Lethbridge College
Computer Information Technology Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Tuesday – March 17, 2009
PA 2110 (Prairie Room)

Present: Fergus Raphael, Jim Valentinsen, Ken Chapman, Matt Lynch, Stephen Graham, Tim Frantz,
Students: Josh Stuckey (2nd Year), Seth Ellingson (1st Year)
Faculty & Staff: Barry Robinson, Terry Allred, Debbie Baggs, Rita Halma, Susie Kennedy, Kelly Gorrill (Admin Support).
Regrets: Calvin Koskowich, Jim Campbell, Marty Boogaart
Absent: Karen Wojtowicz

Order of Agenda Revised:

1. **Welcome:**
   Stephen welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for being there. Round table introductions were done.

2. **Adoption of Agenda:**
   The agenda was approved by Matt Lynch & seconded by Jimm Valentinsen. Carried

3. **Adoption of Minutes (November 4, 2008):**
   Minutes were approved by Jimm Valentinsen and seconded by Matt Lynch. Carried.

4. **Certificate Presentation to Susie Kennedy:**
   A certificate was presented to Susie Kennedy from the Advisory Committee for her commitment & dedication to the CIT program and its many students

5. **Business Arising from the Minutes:**
   There is nothing to report at this time.

6. **Enrollment & Staffing Update:**
   Our student intake for next year has increased slightly from this time last year.

   We have a posted position for a full time continuing faculty member to replace Susie Kennedy. Application deadline is March 20, 2009.

7. **Student Feedback:**
   Seth reported for the 1st year students and said that each class was very interesting and all students in the program are learning a lot and enjoying the classes. Students do not enjoy the business courses as much as the CIT. The instructors have been really helpful.

   Josh reported for the 2nd year students and said that the teachers are very good and have a great balance helping the students. Software used was very good and up to date. The course load in second year is quite heavy, and some courses are a bit dry. Some students thought that they could find the information included in IT seminar on their own, and wonder why this course is in the program. Students would prefer that the instructor in this course have a technology background. Students indicated that workload in the games programming course could be cut down a bit. They find it hard to specialize in a certain area. In the CIT program students learn a lot about the industry - it gives you lots of information and you can decide what to grow on when you are done. Transfer agreement with University of Lethbridge definitely makes things easier, you can't find that anywhere else. Students indicated that they weren't sure why BUS178 was allowed as an elective in the CIT program.

Motion: moved by Jimm, seconded by Matt, that a change be made so that BUS178 and BUS185 be removed from the list of electives in the CIT program. Carried.

8. CIPS Accreditation

We will be going through a formal review for CIPS re-certification this fall. Ken suggested that we should look into this and ask about when it is coming. Barry noted that some changes have been made in some courses to comply with CIPS recommendations.

9. Curriculum

A discussion took place regarding various curriculum issues, such as which courses we offer in Graphics Programming. It was noted that CIT grads have not had strong background in working with interfaces. Suggestions for how to improve this were solicited.

HTML – CSS should be taught a bit more through the program. It would be great to find someone with strong skills in Programming/HTML Interface, XSL Java Script.

A missing component seems to be HTML/Web Publishing. Fergus Raphael is willing to help with building a new course.

Discussion took place about promoting our program more as a business focus rather than Games Programming, since that is more realistic with what we offer. We have introduced students to different concepts and are concerned about misleading prospective students to thinking that gaming is a big part of this program.

A question was raised as to why we have so many elective choices, when students only have room for one elective in their program. Debbie explained that the committee has indicated in the past that we want students to have flexibility to allow them to go various directions, including games, university, more business, etc. It was noted that physical education electives were added to the list of electives to encourage students to become more physically active. A request was made that a note should be made above the list of electives for the CIT program in the college calendar, stating that taking a physical education class is part of promoting a healthy lifestyle. Also, it was suggested that the elective list should be reevaluated to see if all these choices are beneficial.

10. Industry Connection & Marketing:

Marty Boogaart developed a brochure for the CIT program to advertise our program. It was agreed that we need to market the CIT program strongly, since students and parents are not necessarily aware of the opportunities in this field.

Barry was interested and wanted input about creating a Business Solution Center (working with an outside individual – helping people with their computer problems).

11. Advisory Committee:

Discussion took place about the role and membership of the advisory committee. Kelly will prepare a list of members showing term expiry dates, and have letters send out to clarify terms. New members were discussed. It was noted that we could meet via distance formats if needed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday **–** September 29, 2009. **Room**: Canbra (CE 1305) - right behind security…

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.