

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

October 23, 2018

TE1202

### **Minutes**

#### **PRESENT:**

Rena Barlow – Economic Development Lethbridge  
Kara Collier – 1<sup>st</sup> Year Student Rep  
Blake Flora – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Student Rep  
Amber Litzenberger – Program Assistant  
Barry Robinson – Faculty  
Stephen Graham – Chair, School of Business  
Nicole Geske – Farming Smarter  
Alfonso DeCicco – AHS  
Terry Allred – Program Technologist

Matt Lynch – Service Alberta  
Candace Lewko – Learning Experience Design  
Nathan Sailer – Southland Trailer Corp.  
Chris Rabl – Autovance Technologies  
Brock Price – Altis MSP  
Tim Frantz – Faculty  
Shoja Mazidi – Faculty  
Fergus Raphael – Tangle Media Inc.  
Obed Maurice – Maxim Management

#### **REGRETS:**

Cal Koskowich – Lethbridge College  
David Bowker – Associate Dean  
Cal Whitehead – Dean

Md Mahmudul Rafee - Faculty  
Chris Toth – Tollstrup Construction

#### **WELCOME**

Stephen thanked everyone for coming before turning the meeting over to Fergus as chair. Roundtable introductions followed and Fergus reviewed the purpose of the Advisory Committee: to provide consultation to the CIT program and receive feedback from students.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION: Matt moved to accept the Agenda. Alfonso seconded.

APPROVED

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Nicole moved to accept the Minutes. Brock seconded.

APPROVED

#### **BUSINESS FROM MINUTES**

There was no official business from the previous minutes.

## **PROGRAM UPDATE**

### **ENROLLMENT**

Stephen noted things have been going well for the CIT program. They received funding for 19 new domestic seats. This has affected requirements for personnel, lab space, and the number of sections per class.

He also reviewed the enrollment for the program, noting the increase included a number of international students. The significant increase in international students has provided challenges, mostly cultural for the students in a lack of preparedness.

### **SCHOOL UPDATE**

There were two new hires for the fall: Tim Frantz and Md Mahmudul Rafee.

### **PROGRAM REVIEW & ACCREDITATION**

The CIT program will be going through a Program Review starting in January and is starting the CIPS Accreditation process. Industry participants and feedback will be required in both processes. The formal review addresses the general questions of "is the program fulfilling its educational mission and achieving its goals?" and "how can the program continuously improve and remain relevant in a changing world?"

### **CENTRE UPDATE**

Cal Whitehead, Interim Dean for the Centre, is currently on vacation and will be retiring at the end of December. The Dean search was determined to be a null search, as none of the candidates seemed to be the right fit for the area. The current leadership model implemented over the summer has a Dean for an outward and forward focus, with an Associate Dean to focus internally. David Bowker was hired as the Associate Dean.

## **STUDENT FEEDBACK**

Blake noted that he entered the program after some time in the financial industry. It has been a change, but he says it has been meeting expectations and there are many resources available to help students.

Kara said the second year is much busier. Time management and team skills have become essential. While a few students have dropped off, the majority are managing and some have become more focused after getting a summer job. She did note that at times there does not seem to be enough class time to cover the material.

## **INDUSTRY DISCUSSION**

Industry asked if there had been any follow-up based on the discussions in the March meeting. Due to the amount of change Lethbridge College saw over the summer, some things were difficult to push forward. There is still discussion on the practicum portion, which Stephen is now running this year. Students can start as early as January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Version control was brought up as well, and it is being generally addressed in the Systems Analysis and Design class (Year 2, Term 1). Overall it was agreed that having a solid grasp of the basics of programming is most important, but students should also be exposed to a variety of tools so they are familiar with them. Currently, students are allowed to explore and discover on their own with instructor intervention and suggestion throughout the process.

Various tools were discussed that are currently in use in industry, including Aha!, Trello, Jira, and Microsoft Project. It is a difficult balance to manage for what to cover in limited class time, but industry did think there was value in teaching principles from an agile standpoint.

**ACTION:** In the upcoming program review, exposure to different tools and agile methodology will be considered.

**ACTION:** At the next meeting, industry members will bring examples of job postings.

Renae brought up an opportunity surrounding the VR/AR certificate labour market partnership Kris Hodgson is spearheading. She thinks it would be something CIT could get involved in, as it would involve a labour market scan, identifying labour market trends, training needs, and employment opportunities. The VR/AR certificate will be starting in the fall of 2019 pending government approval.

**ACTION:** Stephen will look into the labour market partnership to see how and if CIT might get involved.

Several faculty volunteered their businesses for potential fieldtrips or to come in and speak to a class. Tangle Media and Autovance put their names forward.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

A last question was posed to industry: could there be some kind of CIT advisory Slack group to keep up communication throughout the year? How could this group work more effectively?

**ACTION:** Fergus will send an email to get those interested together so that they can meet before Christmas to decide on a real-time tool to keep the committee in touch more effectively.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The committee agreed the supper meeting time still works. The next meeting will be March 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.