

Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions & Transfer

Research Subcommittee Teleconference Meeting

September 19, 2008

Summary/Minutes

In attendance:

Philip Cameron, Devron Gaber, Frank Gelin, David Hinton, Jean Karlinski (Recording), Harvey King, Ursula McCloy, Anne Ryton

Regrets: *Henry Decock, Catherine Stewart*

1. Introductions

Frank Gelin welcomed members. Each member introduced himself/herself and their position and briefly described their involvement in credit transfer and student mobility.

2. Selecting a Chair

Devron Gaber, Associate Director of BCCAT, was the sole person to volunteer to chair the subcommittee.

MOTION: To elect Devron Gaber as Chair of the PCCAT Research Subcommittee.

Moved by Cameron/Seconded by King

CARRIED Unanimously

3. Approval of Agenda

At this point, Devron took over chairing the meeting. The agenda was approved as presented.

4. Development of Terms of Reference

It was agreed that the key components of the Terms of Reference for the subcommittee would be membership, purpose, and objectives, and that the main purposes would be to recommend research projects related to inter-provincial student mobility and transfer at the undergraduate level. The objectives would include recommending research projects, coordinating their development, securing funding, and reporting out to PCCAT and to the broader community.

ACTION: Devron will draft Terms of Reference which will be circulated in the next few weeks via email for discussion and finalization. Members are requested to provide their input via email, copying all other members.

ACTION: The Terms of Reference will be submitted to PCCAT for approval at the June 2009 meeting.

5. Background

a. Review of minutes from June 2008 PCCAT meeting

Frank noted that the key decisions made at the June PCCAT meeting pertaining to the Research Subcommittee were to create it and select members, and that the initial focus of its work should be what was described at the meeting as Interprovincial Transfer Student Profile reports.

b. Review of document on Proposed Research Projects

The proposed research uses the approach of BC transfer student profile reports except that it describes movement of students across provinces. Because of this, it was acknowledged that a certain amount of time would be spent on addressing definitional issues across provinces.

c. Overview of BCCAT model for Student Profile Reports

Devron noted that the earliest BC transfer student profile reports contain data going back to 1991/92 and that reports currently being undertaken by BC universities will include data up to 2007/08. The overall findings are that by the time they graduate from university, transfer students perform at about the same level as those entering directly from high school. An SFU study which controlled for high school grades found virtually equal performance on a broad range of performance indicators for the two student groups.

d. Review of discussions with the Council of Ministers of Education Canada (CMEC) regarding possible funding of research

Frank reported that Tom Miller, CMEC's Coordinator, Post-Secondary Education, was identified as the appropriate contact with regard to PCCAT research support requests, as he is assigned to the Working Group on Credit Transfer. Tom has made a commitment to place the topic of CMEC support for the initial PCCAT research project on the agenda of CMEC's October 14 teleconference meeting.

6. Decisions

a. Funding for project

Potential funding sources identified included CMEC, provincial governments and agencies, and post-secondary institutions. The various components requiring funding/support include data extraction and analysis, project coordination, and report production. BCCAT has \$20,000 available to contribute to the project. Other members will consult with their respective bodies/organizations regarding the nature of the support that they may be able to provide. It was acknowledged that some contributions (particularly that of institutions) may be "in-kind".

ACTION: Devron will send a letter to Marg Leatham, the Chair of CMEC's Working Group on Credit Transfer, seeking support for the PCCAT research project, with a copy to Tom Miller. Devron will also discuss this matter with Marg when he meets with her on September 24th.

b. Scope of the project

It was agreed that involving 3 to 4 jurisdictions (provinces, or regions in the case where the anticipated number of inter-provincial transfer students is relatively small per institution) would be appropriate.

c. How to choose participating institutions

It was agreed to leave it up to each jurisdiction to select/approach the institutions, preferably those with larger numbers of inter-provincial transfer students.

d. Coordination of overall project

It was felt that coordination of the project was critical and that funding for this role could be sought from CMEC.

e. Nature of final product of research

The consensus was that it would be most appropriate for each jurisdiction to prepare its own report with a short summary report being compiled after that. Distribution of the reports would be via the Web.

f. Timelines for project

It was understood that the timelines for the project would depend on CMEC's response to the PCCAT subcommittee's request, and are not possible to determine at this time.

7. Next steps

The following are the next steps to be taken (in addition to the action items noted above):

- Prior to the next meeting, each member is to confirm their participation in and their organization's potential funding contributions for the project. Institutions involved are also to be determined.
- Discussion topics for the next meeting will include development of data elements and a research template.
- Report on the status of the project at the June 22-24, 2009 PCCAT meeting, preferably in a plenary or breakout session.

8. Next meeting date

A late November teleconference meeting date was proposed. Jean Karlinski will canvas members to secure a date. Frank clarified that he is no longer a member of the subcommittee.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.