

ARUCC

CONTACT NEWSLETTER

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THE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES OF CANADA



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ARUCC Executive *Fast Facts*

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ARUCC is 50! Watch for our new look!

In the last issue of CONTACT we let you know that the ARUCC website would be undergoing re-development. The Executive has contracted with Blue Ocean to create a revised site with a fresh look and increased functionality for members. The new website is expected to launch early in the new year, and to mark the fact that ARUCC has turned 50, we've designed a celebratory logo – here's a sneak peak!



Student mobility and a Canadian data-sharing network

Kathleen Massey, University Registrar & Executive Director Enrolment Services, McGill University

Romesh Vadivel, Director, Service Point, Enrolment Services, McGill University

The Groningen Declaration Network is an international organization that "... seeks common ground in best serving the academic and professional mobility needs of citizens worldwide by bringing together key stakeholders in the Digital Student Data Ecosystem." The signatories include organizations from across the world, including the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (AACRAO) and the National Student Clearinghouse (US). There is currently no Canadian signatory, though ARUCC aims to be the first.

A joint meeting of a diverse group of colleagues from across Canada, including representatives of the Canadian PESC group, universities, colleges, the Councils on Admission/Articulation and Transfer, application centres and others, was held in Quebec City at the June 2014 ARUCC and PCCAT conferences. The

focus of the meeting was the Groningen Declaration and the implications of an international data-sharing network to support student mobility in Canada and abroad. The outcome of the meeting was a recommendation that Canada should consider signing the Groningen Declaration and that the ARUCC executive was well positioned to be a national signatory. A recommendation was made for ARUCC to convene a task force to further the national discussion regarding potential models for data-sharing across Canada, building on the excellent work of colleagues who have already established hubs and data exchange networks in various regions of the country.

Acting on the advice of colleagues, the ARUCC executive established a task force in August 2014 with the mandate to address the issues of signing the

Declaration to bring Canada into the international network, and to consult with colleagues across the country regarding the ideal Canadian model for data-sharing.

In November 2014, the task force's recommendation to the ARUCC executive to sign the Groningen Declaration was consequently approved.

Signing the Groningen Declaration will ensure that Canada – and ARUCC – will continue to have a voice on the international stage with respect to student mobility. Whereas this initiative fits naturally with the ongoing ARUCC / PCCAT Transcript and Transfer Credit Nomenclature Study, it in no way commits ARUCC or any Canadian institution to specific actions. Rather, it represents an opportunity to learn from the experiences of an international network of colleagues interested in establishing mechanisms for international data-sharing to support student mobility. Tapping into this rich well of information may help Canadian colleagues to advance their data exchange goals, for example by developing pilot projects for data exchange beyond their own regions. For details about the Groningen Declaration Network, including a list of signatories and international pilot projects, visit <http://www.groningendeclaration.org/>



The ARUCC task force members have now begun to consult Canadian colleagues at the institutional and regional levels about potential national data-sharing models. Three concepts were shared at the meeting in June 2014, although others will certainly emerge during discussions. They include:

- A. Regional/provincial hubs acting independently and trading data with willing partners in Canada and abroad.
- B. Federated regional/provincial hubs acting in a coordinated manner, with national oversight (for example, a national coordination council of registrars) trading within Canada and abroad.
- C. A single, national hub through which data are made available from regional/provincial/institutional sources (perhaps

a Canadian-made solution, a vendor solution or a Canadian branch of the National Student Data Clearing House), trading within Canada and abroad.

We invite you to contact any of the task force members if you are interested in participating in these consultations.

The ARUCC task force members:

- Andrew Arida, UBC; ARUCC President
- Gillian Robinson, University of Calgary
- Leisa Wellsman, OUAC; Canadian PESC users group
- Melissa Pool, McMaster University
- Janeen Hoover, Conestoga College; ARUCC Ontario & CRALO rep; Canadian PESC users group
- Rob Fleming, BCCAT and PCCAT
- Robert Adamoski, BCCAT and PCCAT
- Romesh Vadivel, McGill University; ARUCC Quebec representative
- Marie-Claude Binette, Université de Montréal
- Annik Gélinau, Université de Montréal
- Tim Brunet, University of Windsor and PCCAT
- Kathleen Massey, McGill University (Task-force Chair)

The PESC “EDinterop 2014” 1st annual data symposium & summit

In October 2014, Romesh Vadivel and Leisa Wellsman attended the Washington DC PESC “EDinterop 2014” 1st Annual Data Symposium & Summit, where the Secretary of the Groningen Declaration Network, Herman de Leeuw, provided the keynote address. Mr. De Leeuw is delighted to hear of ARUCC's interest in the network and is enthusiastic regarding Canadian support for signing the declaration. He went on to indicate that by early December, several “statutes of declaration” would be posted online to the Groningen Network's site, with the goal to help frame the discussion in more practical terms.

