course to it. Instead, e-commerce will introduce ASP.Net to our students. As well, in Object Oriented Programming, there might be room to focus on another .Net language for a few weeks.

There is no funding available for this type of course re-development, but we could request distance learning funds to do some online course development. It was also mentioned that since outcomes would be the same, the courses where .Net is taught (e-commerce, and Object Oriented Programming), along with the CIT Program as a whole, wouldn't change in great detail.

The general consensus it that we DO need to expose our students to the .Net technologies, which we will attempt to do right away, as outlined (above).

Games Programming:

A question regarding the viability of the Games Programming post-diploma certificate was raised. The possibility of allowing students with skills, but no formal training, directly in to the Games Programming program was discussed; it was decided that students SHOULD have a diploma from a CIPS-Accredited program, or experience from a Computer-Science degree program, before entering the Games Programming Program.

Although this limits the number of prospective students, it is the best option. It was also mentioned that anyone with the skill, and who is willing to put forth the effort to create a portfolio, could probably get their foot in the door with a Gaming company. The post-diploma certificate we hope to offer would give our students more experience, and therefore a better path to a career in the gaming industry.

The question of a survey was raised: should we do a survey of our 1st year students to find out if they are interested in the Games Programming program? It was decided that a survey at this point could prove to be mis-leading. Although a high number of our current first year students have the desire to pursue the Games Programming post-diploma certificate, the harsh reality is that only a select few have the talent required.

7. Access Funds Available to Business:

PC Service Certificate – PC Maintenance – Should we submit an application to activate the PC Service Certificate to possibly start Fall 2008? The committee agreed that we should put forward this application to see if they will accept the submission.

8. Other Business:

Practicum – could students possibly do their practicum once or twice a week instead of waiting until they are done class to go through the spring & summer term. The learning component would be really difficult for students if they were only around for one possibly two times in the week, it would also be difficult for the employees to train them. It would be more beneficial and better to have students fully devoted to their practicum after the course is over – their mind would be on work & not school work.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday – March 4, 2008

Main Campus – TBA

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.