

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 12, 2019

CE1305

### **Minutes**

#### **PRESENT:**

Kara Collier – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Student Rep  
Blake Flora – 1<sup>st</sup> Year Student Rep  
Amber Litzenberger – Program Assistant  
Barry Robinson – Faculty  
Stephen Graham – Chair, School of IT  
Nicole Geske – Farmers Edge  
Terry Allred – Program Technologist  
Matt Lynch – Service Alberta  
Candace Lewko – Learning Experience Design  
Nathan Sailer – Southland Trailer Corp.

Chris Rabl – Autovance Technologies  
Tim Frantz – Faculty  
Shoja Mazidi – Faculty  
Fergus Raphael – Tangle Media Inc.  
Cal Koskovich – Natural Resource Council Canada  
Terry Kowalchuk – Associate Dean  
Kenny Corscadden – Dean  
Kevin Anderson – Maxim Management  
Sydeny Wakaruk – Lethbridge College

#### **REGRETS:**

Renae Barlow – Economic Development Lethbridge  
Md Mahmudul Rafee - Faculty  
Obed Maurice – Maxim Management

Chris Toth – Tollstrup Construction  
Brock Price – Altis MSP  
Alfonso DeCicco – AHS

#### **WELCOME**

Fergus thanked everyone for coming and began roundtable introductions.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Renae had sent notes via email as she had been unable to attend.

**MOTION:** Matt moved to accept the Agenda with the addition of Renae's comments under Industry Discussion. Seconded.

**APPROVED**

#### **BUSINESS FROM MINUTES**

Stephen followed up on several items from the previous minutes:

- The labour market partnership mentioned last meeting has been investigated. The very specific requirements meant CIT was unable to participate in it.
- CIT is currently working on a program review and incorporation of additional supports such as Agile is being considered and investigated through that process.

- Anyone with job postings or job descriptions are welcome to share those with the program for reference and use within the program review. These should be sent to Amber.
- Fergus set up a Slack workgroup which industry and faculty have been invited to. It has been used for communication and can be used to send surveys.

## **PROGRAM UPDATE**

### CHANGES

The CIT program has experienced some changes, namely being moved from the School of Business within the Centre for Business, Trades and Apprenticeship to forming its own school: the School of Information Technology within the Centre for Technology, Environment & Design. The Associate Dean for the area is Terry Kowalchuk, and the Dean is Kenny Corscadden.

### NEW SPACE

The grant received by the program last year which expanded CIT by 19 seats is being maintained for the coming year. This has led to some hiring and also new space. There will be two matching programming labs which will be slightly larger than the current one. The Sandbox lab is moving and will also increase slightly in size.

### SCHOOL OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The transition between Centres created a new School which currently only holds CIT. This opens many new opportunities to build and expand in the area of technology. Consideration has been given to an Agricultural Technologies program.

## **STUDENT UPDATE**

Now in his second semester, Blake said things are going smoother and students have been learning more programming. Students have found they are working late and having difficulty finding free time in the labs.

Kara is in her final semester and said it is getting very busy. Many students feel there is not enough time to accomplish all of their projects. A lot of people are also looking for practicums, and some are considering moving to find work after.

## **INDUSTRY DISCUSSION**

### CIPS

The CIT program at Lethbridge College has been accredited through the Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS) for the last 20 years. Lethbridge College is currently the only accredited college in Alberta.

Faculty are working on reaccrediting by gathering student work examples, information about the institute, etc. There will be a site visit which should be in September or October, and the decision regarding reaccreditation should come a couple of months after that. Stephen noted that having the program review coincide with the CIPS reaccreditation will prove very beneficial and maximizes result while minimizing effort.

## PROGRAM REVIEW

The CIT program is undergoing an internal, academic program review. Candace explained they are looking at the quality of current intended learning outcomes at the program level against graduate knowledge, skills, and abilities.

She led the committee through a variety of questions and focus areas regarding trends, opportunities, and distinguishing qualities of a successful program. Candace collected this information, and it will be a part of the program review report.

See Appendix A for Renae's comments which were used to inform this discussion.

Points of interest from the committee discussion included:

- Follow up on student projects.
- Office hours with industry.
- Discussion on the AgENT program.
- Opportunity for an industry member to lead an evening seminar.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Stephen thanked Fergus for his service to the committee as Chair. He then asked for nominations for the following year.

**MOTION:** Nicole nominated Chris Rabl for Chair. Seconded.

**APPROVED**

Additionally, thank you gifts were handed out to the alumni present on behalf of Alumni Relations at Lethbridge College.

## NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is tentatively set for Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 5pm. It was suggested the meeting be held in the Instructional Building so a tour could be given of the new lab space at that time.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm.

## APPENDIX A

*Except from an email from Renae Barlow on March 12, 2019 at 2:19pm.*

Hope the meeting goes well. I have a couple of notes to bring forward if you want to share.

- 1) Alberta Innovates is creating a report about Support for Digital Technology Companies. When I receive the report, I can share it with you.
- 2) Alberta innovates has funded Alberta Machine Learning <https://www.amii.ca/> to continue to build out systems. They will support start-up companies to develop systems integrating machine learning. Machine learning is emerging as today's fastest-growing job as the role of automation and AI expands in every industry and function. Any plans for integrating AI and machine learning into programs?
- 3) Economic Development Lethbridge has created a social enterprise company with InBridge (Jefferson Gardner) to develop blockchain technology for early adopter agriculture and manufacturing firms for supply chain integration. Any plans to introducing blockchain into curriculum? There may be opportunities for student co-ops in the future.
- 4) Emerging jobs for 2019: <https://www.itbusiness.ca/news/tech-sector-jobs-booming-with-developers-and-system-admins-in-highest-demand-says-randstad/108828>
  - “One of the most amazing things about technology is its ability to change entire industries and, in the process, create entirely new ones. As technologies such as blockchain, robotics, cyber security, artificial intelligence and machine learning continue to evolve and potentially lessen the need for human interaction, the Randstad report suggests that companies and organizations taking a more “people first” approach are getting savvy to the fact that customers may indeed have a desire for more human interaction. “From making it easier for customers to connect via live chat, to building an entire branch of marketing around optimizing the customer journey, organizations are realizing that customers want more than just cutting-edge tech. Future success requires balancing high-tech solutions with a people-centric approach,” the report states. That said, Randstad predicts the need for everything from blockchain developers and automation engineers for the manufacturing industry to AI researchers who will help program the AI robots, voice assistants and automated cars of the future.
- 5) Great article here: Positioning Canada to Lead in a Digital- and Data-driven Economy: Discussion Paper <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/084.nsf/eng/00007.html>