Lethbridge Community College
Computer Information Technology Advisory Committee
M I N U T E S
Thursday, November 29, 2001
Lethbridge Community College - Sunflower Room

Present:

Jimm Valentinsen, Wayne Krywolt, Susie Kennedy, Christine Skow, Brian Hood, Terry Allred, Tim Symmes, Barry Gergel (first-year student), Matt Lynch and Karen O'Dwyer (for Jean Valgardson)

Regrets:

Stephen Graham, Ms. Rae Newfeld, Ron Dubien and Tim Franz

Welcome:

Jimm opened meeting with introductions then suggested that we eat before starting the meeting.

Jimm asked for any new business. Susie suggested that we need to look at the membership of the Committee.

Approval of Minutes:

Jimm asked for approval of minutes. No questions or comments were made, so the minutes were approved as presented.

Qualifications and Suitability

Susie brought forward the final draft review of qualifications suitability - she worked on it with Team Leader at the time and that team leader did not allow it to go into the calendar. We should bring this forward at another meeting. Changes were not put into calendar.

ACTION: Susie

College Restructuring:

Wayne discussed restructuring of the College. College moved from 11 centres to eight centers the intent being to realign some programs not with right mix of people, balancing centre load and putting centers with common focus together (CIT, focus information computer technology, new media, hi-tech, e-commerce) with a common administrative unit. Our new centre includes: Centre for Computing and Electronics (Computer Services, Computer Network Technician, Computer Systems and Electronics Technology, Electronics Technician: Personal Computer (PC) Service, CIT, Multimedia Production and Communication Arts consisting of Advertising/Public Relations, Broadcast Journalism and Print Journalism and the Business Training and Development (Royer Institute). Most of these programs are driven by new technology. All team leaders new as of July first.

Organizational Changes:

Karen O'Dwyer responsible for curriculum side of Centre for Teaching and Learning, Instructional Technologies taking over some of the responsibilities vacated by Lucille Prindle.

Changes to CIT:

Relocated computer labs from 2nd floor Cousins Building to 2nd floor Technologies. Rationale - New Instructional Technologies Building - has concept of Learning Commons. Library already has Learning Commons. The idea is to try to improve equipment utilization - make equipment available to more students. CIT has specialized operating systems Commons concept not suited for them.

No Changes to Program. Program moved to new centre - it is an accredited program, successful with graduates. University Transfer agreement with U. of L computer science program.

Objectives/Concerns for Student Retention and Entrance Requirements:

Retention - different ways of dealing with qualifications in entrance requirements. Students with good math scores will succeed in CIT. Alternative - raise entrance requirements. However, we do not want to cut off students deficient in a few areas. Deficiency in Math - can take math course or English and at the same time take CIT or MM course and sample from these areas. Help student be better prepared and succeed. Help student under-prepared to prepare.

Suggestion: Students doing work experience - involved in College - have program running continuously - different students can work on project as they go through the program.
ACTION: Wayne

*Wayne did mention that the CIT Advisory Committee was the most active and successful Advisory Committees on Campus. Would like your input on the changes.

Offices:
Christine mentioned that the changes in location have made her programming class more independent. (Her office is away from the classroom.) Faculty not physically situated close to each other. Wayne indicated that they are working on having faculty closer to each other. Faculty closer together have a tendency to communicate more.
ACTION: Wayne
Discussion re Restructuring:

People are still trying to identify who is in the Centre. Restructuring going on for some time. The philosophy of the College is to become a Learning College. Focus on students becoming participants in the learning process. Faculty/ Administration, support staff all being committed to learning process and student success. Range of dynamics as to how people learn. Philosophy a little different in province. Other institutions are watching to see how it turns out. Administration and structural changes - move away from hierarchal and change to Matrix.

Discussion - Program Leaders:

Responsibility - more from older model - program chairs - part of faculty agreement - role of leader is as advocacy for programs - care of programs and students - previously also had administrative role. Work on a new model - establish Program Leaders - work closely with administrators. Program leaders will be able to focus on curriculum and student issues. In the process of hiring: Competition open for program leader - open only to Full Time Faculty and as a Two-Year Term.

Centre Name:

Wayne announced that the name of the new centre is **Centre for Media & Computing**. Asked for reaction from the Committee. Comments: Sounds good - concise but broad enough (other words: networking, communication). Don't think the name really affects the students.

CIT Accreditation Process:

Accredited until spring of 2004. Curriculum must change to stay current and change is expected by CIPS. People from across Canada - BC/ Nova Scotia/Saskatchewan - reviewed the CIT program during the accreditation visit.

Jimm questioned if students understand what Accreditation is. Susie answered that we offer a course - Integration Seminars - every semester. Ken Chapman, ISP, Calgary, goes through the program - covers what accreditation means to the program students and industry. A large student body has applied for CIPS membership. Even first year's are aware. The value of CIPS is included in all our marketing. Accreditation moving to Provincial Act - Legislative stance adds to value of accreditation. Need section of CIPS in Lethbridge. Wayne indicated that with his role changing from his perspective (Bob Ivison now Director of Computing Services) this may give him more time to focus on external committees - CIPS being one.

Advisory Committee Membership:

Need to update membership list.

Suggestions:

- Include all people here (continue for two to three years)
- Recommend that Matt Lynch be formally added to the Committee
- Recommend Ian Wormsbecker - a graduate of the program who moved to the U of L before working for Nortell in Ottawa, before coming back to university; could offer great insight.
- High School Rep - Don Reichert, CCH. (Karen Morden-Babick, WCHS is interested in Multimedia Production.)

ACTION: Susie/Cheri

Committee Chair:

Susie thanked Jimm for excellent job he was doing as Chair and suggested that Jimm stay on as Chairman for another year. Put to Board - no one challenged - Jimm willing to stay.

Next Meeting:

Jimm set the next meeting date for January 31 6-8pm, to be hosted by the LCC in the Sunflower Room (TE1202).

Jimm thanked everyone for coming.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.