

## 2020 Adventure Articulation Minutes

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**May 29, 2020 11AM – 2 PM**

**Location:** Online

**Chair:** Don Webster

### **Attending:**

Don Webster – College of the Rockies, Golden Campus  
Brian Bell – College of the Rockies, Fernie Campus  
Matt Kellow – Vancouver Island University  
Mike Neville – North Island College  
Dave Pinel – North Island College  
John Telford – Camosun College  
Terry Palechuk – Thompson Rivers University  
Sharman Learie - Thompson Rivers University  
Chris Dyck – Columbia Bible College  
Bruce Wilson – Capilano University  
Catherine Boniface - Capilano University  
Jaime Boulding - Canadian Outdoor Leadership Training  
Julia Tashiro - Canadian Outdoor Leadership Training  
Michael Foster – National Outdoor Leadership School

### **Regrets:**

Graham Vaughan – Capilano University

### **1. Welcome to members and guests (Don)**

### **2. Introductions (All)**

### **3. Review of agenda (Don)**

#### **Additions**

- Paying contracted instructors for cancelled courses
- Land use permits
- Institutional approval for course changes

### **4. Review of 2019 minutes (Don/All)**

**Accepted**

### **5. Program / Institutional reports (All)**

**Program numbers, trends and any risk management concerns:**

**College of the Rockies Golden Campus Don Webster**

Dave Wan program coordinator.

- Adventure Tourism Program, certificate and diploma.
- Lower than usual first year enrolment potentially due to marketing changes.
- Good numbers in second year.
- Enrolment on track for this year.
- Uncertainty for international student numbers.
- Increasingly seeing student mental health challenges in programs.

**Mountain Activities Skills Training (MAST) Fernie Campus Brian Bell**

- One year certificate up to 24 students.
- Enrollment lower this year.
- Numbers are on track for this year.
- No significant risk management issues prior to program shift to online in March.

**Capilano University Outdoor Recreation Program Catherine Boniface / Bruce Wilson**

Graham Vaughan Program Convenor

- Diploma currently has 16 students.
- Enrolment on track for September 2020.
- New program starting in Fall 2020, stretching back out over 2 years instead of 16 month accelerated program. Includes new courses and changes to skills course delivery.
- Program review completed this Spring.
- Successful field courses this year, no risk management issues.

**Thompson Rivers University Adventure Guide Program Terry Palechuk / Sharman Learie**

- Adventure programs full with 45 in certificate and 35 in diploma.
- Trends to younger students, 40 – 45% female students.
- Partnership with University in Beijing, successful. On hold for next year.
- Partner program in Iceland run successfully for several years.
- Risk management – more disclosure by students with mental health concerns. Support facilities on campus are in high demand.
- Diversity and inclusion module added to programming.
- Program vehicles using GeoTab – driver log.
- Programs have an assigned WCB Duty Officer, and requires daily check in from field staff.
- Land tenure renewal challenges.

**Columbia Bible College Emergency Rescue Technician Program Chris Dyck**

- Enrolment this year lower than normal.
- New Director of Admissions, numbers back on track for this fall.
- Good year, no risk management issues. Some weather challenges with road to Hemlock ski area closed.

### **Vancouver Island University Outdoor Recreation Matt Kellow**

- Non-credit Outdoor Recreation activity program has a large group of German students.
- Outdoor courses in Kinesiology degree program and Tourism programs are full.
- Risk management issues include student mental health concerns
- Land use concerns, with erosion of public access to land.

### **North Island College Adventure Guiding Programs Dave Pinel / Mike Neville**

- 16 students, 8 in certificate and 8 in year one of the Diploma.
- Numbers for next year look good pre June registration – however facing marketing challenges. Field skill options have been redesigned.
- Very successful Aboriginal Training Program involving 70 students from 27 nations over four years.
- Risk management concerns include student mental health, increase in students' dietary restrictions, concussions outside of program time impacting instructional time.

### **Canadian Outdoor Leadership Training / Strathcona Park Lodge Jamie Boulding / Julia**

- Operating for 44 years at Strathcona Park Lodge.
- Lower enrolment this year.
- Seeing student mental health challenges and physical ability challenges. Some requiring program modification.

### **Camosun College Post Degree Diploma John Telford**

- Numbers are up. Mainly due to word of mouth as this is fourth year of the program.
- Predominantly on-line program. Summer field courses are face to face.
- Mostly teachers. Mostly BC based students. Equal mix of male and female students.
- First trip is to Strathcona Park Lodge (program partnership) – facility based experience.
- Second field study is Clayoquot Sound sea kayak trip.

