

# Out-of-Province Institutions and the BC Transfer System

Annual Meeting of Institutional Contact Persons  
April 18, 2008

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# Background

- ▶ Question in Recalibrating the BC Transfer System document was whether there could be justifiable exception to policy of limiting transfer information to institutions within BC.
- ▶ Two-thirds of respondents agreed with concept.
- ▶ ICP gave lukewarm reception to idea at April 2006 meeting.
- ▶ BCCAT has receive a proposal from Athabasca University to be included in the BC Transfer Guide.
- ▶ Athabasca granted exempt status by DQAB.

# Development of initial policy

- ▶ **Based on feedback, BCCAT staff developed initial draft policy on out-of-province institutions.**
- ▶ **Bases of policy were that:**
  - **Including institution would provide valuable advice to BC students about transfer options.**
  - **Compelling evidence would exist that there is significant transfer activity already taking place. For example:**
    - **Number of courses for which transfer credit is granted.**
    - **Number of students who transferred credit.**
    - **Amount of credit being transferred.**
    - **Number of block transfer agreements.**

# Development of initial policy

- ▶ **Initial policy reviewed by TAC and minor revisions made.**
- ▶ **Policy then reviewed by BCRA. Feedback included:**
  - **Develop clear thresholds on who would qualify.**
  - **Why develop a general policy if only Athabasca has a solid business case? Deal with Athabasca only.**
  - **Consider developing policy for Alberta institutions only.**
  - **Should we spend more time improving the BC Transfer System before considering out-of-province institutions?**


# Proposed revised policy

- ▶ **BCCAT will develop a revised policy on inclusion of out-of-province institutions for consideration by Council, possibly at its June meeting.**
- ▶ **If we dealt only with Athabasca in the absence of a policy, how would we respond to other institutions that request access to Transfer System?**
- ▶ **It's better to make decisions based on a clear policy rather than on exceptions.**
- ▶ **The policy will recommend that institutions first consider bilateral arrangements/transfer guides before requesting access to the BC Transfer Guide.**

# Proposed revised policy

- ▶ Policy would apply to Alberta institutions only based on BC/Alberta Transfer System Protocol.
- ▶ Policy would set clear thresholds and criteria. Thresholds would be such that only institutions with significant transfer activity could succeed.
- ▶ Applicants will need to provide Council with a solid business case based on **existing levels** of activity.
- ▶ Institutions can be sending and/or receiving.
- ▶ Athabasca's proposal will be judged according to approved policy.

# Questions and discussion

- ▶ **Do you agree with an “Alberta only” policy? Please comment.**
  - ▶ **Should institutions be allowed to apply as a sending and/or receiving institution? Please comment.**
  - ▶ **What advice in general do you have for BCCAT regarding the proposed policy?**
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# Process for providing feedback

- ▶ A single copy of the above questions and description of the revised policy is being given to each table.
  - ▶ Each table has **15** minutes to discuss questions and arrive at responses.
  - ▶ Please have one person record the responses on the sheet and hand it in to me or Raili.
  - ▶ We will have a few minutes at the end for general discussion on this policy.
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