

Meeting Minutes

Education Council

Date: Nov. 9, 2016

Time: 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Meeting location: SE40, Royal Oak Boardroom

In attendance: Jennifer Figner, Chair; Craig Cowan, Vice Chair; Andrea Matthews; Anthony Chan; Angie Chan; Anita Shen; Bob Gill; Dominic Terrado; Eric Fry; Harj Dhaliwal; Heyden Vargas; Joanne Atha; Mark Overgaard; Michael Currie; Richard Plett; Tom Roemer; Trudy Bruce

Official Guests: Dawna Mackay; Robyn Lougheed; Tracy Wang

Minute taker: Joanne Schaap

Regrets: Kathy Kinloch; Chris Wiebe Vice Chair; Kory Wilson; Mitra Zamini-Rad; Sanesh Iyer

Chair Jennifer Figner called the meeting to order at 2:30.

Action Items / Discussions:

1. Approval of Agenda
MOTION: It was moved by Richard Plett and seconded by Joanne Atha and carried that the agenda be approved.
2. Approval of Education Council Meeting Minutes
MOTION: It was moved by Craig Cowan and seconded by Andrea Matthews and carried that the Minutes of Sept. 28, 2016 be approved.
3. Business Arising from the Minutes
There was no business arising from the Minutes.
4. Reports
 - 4.1 Report from the Chair – Jennifer Figner
 - a. Student Success Initiative – Chris Rogerson, Director, Student Success. Chris Rogerson, Director, Student Success, spoke to the Student Success Initiative at BCIT. Student Success refers to many items, such as the graduation rate, the pass rate and employment rate. How students are welcomed varies from program to program, so Student Services made a video to assist new students entitled “BCIT Kick Start.” A new counsellor has been hired, as well as a student Entry Transition Coordinator, with the goal of providing support for students to meet the rigor and demand. Intervention for students who are struggling often happens too late. The Student Services office responded with an early alert pilot program, launched Oct 21, and being tested in the School of Computing and Academic Studies. 25 students were assisted already. Peer tutoring is also very successful. On Dec. 9 a professional facilitator will conduct an assessment on student success, specifically focusing on student transition rate, attrition rate and completion rate.

Questions were taken from the floor. By Sept 2017 the early alert program should be available to all the schools. Tracy Wang noted that her office also provides help to international students and welcomes requests for assistance.

Dean Diamond, Associate Director of Student Life, will be invited to the next EdCo meeting to speak on the Student Wellbeing Initiative.

b. Report from the Chair – Jennifer Figner

By-elections have been held for three vacant positions on Education Council. Bob Gill was elected for the position of FSA Faculty, School of Energy and Trudy Bruce for the position of GEU Support. Bob will join the Programming Committee and Trudy will join the Policy Committee. The GEU Instructional-at-large position was not filled. Due to the time restrictions by the Registrar's Office, the Executive Committee agreed that another by-election will not be held for the last position at this time. It will stay vacant until the next round of elections in the spring. Someone will be sought to sit on Programming as an ad hoc member for the remainder of the year. Bob and Trudy were welcomed, and a roundtable of introductions was done.

At their meeting on Oct. 4, 2016 the Board of Governors approved the cancellation of Diploma in Industrial Instrumentation and Controls Technician program. They also received a presentation from the School of Construction and the Environment, which highlighted some of the programs they offer. Minister of Education Andrew Wilkinson attended the closed session of the Board meeting and had good discussions with the governors.

Regular meetings have been set up with the Chair and two Vice Chairs of Education Council, and the office of Academic Planning and Quality Assurance (APQA - Barry, Richard, Kathy, Joanne.) The program development and change process has undergone a LEAN initiative, and as a result of that, there will be some changes to policy. A LEAN initiative on program review is underway.

At the Operations Services Planning meeting, the Programming activity for 2017-18 was endorsed. New programs to be introduced will be 33 compared to 36 for this year. Program reviews will be 30 compared to 22 for this year. Major Changes will be 31 compared to 26 for this year.

