

Lethbridge College
Computer Information Technology Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Tuesday – March 5, 2013
TE 1202 – Sunflower Room

Present: Jimm Valentinsen, Fergus Raphael, Cal Koskowich, Mathew Lynch, Nathan Sailer, Sabina Visser, Clark Ferguson, Dave Gelowitz
Students: Kerry Gimblett, Maxwell Clyke
Faculty/Staff: Alan Andron, Marty Boogaart, Stephen Graham, Barry Robinson, Terry Allred
Regrets: Jim Campbell, Jake Waiboer, Dennis Sheppard
Recorder: Sandy Buczulak

1. Welcome & Introductions:

Jimm Valentinsen welcomed everyone to the meeting. Round table introductions were done.

2. Adoption of Agenda:

Adoption of the Agenda moved by Jimm Valentinsen and seconded by Fergus Raphael.

3. Adoption of Minutes (October 2012):

Adoption of the Minutes moved by Jimm Valentinsen and seconded by Fergus Raphael.

4. New Members:

Dave Gelowitz, Clark Ferguson and Sabina Visser each gave a brief overview of their background and expressed what they each hoped to contribute to the Committee in terms of their expertise in different areas.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes:

There was no Business.

6. College Wide & Staffing Update:

- Alan noted that we have a new President, Paula Burns. (Biographical information is attached.)
- The College is taking a wait and see approach until release of the budget on March 7. Paula Burns, Peter Leclaire and Simon Griffiths will be in Edmonton along with our Board for a strategic planning session during the week of March 4. They will also be meeting with government contacts, hosting a government reception and then will be in the capital when the budget is tabled on March 7.
- TTRIP (Trades and Technology Renewal and Innovation Project) - \$65M three year project to be shovel ready this summer.
- Tim Hortons kiosk on campus – Lethbridge College is the franchisee. It was noted that the level of technology used to track sales and inventory is impressive.
- 30-60-120 Credential Framework – two phase project, 1.5/3/6 credit courses will separate academic credits from contact hours, billing rate and workload. CIT currently at 67 credits and through the program review process will eventually be reduced to a 60 credit standard. Instructional hours remain unchanged at this time.

7. Student Feedback:

- Karrie Gimblett indicated that the semester is going well. The only concern she expressed is that students would prefer a more consistent marking timeline for assignments.
- Maxwell Clyde is looking towards completion and recognizing that the progression of what he has learned is wrapping up and falling into place. The concern he expressed was the desire for more consistency in the delivery of material between instructors. The challenge for instructors is that there are many different learning styles. Differences in delivery styles could be viewed as an advantage for students in learning to adapt as information may not always be presented in the style they prefer out in industry.

8. Marketing:

- The College is in the process of reassessing and redesigning marketing materials institutionally. They are moving towards more emphasis on individual programs and will be increasing the number of pages for each program rather than focusing on the College as a single entity.
- We are working at raising the profile of the CIT program in ways such as popup displays for events like Career Fair and increased representation at trade shows and other public opportunities which are proving to be valuable especially in making new connections for practicums for our students.
- A question was raised about the enrolment trend. Alan responded that it is currently consistent and at capacity.

An informal survey done by Marty Boogaart indicated the following:

He polled the first year classes. 37 responses.

- 7 (19%) finished high school last year
- 13 (35%) finished high school 1 to 5 years ago
- 14 (38%) finished high school 6 to 10 years ago
- 3 (8%) finished high school more than 10 years ago

9. Industry Feedback:

- There was a suggestion about looking at program opportunities for Aboriginals in the surrounding community.
- It was agreed that a valued component of the program is the hands-on learning aspect. It was suggested that small individual projects could be integrated into the curriculum (outside of the practicum experience) to give students a chance to develop alternate approaches to problem solving and critical thinking. It might be valuable to have a documented inventory of specific areas of interest for students that could be shared with industry which perhaps could be translated into small potentially funded project opportunities.
- The committee was asked to identify skill gaps. It was agreed that the most important component of the program was to focus on the core skills and knowledge but to provide students with information about new technology trends that spiral out from the basic fundamentals that they can explore on their own. It was noted that at one time the CIT program delivered streams in areas of interest but consequently this was collapsed back into a single mainstream CIT program. It was suggested as well that soft skills such as project management, communication and articulation are critical and important to build on.
- It was noted that numbers traditionally drop between first and second year and some of the attrition from CIT moves to the Multimedia Program as the only other computer based program on campus. It was agreed that retention is a significant factor in most tech. programs.

- There was discussion about the capacity for mentoring by industry professionals and that towards the end of the first year would be a good time for students to interact with industry to find out what is happening and to learn about the work that is being done. It was suggested that a day or half day every month for students to have exposure to industry would be very beneficial in helping students build ties and to shape their future career paths.
- The committee was asked how to keep up with changes in technology. The response was that survival in the industry depends on the ability to be able to adapt to change and that a solid core foundation is the most important component along with exposure to new trends as they appear. An important part of the solid foundation that students must learn is the ability for critical thinking and adaptability...they must 'learn how to learn'.
- The committee agreed that professional development for CIT faculty is crucial. Professional Development funding is available for faculty and annual PD Plans are required and reviewed by the Dean. It was discussed that sabbaticals offer exceptional opportunities for faculty to stay current within industry.

10. Next Meeting Date & Time:

Tuesday – October 8, 2013 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

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Meeting Adjourned: 8:00 PM