Ontario Pathways Projects in Business from Startup Through Implementation

Mary Pierce, Chair, Lawrence Kinlin School of Business, Fanshawe College, Chair, Ontario Heads of Business, Co-Chair HOB Transfer Agreements
Steering Committee

Helene Vukovich, Acting Dean, Centre for Business, George Brown College, Co-Chair, HOB Transfer Agreements Steering Committee

Purpose of Agreements

- ▶ While there are many established bilateral agreements for college-to-college pathways and diploma to degree pathways, the Ontario Heads of Business Operating Group (HOB) has successfully collaborated with MTCU and CUCC/ONCAT to develop four transfer agreements for Ontario college students (college to college) and advance three degree transfer agreements (college to university).
- The principles documented and agreed to in these transfer agreements were developed to be applicable to all future system-level agreements related to business programs.

Importance of System-Wide Agreements

- ► Has helped to define what it means to transfer within the Ontario post-secondary system
- Has facilitated the creation of a system-wide, consistent framework
- ► The framework is a launch point for all future system-wide transfer agreements in Ontario

Why Business?

- Business represents a significant percentage of registrants in full-time college programs
- Strong tradition of bilateral agreements (many diploma students interested in completing degrees)
- ► Alignment with professional designations a common element in business (i.e. CPA, CHRP)

Project Background

▶ 2009: College to University (diploma to degree) transfer protocol project funded via CUCC Change Fund

▶ 2010: HOB receives support from Change Fund for development of a province-wide transfer protocol for Accounting (college to college) and Human Resources programs (college to university)

2010: Work began on 7 pathways actively worked on by members of HOB

Project Background

2012:

- 21 out of 24 Ontario Colleges sign agreement for college to college protocols
- Agreements for college to university protocols agreed to in principle for Accounting, Human Resources, Business and Marketing

NOTE: bridge to degree and approval of relevant external agencies required (where applicable)

- 2013: Development of Marketing plan (primary objective: raise awareness - internal and external stakeholders)
- 2014-16: Develop and Rollout Implementation Plan in conjunction with ONCAT

List of Agreements:

College to College Pathways	College to University Pathways
Accounting (October 2011)	Accounting
Human Resources (February 2013)	Human Resources
Business Administration (February 2013)	Business Administration
Marketing (February 2013)	

Components of Agreements

- Introduction, Purpose and Context
- Participation in the Agreement
- Business Transfer Steering Committee
- Terms of Initial Agreement
- Governance
- Marketing and Communications
- Data Collection and Annual Reporting
- Confidentiality
- Summative Evaluation

College-to-College Agreements

- Mapping process
- Alignment of progressions
- ► Year 1 to Year 2, Year 2 to Year 3, Pathway to College Degrees where applicable

College-to-University

- Mapping process
- ► Minimum agreements reached in principle
- Bridging (some have, some don't)
- Optional reach back courses

Proposal for Pilot Implementation Goals (2014-2016)

- Conduct the system-level implementation of the 4 College to College Business Transfer Agreements
- Where possible, assist ONCAT in furthering the 3 diploma to degree Business Transfer Agreements
- Engage all participating stakeholders
- Act as a pilot for Ontario's post-secondary education system to develop protocols and processes for implementation of other transfer agreements (current and future)

Key Stakeholders

- Students (Current, Potential, and Returning)
- Ontario Colleges & Universities:
 - Registrars
 - Staff & Faculty (anyone who advises on transfer)
 - Administration
- Heads of Business (HOB) Operating Group, and other Heads Operating Groups
- Professional Organizations and Accrediting Agencies
- MTCU
- CCVPA
- OCAS/OUAC
- ONCAT

Pilot Implementation Components/Activity Areas

Manage

Project Manage and coordinate implementation across all participating colleges and universities

Market

Market transfer agreements externally to students and promote internally within colleges and universities

Integrate

Coordinate Stakeholder Engagement Coordinate inter-institutional tracking, analysis, research

Implement College-to-College Pathways
Implement College-to-University Pathway

Maintain/Sustain

Establish processes to maintain currency of transfer agreements; create body of knowledge for transfer to other "heads of" for potential/future system-wide projects

Next Steps

- The HOB Business Transfer Agreements are ready to be implemented. Ideally, immediately begin to launch marketing activities with a focus on raising awareness amongst key stakeholder groups
- Continue consultations/meetings with all categories of internal and external stakeholders
- Diploma to Degree bridge pathways, assuming the York University and UOIT Accounting bridges (English versions) are ready for implementation, marketing could be conducted to promote these bridges
- Continue to integrate other relevant ONCAT projects i.e. French language Accounting Bridge with Laurentian University

Lessons Learned

- Importance of a cohesive approach
- Steering Committee leadership
- Consistency of process for establishment of all agreements
- Willingness to collaborate and openness to change
- Commitment to the greater cause: student transfer and improving postsecondary education in Ontario
- Communicate, communicate, communicate

Questions & Discussion

Thank you

Mary Pierce Chair Lawrence Kinlin School of Business Fanshawe College T 519.452.4430 x4007 mpierce@fanshawec.ca Helene Vukovich
Acting Dean
Centre for Business
George Brown College
T 416 415 5000 x4278
hvukovic@georgebrown.ca