With regard to PESC and to the conference itself, though representation from Canada was the strongest since the PESC Summit was held in Vancouver in 2012, participation from the registrarial world was low, given that this was primarily an IT symposium. Nonetheless, topics ranged from the Groningen-themed keynote, to open badges, and several sessions regarding HEAR (the UK Higher Ed Achievement Report), PAR (the US Postsecondary Achievement Record), and other diploma supplements and co-curricular records. In short, there was plenty of data-transfer and student mobility subject matter about which to converse, and from all perspectives, all of which lead to fruitful and meaningful dialogue. Moreover, the CanPESC users group – co-chaired by OUAC and by BCcampus – presented their most recent collaborative initiatives, and facilitated a valuable discussion regarding how and where the PESC, the ARUCC, and the CAT communities might work even more closely together, especially in light of Groningen.

Supporting student success research project – phase 3

Blueprints for student success website

Dr. Tricia Siefert, Department of Leadership, Higher & Adult Education, University of Toronto

The Blueprints for Student Success website (blueprintsforstudentsuccess.com) developed out of findings from the Supporting Student Success project, a multi-institutional research study examining the relationship between post-secondary organizational structures and cultures with respect to student success. One of the study's main findings was that students entering post-secondary education often have challenges navigating their institution's programs and services. This can be due to a lack of information or visibility of the programs available to support student success, or students simply failing to understand the role of specific offices on campus. To learn more about the study visit www://supportingstudentsuccess.wordpress.com

The primary goal for the website is to introduce students to the areas on college and university campuses called Student Affairs, Student Services, Student Life, Campus Life, or Student Success. Whatever it's called, this group of people, programs and services assist students in registering for classes, starting a club, working on a difficult class assignment, talking about a stressful situation, consulting a doctor, and much more. Many angles are needed to create any blueprint and this is particularly true in

drafting a blueprint for success in college and university.

The website was launched on Monday, November 10, 2014 which coincided with a presentation of this new resource at the Ontario School Counsellors' Association conference later that afternoon.

ARUCC members are encouraged to check out the Blueprints for Student Success website. Helping students

make the most of their postsecondary experience requires assistance from many fronts: postsecondary faculty, staff and administrators, as well as high school teachers and counsellors, principals, parents, and after school program mentors and volunteers. This is a resource to share widely as it will ensure students preparing to transition to college or university learn about the service areas designed to support their success.

The graphic features a top section with a photo of three smiling students. Below this is a blue banner with the title 'Blueprints for Student Success' and a blue splat icon. Underneath the banner is a diagram consisting of four overlapping circles: a green circle labeled 'ACADEMICS', an orange circle labeled 'INVOLVEMENT', a light blue circle labeled 'CONNECTIONS', and a dark blue circle labeled 'YOUR BLUEPRINT'. The circles are connected by plus signs, and an equals sign follows the 'CONNECTIONS' circle. To the left of the diagram is a QR code. At the bottom of the graphic is a dark blue bar with a white arrow pointing right and the text 'Success in college and university is more than what you learn in a classroom...'. On the far left, the website URL 'www.blueprintsforstudentsuccess.com' is written vertically in orange.

Canadian registrars: reporting relationships and responsibilities white paper

Joanne Duklas, Researcher and Consultant, Duklas Cornerstone Consulting

In Canadian universities and colleges, the registrar role appears to be evolving. While it remains a position focused on the oversight of student academic lives and related student information, it is evolving in line with the increased complexity in higher education and the growth of postmodern institutions. Those holding the title of registrar are being called upon to create interesting and unique partnerships; actively support or steer enrolment management; oversee significant pan-institutional responsibilities and related accountabilities; and develop policies, procedures, and integrated systems that serve as a backbone for institutions and a support to overall student success. Registrars are exercising their duties in an increasingly virtual world where institutional boundaries are becoming less rigid and new approaches are becoming the norm. Joanne Duklas examines the reporting relationships of registrars at 139 Canadian colleges, institutes, and universities, and provides an overview of the typical reporting structure, explores the proximity of the role to the president, and identifies the functions evident in Canadian registrarial portfolios. Comparisons to two jurisdictions are provided - UK and US. Additionally, three areas are examined to add to the discourse on the relevance and importance of balancing the position's reporting relationships against pan-institutional accountabilities, academic policy and culture, and student success. *The white paper will be posted on the ARUCC web site early in the new year with a notification to the membership.*

