

2016

HoB Transfer Agreement
Steering Committee

Cookson, Jeannine MA



ONCAT Project: 2014-03

**PILOT IMPLEMENTATION:
ONTARIO SYSTEM – LEVEL
TRANSFER AGREEMENTS FOR
ONTARIO COLLEGES HEADS OF
BUSINESS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – MARCH 2016 with adjustments
as of May 16, 2016

Pilot Implementation: Ontario System – level Transfer Agreements for Ontario Colleges Heads of Business

EXECUTIVE – MARCH 2016

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September of 2013 the 24 Ontario Colleges delivering Business programs had agreed to four, System- level Transfer Agreements. These agreements would allow students in specific programming areas, the ability to seamlessly transfer from one college to another college within the same program. Transfers could occur at the completion of year 1 or at the completion of year 2, without academic penalty or impact to completion time.

As this was the first of such agreements in Ontario, this project would serve to implement the 4 college-to-college Business Transfer agreements, engage participating stakeholders and provide a road map for other agreements of this nature.

The original goal of the project was to achieve the implementation through three key milestones, Management, Integration and establishing a method to Maintain/Sustain these agreements.

Management

The primary focus under management of the Pilot Implementation Project was ensuring the equitable, timely implementation of the agreements across the province. It should be well noted, the ONTransfer.ca site at the beginning of this project was in its infancy as it related to Transfer Agreements of this magnitude. At the same time, the Heads of Business HoB, agreements were being forged and signed, ONCAT was developing the ONTransfer.ca Pathways site. Since both were crafted independently of each other, the first goal was to ensure there would be a template for the crafting of future agreements. In addition, the communication of these agreements had been sporadic and required a defined communication framework to ensure all stakeholders were informed of agreements during their development.

Integration

The implementation project, spear headed by the Heads of Business needed to ensure a broad outreach to all stake holders, from Chairs, to Admissions Officers to Pathway Advisors to Program Coordinators. Through college workshops and the development of specific tools like; Curriculum Pathway guides, Presentations, Word documents and ongoing updates, each college began to explore their specific internal processes. Essentially ensuring each college had the tools necessary to interpret and implement the agreements as written.

Maintain/Sustainability

The ultimate goal for these and other agreements is their long term sustainability. It should be noted that had it not been for the reciprocity and enthusiasm of the Heads of Business, agreements of this nature may not have been forged. It will be that same commitment that will continue to ensure every effort will be taken so that no student will be disadvantaged, should they chose to transfer now and in the future.

As one of the first tasks undertaken was to establish the Terms of Reference for the HoB -Transfer Agreement Steering Committee (TASC), from both a sustainability and a “best practices” perspective, it is anticipated that the continued and ongoing work of this committee will be crucial to the future of this system-wide agreement and any further and incremental improvements in the processes needed to support system-wide transferability objectives. Also, in light of a key outcome of the first (2015) Business Educators Forum, “Coming Together on Common Ground” having been organized, TASC recognizes that the sustainability of the system-wide transfer agreements rests on the ongoing alignment of curriculum and the ability for the programming areas to continue to dialogue around shared outcomes.

Despite the tremendous strides that have occurred as it pertains to student mobility in Ontario, at the conclusion of this project, a significant number of outstanding Implementation Hurdles have been uncovered. Notwithstanding the enthusiasm of the HoB, many of these hurdles are beyond their scope and purview. Without immediate action taken to resolve these issues, the HoB agreements will be unsustainable within the year. With that strong possibility, the accompanying recommendations have been made.