

# **Provincial Millwright Program 2021 Articulation**

November 8 & 9, 2021  
KPU Tech Campus  
5500 180 St Cloverdale, BC

## **Draft Minutes**

**Host:** Bob Davis (KPU)

**Attendance:**

Bryan Messer – BCIT & Articulation Chair  
Brian Buckley – BCIT (SLP)  
Sergio Jorquera – College of New Caledonia (Quesnel Campus)  
Adrian Smith - BCIT  
Matt Summer – Selkirk College (via Zoom)  
Russ Haugen – Northern Lights College (via Zoom)  
Bob Davis - KPU  
John Singh - KPU

**Guests:**

Cary Simpson - Millwrights Union 2736  
Vern Weber – ITA  
Robert Braun – Skills BC (BCIT)

### **Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Bryan Messer called the meeting to order.

Laura McDonald, Dean, Faculty of Trades and Technology, KPU, did a Territorial Acknowledgement and welcomed the Articulation members and guests.

Bob Davis addressed safety measures and logistics during the event.

Attendees did a round table to introduce themselves.

## **Approval of Agenda & last Meeting Minutes**

Bryan Messer presented the agenda and moved to approve it. Carried.

Bryan Messer shared the November 29, 2019, Articulation Minutes – approved with the following correction.

- Change Brian Buckley's job title from " Subject Liaison Person" to the proper term "System Liaison Person"

## **Review/ Update Action Items from 2019 meeting**

- Action Item: Regarding ITA funding of 30 hours to develop GAP training.
  - o This is Complete 100%
- Action Item: Bryan Messer to get these items (rigging) into the repository.
  - o Brian Myette stated that it has already been added.
    - Bryan Messer has checked and the content is in the repository.
  - o NEW Action Item: Bryan Messer will get directions on how to access the repository.
    - This was completed and an email with directions has been sent to all committee members.
- Action Item: Bryan Messer requests Articulation members to email him all email addresses for all Millwright Instructors in their department. He would like to create an updated email address list for all Millwright instructors in the province.
  - o This occasionally gets done. Since this meeting took place. 1 out of 3 times.
    - Action Item for committee members: when hiring new instructors, notify the Articulation Chair so they can be added to the email list.

## **Overview of the KPU's use of Moodle during COVID – Bob Davis**

### How did training continue through COVID?

- KPU used a hybrid training, face to face and online learning and is using Moodle and the Machine Tool Practices text book that can be imported to Moodle.
- Every course has student accessible Moodle content containing the objectives, resources, participants, assignments and grades.
- It takes time to set up everything but it has benefits for all. Moodle can be used for Foundation and for Apprenticeship.
- Other Schools are using similar systems, discussion went around this.

- KPU has used Moodle pre-COVID and then during COVID, we continue to use it in the current, face-to-face delivery. We assigned materials and created small groups to practice and discuss, this worked well.
- We tried moving to two days in campus and two days home but it didn't work and apprentices fell behind.

#### Discussion ensued

- All participants agree that the majority of apprentices they have spoken to prefer face to face learning.
- Bryan Messer shared that in informal conversation with groups of apprentices there is approximately 80% that prefer face to face delivery, 10% say that they like the convenience of online delivery and that it allowed them to stay on their apprenticeship timeline, 10% say they prefer face to face delivery.
- Bryan Messer stated that as a Department Head, he has encountered some pressure within the system (external to his institute) that education can be done online now.
- Bob Davis and Brian Buckley explained that in Trades there is a development involved and there is value on having a Faculty person or a Journeyperson in the shop. The lower levels need more face to face training than upper levels that have more theory.
- Brian Buckley highlighted the importance of e-learning in terms of using electronic tools to supplement learning.

#### *Short break*

#### **ITA Update - Vern Weber (presentation attached)**

##### Mandatory Trades

The Province has determined to start with 10 Trades to roll out a mandatory certification, Skilled Trades Certification (STC), these are in the following areas: Electrical, Mechanical, and Automotive. There is a Consultation going on around STC.