ARUCC/PCCAT Transcript and Transfer Credit Nomenclature Study: an update and phase 2

In June 2014, the Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions & Transfer and ARUCC released the phase one report for the ARUCC/PCCAT National Project Transcript Guidelines and Transfer Credit Nomenclature Study. View at http://www.arucc.ca/projects/documents/arucc_pccat_15_jun_2014_english.pdf

Increasing numbers of Canadian students are, by design and by choice, studying at multiple postsecondary institutions, optimizing their resources, educational experiences and outcomes. At the same time, many higher education institutions are struggling to support this important migration, undermining the goal to promote student mobility.

The National Project was developed to address these challenges in a multi-phase approach. The recommendations from the phase one report centred on foundational issues such as addressing the need for a common language and practices and the need to address the implications of relatively recent changes, including the growing prevalence of electronic student data exchange. With the support of transfer agencies in five provinces and the Higher Education Quality Council for Ontario the phase one

report provided six recommendations that will guide the second and final phase of the ARUCC/PCCAT project with a focus on the following deliverables:

- an enhanced National Transcript Guide;
- a National Transfer Credit Glossary;
- a communications plan to ensure ongoing awareness and utilization of these resources.

In order to achieve each of the phase two deliverables, additional funding will be required. To date, ARUCC and PCCAT have committed to providing funds toward phase two.

Completion of this multi-stage national project will support improved mobility of students between institutions and through different levels of education attainment, advance the research and reporting needs for stakeholders in the sector, enhance efficiencies through the creation of harmonized practices, and provide best practice advice to the postsecondary sector.

To learn more about how to support the project, or for a copy of the prospectus for potential funders, contact: Rob Fleming, rfleming@bccat.ca
National Project Steering Committee

Dr. Bob Bontrager

ARUCC acknowledges and mourns the loss of Dr. Bob Bontrager, who passed away in October. Recently retired as Senior Director of AACRAO Consulting and SEM Initiatives, Bob was a leader in SEM as an author, leader of the SEM conference for many years and the person responsible for the establishment and growth of AACRAO Consulting. Many of us who have attended AACRAO SEM conferences over the years had the good fortune to meet and learn from him. Bob was a defining voice in the world of SEM and will be deeply missed. The Bob Bontrager Memorial Student Success Scholarship has been established in his memory at Goshen College, his alma mater (<http://www.goshen.edu/give/>).

2014-16 ARUCC Executive:

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Romesh Vadivel, McGill University

Atlantic Representative

Mairead Barry, Dalhousie University

On behalf of our membership, the Executive extends thanks and appreciation to outgoing Executive members, all who have contributed greatly to the organization – Heidi Emami, McGill University; Clay MacDougall, Humber College; Wayne Paquet, Nova Scotia Agricultural College; Angie Saweczko, Thomson Rivers University.

ARUCC Executive Fast Facts

✓ The 2014 ARUCC Biennial Conference was a success with more than 200 participants gathered in Quebec City from June 15-18. Congratulations to Kathleen Massey, McGill University and France Myette, Université de Sherbrooke, recipients of the ARUCC Outstanding Service Award presented at the 2014 ARUCC Biennial Conference!

✓ ARUCC Membership Survey: In the next few months, the ARUCC Executive plans to conduct a survey of all members to assess how the organization is meeting their needs and to prioritize activities for the upcoming year. Our goal is to be responsive to the needs of the higher education community and to provide a convenient method for you to have your say in shaping the ARUCC agenda. So stay tuned for an invitation to participate in the first few months of 2015.

✓ Make it a New Year's Resolution to update your Membership Listing!

✓ Upcoming Regional Conferences: OURA - February 11-13, 2015
WARUCC - June 22-25, 2015



Kathleen Massey, Hans Rouleau