

Lethbridge College
Computer Information Technology Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Tuesday – March 23, 2010
CE 1305 - Canbra Room

Present: Stephen Graham, Timothy Frantz, Jimm Valentinsen, Jim Campbell, Fergus Raphael, Ken Chapman, Calvin Koskowich
Students: Seth Ellingson (2nd Year), Chris Toth (1st Year)
Faculty & Staff: Barry Robinson, Dennis Sheppard, Daryle Niedermayer, Marty Boogaart, Terry Allred, Debbie Baggs, Rita Halma, Kelly Gorrill (Admin. Support)
Regrets: Matt Lynch

1. Welcome & Introductions:

Stephen welcomed everyone to the meeting, and round-table introductions were made.

2. Adoption of Agenda:

Timothy Frantz approved the Agenda as distributed.

3. Adoption of Minutes (September 29, 2009):

The Minutes of September 29, 2009 were approved by Ken Chapman and seconded by Jimm Valentinsen.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes:

There was no Business arising from the Minutes.

5. Enrollment & Curriculum Update:

Students are taking less credits each, but our head-count is higher. They could have prior learning credits or they could be taking a reduced workload. Students that start in January have a lighter workload at the beginning. We accepted 23 students in the Winter Term – an increase over the past year. We have 21 students hoping to graduate in the program this year.

How can we review the full cycle of the students while they are in CIT? Watching their status from the point that they start until they graduate (or if they leave (why are they leaving)). Where do students go after graduation? Do they further their Education or do they get a job (and in what field)? Debbie Baggs reported that when CIT is having their program review – this information can be recovered from the report.

Curriculum Update:

Rita thanked everyone for their feedback. We have a new course running it is CIT 268 – User Centered Interface Design. In this course students will learn design principles including usability goals and measurement, consideration of demographics, addressing user expectations, composition and layout, form versus function, navigation, extensibility and common platforms for deployment. Interfaces may be applied to mapping, databases, social-networking or mobile use. This course will fill in some areas that may have been missing. The list of electives was updated as per previous discussions.

6. College Wide Update:

Visioning, Faculty Profile, Organization Structure, Update College Wide Outcomes, Distributed Learning Update.

Senior Leadership have created Buckets that the Dean's are responsible for, things were getting the focus away from the students and the Buckets have been created to get things back on track.

Faculty is being involved in focus groups around the campus – Karen O'Dwyer is in charge of this Bucket. Have students been invited to these focus groups?

Institutional Level has increased in registrations about 9% from last year. Credits sold are up about 9% from last year. Applications at this point are up 9% and confirmation of applications at this point is up 8%.

How many heads could we accept in the CIT program? Barry confirmed that we could accept 60 heads if the interest was there – space is available, but we would probably need more faculty.

7. **Student Feedback:**

Seth Ellingson (2nd Year) reported that classes are being enjoyed right now – the hands-on ones were good, but it was also nice to have some time for Theory – would like more time for theory. It was good to see the Business side of the industry – very interesting, Daryle has done a good job. Some content overlaps a bit but it was okay – some students don't like it so much.

“There was a Business class that I had to take in the evening which I didn't like, but the day class just didn't fit with the CIT group, so if anyone needed to take the class it was only offered in the evening”.

How many students are interested in working Long Term in the industry? Seth commented that it could be 50%, but it is really hard to say what is in the mind of the students and what they will do?

Chris Toth (1st Year) reported that the Business Writing class is not that great. CIT classes are really great. Programming in C++ is a lot of fun – a step up from Programming in C. This term we have had a class starting at 8:00 AM every day – there are some issues with scheduling (student wise).

8. **Student/Industry Networking:**

Daryle mentioned a couple of informal surveys he had done in his 2nd year System Analysis and design class.

The first question he asked was what area in IT they saw themselves working and the results were: 1/3 said programming, 1/3 said system administration and the final 1/3 said something in IT (but had no specific area of expertise in mind).

The students were also asked where they'd like to work for their careers, and:

1/3 said they will stay in Lethbridge, 1/3 said they will stay in Alberta, but NOT in Lethbridge, and the last 1/3 said they wanted to relocate outside of Alberta.

Our System Design Class has been busy

Building a Database for Weatherford - 1st Group

Building a Database for Xeriscaping – 2nd Group

Building a Database Southland Trailers – 3rd Group

Automating & putting the Golf Pool Up Online for the PGM program – 4th Group

Daryle then described the mock interviews that were to take place on Thursday – March 25, 2010 as well as the networking (Mix & Mingle) event that was to follow.

9. **Computer Forensics:**

There is a new initiative within the College. Computer Forensics – where/what should be involved with the program. What is really big right now is data recovery. There is interest around for this kind of program but not in Lethbridge – students don't have to go far to find it though. It seems like a good idea and it would be very attractive to students coming right out of high school. We don't have staff trained in this area – so it could become costly. Do you have any recommendations regarding this initiative? Where are graduates really going – will they serve Lethbridge & area or will they go further away and find the bigger jobs? Strong use for the Criminal Justice program – but technology moves so fast that for CIT it is always upgrading – it would have to be a broad scope out there – skills – target audience for this program. Industry would send their people elsewhere for training than Lethbridge College – because they already have the program and it is more practical. There are not many competitors out there for this right now and is the need there for this to be recognized and accepted, would the cost for marketing the program be feasible? This program is just being suggested right now and we are just doing some leg work around it at this point.

10. Accreditation Feedback:

Review went very well – thanks to everyone who contributed for their help and feedback. The concerns that the CIPS Accreditation group had were mentioned by Barry – All in all this was a very good review.

How did this Accreditation compare from the last one? Can you take a second Re-Accreditation or are you starting over again? When you receive your Accreditation – what kind of celebration do you plan on having this time? There was a celebration in the Garden Court the first time the Accreditation was accepted – Susie had made all the arrangements.

11. New Directions & Opportunities:

Barry was contacted by a Gentleman about an Ethical Hacking Workshop in May, if you are interested – please let Barry know, if there is enough interest in this area, this Gentleman will drop the price and possibly have the workshop here at the College. This workshop could be five days or possibly three days.

PC Service – 1 Year Certificate

System Administration Diploma – 2 Year Diploma – possibly a stream or major within CIT.

Would it be Viable to bring it back right now? Could it be a part of the CIT program – a different stream? Jim Campbell commented that he would support some alternate streams.

We do not want to lose the interest that is in the CIT program though.

Could a student take a common 1 year and then have 2 or 3 different streams for another diploma?

Do analysis on this process – Do we have enough students that would be interested in taking this and is there enough support in the community to hire these students? We should get opinions from the Graduates before making this decision – their feedback would be very valuable.

12. Other – Nothing to Report

13. Next Meeting Date & Time:

October 12, 2010 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Sunflower Room