

Lethbridge Community College
Computer Information Technology Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Wednesday, January 29, 2003
Lethbridge Community College - Room IB 1132

Present:

Jimm Valentinsen, Wayne Krywolt, Susie Kennedy, Paul Krizan, Barry Robinson, Terry Allred, Christine Skow, Matt Lynch, Rae Neufeld, Karen Wojtowicz, Neil Sheets, Karen O'Dwyer, Sheryl Williams, Stephen Graham, (Student Reps: Barry Gergel, Jake Waiboer and Jesse Patching)

Regrets:

Tim Frantz, Ron Dubien, Don Reichert, Brian Hood, Tim Symes and Lynn Laventure.

Welcome:

Jim called the meeting to order, welcomed guests and invited everyone to introduce him/herself.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of October 16, 2002 were reviewed and accepted as they were.

New Courses Update:

Barry reported on CIT 259 - Advanced Internet Systems : They are having fun learning and experimenting with security methods. Learning quite a bit in labs but overestimated how fast students were in first lab. Things were better for third lab. Goal at the end of the course is to understand technologies, etc. (security, firewalls, accessibility of servers, move up to Linux product - incorporate technology with certificates.)

Neil distributed Course Outline for CIT 272 - E-Commerce Administration. Neil reviewed Course Outcomes of the course. Have covered basic concepts, technology, introduction to supply chain network. Next will be introduction to web servers before large-scale application servers. Some space issues. Scripting and programming. For the last unit - pick one and go deeper - build front end of database. Produce something that works on a small scale. Length of time for things is still an unknown. Still learning a lot.

Sheryl reported on CIT 263 - Advanced Database Management Systems - Oracle Forms & Reports. Last semester ran advanced database. Was ambitious. First part - programming in Oracle - was a challenge - students understood programming involved. First eight weeks like pulling teeth. Made it through code. Bit of a struggle - students did not see where class was going. Got into graphics - this is what they were working for. End of second half students made comment they appreciated first part of course to do second part. Code and

Objects - quite cumbersome to repair. Ambitious in terms of time. Pushed a lot of code in first half. Second half did slow down. People more comfortable. Next time around let students know more clearly programming in database so they are not surprised by amount of code.

Change - find something more of a balance. All code for 8 weeks, all gooey for 8 weeks?? Better balance in some respects. May be more interesting. Excellent textbook.

Jake indicated that he had survived it and that it was good. First part of course a little overwhelming. Towards end when got to GUI side it was understandable and more fun. Would actually like to see more Oracle.

There are two sections of CIT163 this year. Sheryl would like to push more of Oracle topics - code from 263 to 163. This is the first year where we did not have Bus 173, 174 as prerequisites.

Jesse - so far course looks pretty good. Done some Access on his own. Nice to get thorough understanding. Would like to see more of Access.

Terry has set up Oracle access for students and students appreciate the access from home. Can work on it when they want to - if you are working at midnight it's more comfortable to do that in your own home.

Seminars in CIT:

Advisory Committee members involved in CIT seminar. (Susie handed out info sheet)

January 20 - Resume - with Jay Buis - very good. She knows her stuff, and students enjoyed her. She was wonderful - gave really good examples and gave a package for students to use. Final copies due on Friday.

Who is willing to take resumes - fifty coming in who can take six or seven?

Action: Stephen Graham, Matt Lynch and Karen Wojtowicz offered.

Action: Susie to drop Resumes off to interested people.

March 31 - practicum interview with Advisory Committee. Do mock interviews, one-on-one or panel.

Comments: Space for interviewing - screened chairs, table and chairs to accommodate a group. Maybe classroom in IB Building. Spend time with students. Possibility of having resumes of students interviewed ahead of time.

Action: Susie to call Lettie Croskery and see what she did before, then will formulate a plan and get back to Advisory Committee.

CIT Seminars:

February 4 Seminar with Warren Wyght - Program C++ Builder.

Seminar possibilities - do not necessarily have to be products, could be just what's going on in your business - techniques, software..

Stephen volunteered to present on interface design.

Action: Susie and Stephen

Students think they are really great.

CIT January Intake - Orientation and Feedback:

January intake - 13, normal intake is 25. Orientation in January same as fall.

Lab - Terry and Sheryl

Orientation to Learning - Learning Centre - talk about study habits, study skills, expectations.

Curriculum orientation - Wayne and Susie - talked about CIT - Set expectations and explain the program.

Covered different support systems on campus

Field work orientation - last one we haven't done yet. Have student on campus who has graduated and working on campus and Karen Wojtowicz speak on this topic.

