ARUCC

CONTACT NEWSLETTER

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In This Issue:

Joint Project with PCCAT: Updating the National Transcript Guide and Creating a Transfer and Mobility Nomenclature Database

Kathleen Massey, University Registrar and Executive Director, McGill University

In March 2003, ARUCC published its National Transcript Guide after more than a year of consultation with colleagues across Canada. It has served as a resource for our professional community for more than ten years. It's hard to believe a decade has passed so quickly. As you know, much has changed since 2003 and it is now time to take red ink to the old guidelines, revising them to suit the times.

Collaboration with PCCAT

This time, there is another opportunity: the Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT) also had plans to develop guidelines, but focused on transfer and mobility nomenclature. Given the significant overlap between the work of the ARUCC community and the mandate of PCCAT's project, it made sense to collaborate. The two organizations have struck a Memorandum of Understanding to govern a joint project. The deliverables will be a searchable database of transcript practices and Canadian transfer credit nomenclature. An RFP was launched in October and the Project Steering Committee will select a contractor soon.

National and Regional Support

The Project is being supported financially and in kind by a number of regional and national organizations. They include: the British Columbia Council on Admission and Transfer; the New Brunswick Council on Articulations and Transfer, Campus Manitoba, the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer, ARUCC, and PCCAT.

Consultation and Timing

Practices and terminology in these areas are almost as diverse as the membership of both organizations. This means that there will be several months of consultation in the first phase of the project, which will begin in December 2013. Consultation activities will include a national survey, consultation during regional meetings, and institutional interviews. The Project Team may also request a sample of your institutional official transcripts.

The timeline for completion of this first phase is March 31, 2014. A presentation of the findings will be made at ARUCC 2014 in Quebec City.

We invite you to participate actively and enthusiastically so that your institution's practices and terminology are reflected in the final report.

Have a great holiday, everyone!

AACRAO SPEEDE Committee Update: Fall 2013

Doug Holmes, Programmer Analyst III, Ontario Universities' Application Centre,
ARUCC Representative to the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee

The AACRAO Committee for Standardization of Postsecondary Education Electronic Data Exchange (SPEEDE) coordinates and leads the development of these national exchange standards by representing postsecondary education in the appropriate standards setting bodies. These include the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X12.

2013 been a busy year for the SPEEDE Committee, having presented on data standards and data exchange at the following events: the AACRAO 2013 Annual Meeting, the PESC 2013 Spring Data Summit, the AACRAO 2013 Technology Conference, and the PACRAO 2013 Fall Conference. The PACRAO conference was in place of the PESC Fall Data Summit. SPEEDE continues to re-focus its EDX educational "marketing" efforts by attending one PESC and one Regional Registrar's event each year. The conferences will depend on the time of year, targeted region and travel funds available.

In terms of on-going SPEEDE and PESC work items, SPEEDE developed, hosted and summarized a survey of North American higher ed institutions on PDF Transcript best practices, the results of which were published by AACRAO and will be available soon on AACRAO's newly redesigned web site. In addition, the Texas Server to National Student Clearinghouse transition occurred during the weekend of October 12 - 13, 2013. The committee also continues to field questions from institutions, organizations, vendors and exchange services interested in exchanging standardized electronic academic records.

I would like to close by saying that if you have any SPEEDE or PESC related questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me (holmes@ouac.on.ca) and I will get you connected with the information or people you need.

CICIC Credential Assessment Project – *Building Bridges*

Natasha Sawh, CICIC Coordinator, Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC)

The Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC) is pleased to announce that it is undertaking a new project entitled "Building Bridges: Consistency, Portability and Capacity of International Academic Credential Assessment in Canada," resuming the work begun as part of the "Pan-Canadian Quality Standards in International Academic Credential Assessment: Phase I and Phase II".
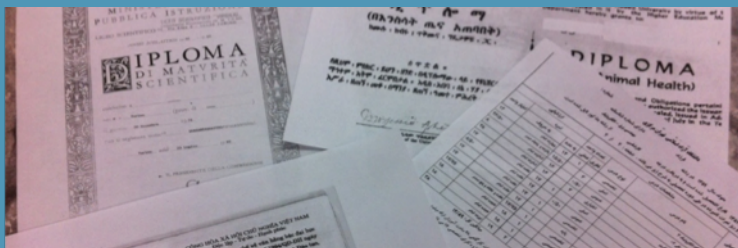
In Phases I and II, CICIC developed a number of reference tools to support assessors in their evaluation of international academic credentials for either admission purposes into Canadian colleges and universities or integration of internationally trained newcomers in the workforce. These tools include a Pan-Canadian Quality Assurance Framework for the Assessment of International Academic Credentials, Terminology Guides for Academic Credential Assessment in Canada, and a Competency Profile for an Academic Assessor. These tools are available on the project's Web site at: *http://evaluation.cicic.ca/*.