#### Discussion

- The group does not foresee that Millwright will become a mandatory trade.
- It is believed that no government body would take on the enforcement of Millwright as a mandatory trade as the job is quite vast and it would be time consuming and expensive to regulate.

## COVID

- Standard Level Exams (SLEs), were suspended during COVID and have been reintroduced on September 2021.
- Harmonized Level 3 exam was piloted on December 2020 at TRU, and still waiting for peer review.
- By the end of November proof of vaccination will be required for everyone coming to ITA offices to take part in workshops.

## Harmonization

- BCIT ran an extra online L1C → L2H Gap Training Course to move apprentices from non-harmonized to harmonized levels during COVID; however, participation was not as expected.
- The L1C → L2H Online course effectively extended the deadline for these student by 5 months.
- College of the Rockies created and ran three L2C→L3H courses. Attendance was also less than expected.
- ITA will contact the apprentices that are in this situation of transition and haven't received these courses.
- The number of apprentice apprentices remaining in CL is 230 among the different levels, active and inactive (we haven't heard from them in the last 18 months).
- There are enough seats available in BCIT's two remaining L4C-Online courses to put through all active apprentices needing this training as well as 20%(or more) of the inactive apprentices. If required BCIT is willing to convert one course to
- Vern will meet with Colleen Rogan from ITA, to talk about these remaining L4C apprentices.
- Vern explained that there are meetings planned at ITA to discuss what to do with apprentices how do not get through the transition plan in a timely manner.
- Vern was made aware that there were several requests for information which ITA did not provide. These include:
  - o Data regarding the length of time it is taking students to finish their Millwright apprenticeship.
  - o Millwright apprentice throughput during COVID and any backlogs.
- Vern stated he would get the information to us as soon as possible.

## Discussion

- Bryan Messer stated that ITA needs to have a firm end date to Harmonization. It is imperative they decide upon a course of action for apprentices (and employers) who do not complete the transition whether it be due to communication issues or ignorance.

- Institutes cannot continue to try to create and deliver transitional courses which do not have apprentices enrolling into them.
- It was questioned as to whether ITA should put restrictions or limits for apprentices to catch up in this gap.
- Bob Davis suggested that a central registration system for ITA could be helpful.
- Bryan Messer asked what the ITA's position was on sharing data that could help research and determine best practices.
  - o The ITA is open to share data within the limits of privacy. The Canadian Apprenticeship Forum has been involved in research and could have useful information as well.
- Discussion regarding testing apprentices, IP exams, how some students struggle with this and the possibility of a practical exam.

*Lunch break*

## **Robotics – All**

### Discussion

The purpose of the discussion was to gather information/ ideas around how the Robotics portion of the outline is being handled by training providers.

- Robotics was added at the RSOS workshop in March of 2016.
- At the RSOS workshop, requests were made to add complete robotics and PLC content to the RSOS. These requests were made by a business owner and factory manager.
- It was explained that the PLC content is beyond the scope of trade and the majority of the installation and mechanical side of robotics is already within the curriculum.
- The compromise was to include robotics officially and keep the scope of the content to terminology, installation, maintenance and troubleshooting.
- In reality, there is not much new content. It is mostly things already already in the outline.
- There is no prescribed reference book.
- Within the IP development process, BC recommended that there only be one question related on the IP exam regarding robotics.

**Action item:** John Singh to develop resources to address Line W1 Service Robotics and Automated Equipment, in a 6 weeks period.

## **Attracting Women to the Millwright Trade – Bryan Messer (presentation attached)**

Bryan Messer shared a PowerPoint presentation which was a summary of a conversation he had with Tamara Pongracz, Department Head, BCIT, Access- Women in Trades.