### **NOLS Michael Foster**

- 400 students in Pacific North West programming this past year.
- Wilderness Medicine numbers are up.
- Projected enrolment for summer and fall is strong.
- New president and executive – new leadership
- Risk management - mountaineering accident resulted in thorough review, but no changes recommended as all protocols were followed.

## **6. Institutional COVID 19 reports Programming and Planning for next academic year**

A number of common conservative strategies are being planned for adventure programming for Fall 2020. The responses to the pandemic are based on best practices put together by the group in the Spring.

### **Post-Secondary Institutions**

#### **Program level**

- Class size considerations. Small numbers are advantageous.
- Small groups essential for field courses.
- Classroom courses online.
- Adapting programming for ratios to allow social distancing (ACMG have recommendations).
- Solo camping, cooking and travel an option or building bubbles that can travel together, camp together and cook together.
- Employ methods to reduce contact contamination.
- Use personal protective equipment for required activities if unable to maintain 2m distance.
- Vehicle protocols – half capacity vehicles, mask use.
- Contracted drivers, or students driving themselves?
- Keeping programming local to facilitate evacuation and change if needed.
- Regional delivery rather than travelling to National and Provincial Parks and areas outside region.
- Spread offerings - less compressed schedule.
- Alternate scheduling of field and classroom courses, one week classroom (online), one week field.
- Shift field course delivery to later Winter or Spring.
- If using contracted skills instructors may default to industry providers to set standards for safe operation.
- This summer opportunity to reflect on success of practices of private operators and industry organizations who are running programs in the coming weeks.
- Communication is key with current and future students.
- Flexible options for co-op and practicum - reduced hours, alternate employment outside tourism.
- Update language in waiver to include infectious disease / pandemic.
- Be upfront with students about the uncertainty.
- Student health and safety emphasized as at the forefront of all programming.
- Fluctuating enrolment numbers expected as situation changes – up until program start in September.

### **Institutional Level**

- Watch and wait is strategy for administrators – slow to make firm decisions.
- Most programming online for fall.
- Institutions taking direction from public health directives.
- Trying to make the right decision in face of uncertainty.
- Concern for public institutions potentially facing an outbreak.
- Any face to face instruction has to be essential for achieving learning outcomes.
- Occupational Health and Safety resizing classrooms and establishing guidelines for any face to face instruction.

- Uncertain if students will register or defer.
- Questions around international students travel and participation.
- One positive outcome of adapting to new situation for fall is the opportunity to think about pedagogy - what we teach and why we teach it that way.

### **COLT / Strathcona Park Lodge**

- Spring semester cancelled.
- Fall semester – August start, may be able to go ahead with over 18 age group
- Youth / school group overnight camping is not allowed this summer.
- Residential setting for program would enable a bubble to be built for the full extent of the program with no outside contact.
- Base camp with individual rooms for first 14 days of program. No transport use in first 14 days.
- Use in house instructors and build an isolated bubble.
- Students sign a Covid health agreement. Agree to no outside contact.
- Change locations to stay local.
- Risk is a second wave and mid-program shut down.

### **7. Articulation Committee Chair– Discussion (All)**

- Don stepping down as Chair – going on parental leave.
  - Must be held by one of the articulation member institutions.
- Dave Pinel and Michael Neville (NIC) will be the new co-chairs.**

### **8. New Business**

#### **Concerns about pay for instructors for cancelled courses**

- COTR paid instructors for Spring courses that were cancelled. HR at COTR is not willing to do this in the future.
- TRU was not able to pay contractors despite lobbying to do so.
- NIC not in position to pay out contractors if courses cancelled.
- Challenge to have instructors lined up and committed to teach skills courses, but unable to offer signed contracts until certain that course will run.

#### **Land use permits**

- Discussion about permits for use of Crown Land. Whether program use could be classified as incidental for the purposes of approval, or whether tenure permits are required for all potential sites used around the province. Currently post-secondary programs are required to have tenure for Crown Land use.
- Some programs are able to use the tenured permits of private companies (e.g. NIC with Tofino Sea Kayaking)
- Also have agreements with First Nations (e.g. NIC - Ahousat user permit).
- Some programs extensively use National Parks (e.g. COTR in Fernie) and BC Parks (e.g. Capilano).

- The group support seeking provincial permission for incidental use of Crown Land.

**ACTION**

- Sharman to draft a letter on behalf of the group and circulate for feedback.
- Adventure articulation group to use this letter to initiate discussion with Victoria for collective permission for incidental Crown Land use.

**Institutional approval for course changes**

- General loosening of restrictions and steps in process for course changes under current Covid situation.
- Latitude to adapt learning outcomes, delivery methods and evaluation tools.

**Date of next meeting**

Late May / early June 2021