Enrolment Action Plan | 2009

Project Charter

Project Title:
Transfer Articulation Agreements

Project Description:
The purpose of this project is to develop a framework, statement of principles, and a set of academic and administrative practices for transfer articulation agreements. Transfer credit is a separate process that Admissions has authority for providing.

Project Manager:
Claude Lang, Director Enrolment Services

Working Group:
Claude Lang, Director of Enrolment Services
Lisa Shepard, Manager of Admissions & Transfer Credit
Lane Foster, Coordinator, Transfer Articulation Project (until Nov 30, 2009)
Assistant and Associate Academic Deans

Consultation Group:
Direct-entry Colleges Deans and Administrators
Academic Programs Committee

Decision Makers:
Dr. Ernie Barber, Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning
David Hannah, AVP-SESD
Academic Programs Committee

Need:
Across Canada and North America students are becoming much more mobile, transferring more and becoming more demanding of recognition for prior academic work. Alberta and British Columbia have sophisticated transfer credit systems and advanced articulation agreement processes, making it easier for students to move among institutions within those provinces, and for institutions to recognize credit from other institutions and provinces. Their universities also have much more experience in recognizing academic work completed at other institutions. Our lack of experience and of attention/priority in this area has created slow, labour-intensive procedures which place us at a competitive disadvantage. We also have very limited experience in the area of block transfer and articulation agreements, though we have recently begun to make progress in this area. Compounding these issues and hindering progress is the lack of a concise policy and a consistent process for the U of S stakeholders to follow when commencing any articulation initiatives.

Stakeholders:
> SESD Recruitment and Admissions
> Colleges – Deans, Associate/Assistant Deans, Advisors and admission officers
> Potential transfer students
> APC

Stakeholder Requirements:
> Strategies to help us achieve our priorities as an institution

Scope:

> Transfer articulation agreements encourage better recognition of previous learning experiences, primarily with defined program of study at another post-secondary institution, and timely decision making and processing of requests for admission to particular programs covered by an agreement.

> **In Scope:**
> - A framework including a well-expressed philosophy, values, principles and goals of transfer articulation
> - An improved set of academic and administrative practices
> - Communication around transfer and articulation processes to increase understanding on campus
> - Pursuit and implementation of more transfer articulation opportunities

> **Not in Scope:**
> - Recruitment of students

Opportunities:
- That engagement and support from direct-entry colleges will help develop a framework and a set of practices which leverage the university's resources more effectively in this area
- That communication of changes to the transfer and articulation processes will be media-worthy and garner the institution attention from students at other post-secondary institutions

Assumptions:
- That individuals within academic units will champion the idea of transfer and articulation
- That colleges and academic departments will engage in improving transfer credit processes and proactively pursue articulation agreements
- That the Academic Programs Committee and University Council support the concepts of transfer and articulation

Deliverables:
- Streamlined and consistent, unified processes with coherent reference materials
- Increased number of approved articulation agreements with other post-secondary institutions
- Establishing appropriate and accountable authority for various components of the transfer articulation process
- Recommendations for moving forward once the AEEL project is complete

Milestones:
- Complete current transfer articulation project – November 2009
- Forward recommendations to David Hannah, Academic Programs Committee and Associate/Assistant Deans from the colleges – September 2009
- Identify top opportunities for transfer and articulation – SESD and Colleges – November 2009
- Develop framework – November 2009
- Identify potential funding source for a position to support this work – March 2009

Expected Impact of Enrolment
- Increased headcount, particularly by improving access for non-traditional learners
- Increased student diversity

Key Dependencies:
- Acceptance of values, principles and priority of transfer articulation by faculty in all departments and colleges across the U of S
- Securing stable and predictable funding for the Transfer Articulation Coordinator position