Marketing:

October meeting discussed challenges we face - from a student attraction perspective/ recruiting. January was short of target (13-15). Focus is on recruiting and retention. We want to make sure that students who come into our program have a good foundation and but also complete it (Benefit to College in dollars and cents). Perhaps work at counseling students during course of each term - problems - we are in touch - give guidance - if problems - more hands on

Recruiting: We are trying to change our focus. Looking at the markets in Southern Alberta, Southeastern B. C. and Southwestern Saskatchewan. Media - using paper, radio, Movie Mill, bathroom Billboards (in strategic restaurants in the city).

Our Web pages are up and running as part of college main web. Will send link out so you can check it out. <http://www.lethbridgecollege.ab.ca/departments/academic/mc/mcflash.html>

Action: Paul to send Link to Advisory Committee

Future: Will continue visiting schools, creating stronger contact with school counselors and more importantly with teachers teaching IT courses in the school. Support what college is doing through Advancement Office.

Get stronger feel of who our target audience is. In process of doing survey of all of our students in all of our

programs. We are asking for information on their geographic area, age, gender, and how/where they heard about our programs. We are compiling stats - may be available for next meeting. Ideas of how to market to our prospective students. Interested in getting feedback from committee. How do we attract students, who do we attract, what are industry needs/demands. Issues of seminars, modulization of programs and courses, a sense of need to create bite-sized pieces. Should also consider marketing in areas where employees are losing their jobs.

Looking at what opportunities are out there for attracting international students. Discussion: Is there a strong enough demand in industry - do we continue to have growth targets. What advantage to us to have a nationalized aspect of the program. How many companies are starting to market services abroad? From a business point of view having an international background would be a benefit when dealing with clients in the States, Japan or Korea states, business with Japan or Korea. One thing to consider is a lot of support services required (English as a Second Language) which can cost a lot academically and financially in terms of delivering program. Lethbridge Economic Development Incentive - a lot of community benefits to marketing our community in this kind of program. Attraction in marketing to non-local students.

Student perspective: we target students coming out of high school but how are we marketing to the mature student?

Discussion from Jake: when he decided to get into computer information technology he looked at SAIT and LCC (looked at the website, talked to Susie). Susie was influential in him making the decision to come to LCC.

Discussion: We should be communicating with WCB and Insurance companies who could promote our programs. We are talking about personalizing our contact with students. We believe a lot of information about programs is based on word-of mouth. Want to make sure students leave with a good feeling. A lot of students in the program are mature students (30-40 year range). Majority of mature students register for the January intake and carry on for the summer. Is this a marketable advantage (for students/funding agencies)? Good for the mature student to not have summer off.

Jesse came back to school after Nortell gave severance package. Although there is a large slump in the technical industry some people coming back to school to take different aspect of technology.

Discussion: Marketing that there are jobs available in CIT. Some negativity coming from the United States, pervaded by the attitude that there are no jobs in the IT field. Is there enough information so show placement of students and should we be including that in our marketing? Jake has been cruising the web for jobs (monster.com, etc.). Lot of jobs but intimidating as employers are looking for lots of experience (5 years+). This

is where it is important to put together a good portfolio, go to CIPS meetings - there are a lot of useful ways to market yourself. Could also consider using AD/PR students to do some marketing.

Student Reports:

Jake: Overall things are going good - this semester everything tying together. Morale is good.

Some students contemplating continuing education and getting degree at U of L, some of them coming back to take CNT program. Barry is contemplating U. of L. or a number of other institutions. Jake will go back to work and continue education through night courses. Jesse mentioned that in terms of university transfers there are at least six or seven that he is interested in. It would be good at beginning of the course to get information package on transfer requirements/agreements.

Last year CIT had people from U of L computer science to speak to second year students. This year we will also invite first-year students to this seminar. (Could be a bit of a marketing feature - 2 + 2 agreement with universities.) Comment: It is sometimes easier to start at the College then go on to a University setting.

New Business:

Southern Alberta Technology Council - projects presentation - technology fare of student work at high school, college, university. Technology in Lethbridge - concept phase. Any one interested Stephen Graham an e-mail. Students are welcome. Next meeting February 20, 11:45 a.m. (Thursday) - probably City Hall (on web page at satc.ca)

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, April 2nd - 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Lethbridge Regional Hospital - Parkade Meeting Room

(Take patient elevators to P and the meeting room is right opposite the elevator door.)

Susie offered to give anyone interested a tour of the IB building.

Stephen moved to adjourn meeting; Barry seconded.