4.2 Institutional Report, VP Academic – Tom Roemer

At the last Education Council meeting, Tom had started a discussion on international certificates. For the next EdCo meeting, he will ask Lawrence Gu to speak further on this. Tom just returned from a trip to India and China, where they visited partner institutions in 14 cities over 14 days. He was particularly interested in quality assurance and control, and was pleased to see that the partner institutions of BCIT are doing very well in these areas. BCIT has an educational partnership with Three Gorges Polytechnic University (TGPU), a subsidiary of Zongshen Industry Group (ZIG), a multi-national Chinese corporation. ZIG is looking at expanding the model further. He noted that business development is relatively difficult, primarily because it is difficult to define BCIT due to the breadth of what is offered. The idea of polytechnic is not well known.

It has also come to his attention that various people across campus are working on projects which are independent but which could lend support to one another. For example, there is FAST BCIT which is an assessment tool. There is the International Credential Evaluation Service (ICES) system. There is an Advanced Placement & Prior Learning initiative led by Kevin Wainwright. Tom is exploring the idea of offering these services on one site to help people with education and employment at all levels as a career guiding agency within the federal government's realm. There is a large opportunity to assist international people who want to convert their credentials to the Canadian equivalent.

Faculty at BCIT do not have opportunity to publish research. Richard Plett was recently asked to investigate scholarly activities at BCIT. There is a student works repository which has capacity to also serve as a faculty repository, should the occasion arise where faculty research is undertaken at BCIT.

4.3 Report from Students – Dominic Terrado

Dominic would like to assist students who are new to EdCo to increase engagement by providing workshops and inviting them to social events with other Council members. It was suggested that a mentor for each student would be beneficial. 30 delegates from BCIT are participating in the JDC West Business competition in Edmonton. BCIT is the first non-university to be invited to this event.

5. Report from Standing Committees

5.1 Programming Committee – Andrea Matthews on behalf of Chris Wiebe

Andrea reported that the Programming Committee met on Oct. 19, 2016 and reviewed two submissions. Andrea provided an overview of each of the following submissions:

a. Major Curriculum Change

- i. New Option in Cloud Computing Computer Systems Technology Diploma, SoCAS
A new option in Cloud Computing is being proposed for students in their second diploma year. The current options, which are specialty areas of focus, have limited space in each option. The program regularly updates the options to ensure they meet industry needs.

MOTION:

It was moved by Andrea Matthews and seconded by Bob Gill that the proposal for a major curriculum change in Cloud Computing, Computer Systems Technology, Diploma, be approved. Questions and comments were taken from the floor. A suggestions was made for this program champion to connect with the electronics group, where similar work is being done. The motion was carried with one abstention.

b. Program Proposal

- i. Advanced Diploma in Professional Accounting, SoB
This proposed program is designed for people who have an undergraduate degree in a discipline other than accounting and lack pre-requisite courses required for admission to the Professional Education Program for the Chartered Professional Accountant designation.

MOTION:

It was moved by Andrea Matthews and seconded by Harj Dhaliwal that the proposal for an Advanced Diploma in Professional Accounting be approved. Questions were taken from the floor. The motion was carried with one abstention.

5.2 Policy Committee – Craig Cowan

Craig advised that the Policy Committee met on Oct. 12 and ranked the list of policies to be reviewed. Then he met with the APQA office to prioritize the list further. Faculty Qualifications policy and the Program Suspension and Cancellation policy will be presented at next week's Policy meeting. The Student Code of Conduct policy should come to Policy committee next week, and then it will need to go to community consultation. Feedback was solicited from Council as to how the community's input should be sought for this policy. Council felt it would be best to use The Loop. For such a large document, it may be best to break it down into sub-groups or sections at a time. Craig will inform program heads, Chief Instructors, Associate Deans, and SQC Chairs of the changes to raise awareness. A Lunch and Learn format was also suggested. Students will receive information through Set Reps.

6. New Business
The Education Contact list was received for information.
7. Any Other Business
There was no other business.
8. Next Meeting Date
Wed. Dec. 14, 2:30-4:30, Royal Oak Boardroom
9. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.