In Phase III, the Building Bridges project will consist of four main elements, which focus on strengthening consistency of academic credential assessments and capacity-building:

- implementing the Pan-Canadian Quality Assurance Framework for the Assessment of International Academic Credentials, including the creation of a steering committee;
- developing comparability tables of assessment outcomes for up to 12 countries;
- piloting an on-line course for academic credential assessors; and
- hosting webinars on key topics related to academic credential assessment.

CICIC is grateful to the Government of Canada's Foreign Credential Recognition Program for its support of the project.

Over the course of the next few months, CICIC will be recruiting experts to guide the work of the project. For more information about getting involved, please contact Nancy Tran, Project Manager, at n.tran@cmec.ca.

TAICEP – The Association of International Credential Evaluation Professionals

Natasha Sawh, CICIC Coordinator, Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC)

For a number of years, informal groups of international credential evaluators around the world have been discussing the need for a new professional association. The Association of International Credential Evaluation Professionals (TAICEP) was established in 2013 to meet the unique goals of the profession of international credential evaluation. Members will have a place to develop their knowledge and skills, interact with colleagues from around the world and contribute to the professionalism of their field.

In October 2013, TAICEP held its inaugural symposium in Boston, MA, with representatives from Europe, the USA and Canada to determine the structure and activities this new organization would undertake. The Canadian contingent included Canadian universities, one regulatory body and the Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials. TAICEP will be governed by a Transition Committee until early 2014, when it is expected that a new governing body will be established.

To help shape TAICEP in its early days, become a member! To become a member and for more information, visit *http://taicep.org*, or contact Natasha Sawh at n.sawh@cmec.ca or Jeanie Bell at jeannine.bell@colorado.edu, the Co-chairs of TAICEP's Transition Committee.

ARUCC 2014 Biennial Meeting – Quebec City – June 15-18, 2014

Hold the dates! ARUCC's next biennial meeting promises to be a good opportunity to strengthen your professional network, share your best ideas, and learn from your colleagues.

The conference will kick off with a keynote address by Chantal Hébert, a Toronto Star national affairs writer and political columnist. A member of the Order of Canada, Hébert is also a regular CBC panelist on the program "At Issue", broadcast weekly on The National. The workshops throughout the conference will feature many excellent presentations given by colleagues from across Canada, promising an enriching experience for all of us.

The conference program will be posted early in the New Year and registration will begin in March. ARUCC and PCCAT are collaborating on the timing and location of their meetings once again, making co-registration easy for you and keeping travel expenses manageable
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ARUCC Research Committee Report: Fall 2013

Kate Ross, Associate Vice-President and Registrar, University of British Columbia

The inaugural Research Committee is taking shape in its first year. The focus has been on establishing the membership of the committee and direction for the coming year. Present members of the committee are:

- Kate Ross, Chair (UBC)
- Ray Darling, Vice-Chair (Wilfred Laurier University)
- Barb Davis, Secretary (Brock University)
- Aaron House, Communications (Brock University)
- Joanne Duklas, Member at large

We are still looking for members from the east and western regions. Please contact Kate Ross, kate.ross@ubc.ca if you are interested in getting involved.

One of our major initiatives is to identify Canadian research that can inform our practice as Registrars and Enrolment Leaders on campus. To this end we have been working with Tricia Seifert (University of Toronto), whose research is focused on "Supporting Student Success". I would encourage you to check out her blog *supportingstudentsuccess.wordpress.com/* and/or follow her on twitter *@cdnstdntsuccess* for the latest updates.

The other Canadian researcher that we have connected with is Beverly Baker (McGill University) whose work is focused on standardized language assessment tests. Check out her work at *www.mcgill.ca/dise/about/academicstaff/baker*.
Both Tricia and Beverly are invited to join us at the 2014 ARUCC conference so we can learn first-hand of their exciting research.

If you are aware of faculty at your institution doing relevant research, please contact any of the members. We plan to create a web/social media presence and provide abstracts of relevant research and a repository of information for our members.

We welcome any and all ideas!

ARUCC Comings and Goings: Fall 2013

Due to other commitments, Neil Marnoch, Registrar at the University of Manitoba, has had to step away from his role as the Western Representative to ARUCC. While we are sad to see Neil go, we are very pleased to announce that Karen McCredie, Registrar at Capilano University and our current WARUUC President, has agreed to fulfill this role. ARUCC would like to thank Neil for his years of service on the Executive and welcome aboard Karen!