- Attracting women to the trades is actually not the issue, retention is.
- The workplace itself is the biggest factor for retention. Better retention comes from making an inclusive, diverse and comfortable workplace.
- There are many programs for women entering trades. A partial list was provided within the PPT.
- Tamara advises to get the message to extremely young females whenever possible.
- Committee members have no control over who employers hire, however, they can ensure inclusive, diverse and comfortable classrooms and shop spaces
- Committee members have some control over Institute owned courses and may use their influence to create spaces of inclusivity, diversity and comfort for ALL students.
- We need to realize that, as men with no specific training on the subject, we are not experts at attracting women to the trades nor how to make a classroom inclusive, diverse and comfortable.
- Do not be afraid to use available resources and reach out to those with experience.

### Discussion

- Carrey stated that the Millwright Union 2736 had one or two women apprentices in the past.
- In the last one or two years this has quadrupled and now they have 15% female participation
- In many cases women are outperforming men in the field.
- Brian Buckley stated he has taken a 2 1/2 hour course on this topic called “Be More Than a Bystander”. This training has very interesting statistics regarding women in the trades.
- Bob Davis suggested that we could bring something into the Provincial Outline as well.

Action item: Look into opportunities for training in the different levels of Programs. Next meeting, this could be one item of the agenda and bring a guest to talk about it, perhaps arrange for “Be more Than a Bystander” training for attendees.

### **Update Skills BC and Skills Canada - Robert Braun, BC Chairperson (presentation attached)**

Skills BC Competition: The goal is that youth become more skilled trade’s leaders.

- We are approaching to Schools to host the BC Competition.
- This commitment involves these requirements: space, equipment, time, judges, and capacity for around 4-6 competitors.
- Competition is planned for March-April 2022.
- National Competition is on May 2022 in Vancouver, and the World competition will be in Beijing, China, next year as well.
- The objective is to find the best candidate to represent BC at the Canadian competition.

- Winning the Canadian competition puts them on Team Canada and go to the World Competition.
- To go to the Worlds the student needs to be 23 years old or younger.
- Sergio shared his experience, and said it is a big commitment to guide and support the student but it was very satisfying.
- Robert said, an email went out to all the Schools to see who wants to host, and they are currently talking to TRU to see if they are willing to host.

**New business or extra discussion on any previous item.**

None.

**Articulation Chairperson - Bryan Messer**

- After five years as Articulation Chairperson, Bryan Messer would like to step back, opening the process to determine a new Articulation Chairperson.
- The Committee will accept nominations or volunteers for the position of Articulation Chairperson moving forward.
- Bryan asked for nominees.
  - o Sergio would like to nominate Bob Davis.
  - o Bob, asked for time to think about it and let the Committee know tomorrow.
- Due to the low attendance at the meeting, Bryan will send an email to all Committee members and ask for nominees. This will allow for email nominations from anyone not at the meeting.
- Election will be tabled for the end of tomorrow, Tuesday, November 9, 2021.

*Meeting adjourned for the day.*

**Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**MWM Project and others of importance - Tim Carson**

**Gap Analysis Workshop - Tim Carson**

- Tim Carson notified the Chair that he unexpectedly would not be able to attend the meeting.
- The attendees performed a GAP analysis of the rewritten Safety chapter comparing it to the Provincial Outline.
- Three items were noted to be added to the chapter

- Action item: Bryan Messer will write the material to fill the noted gaps. He will then send them to Tim Carson to have them inserted into the document.
  - o Material has been written and sent to Tim Carson as of Nov. 12, 2021

#### **Determine New Articulation Chairperson – Bryan Messer**

- No further nominations were received by the Chair.
- Bob Davis accepts his nomination and becomes the Millwright Articulation Committee Chairperson by acclamation.
- Bob and others thanked Bryan for his work over the last 5 years.
- Bryan stated he is proud of what has occurred getting through Harmonization and COVID (to date) and is glad the MWM project has a good start. He encourages the committee to keep running with the project.
- Bryan noted that involvement (attendance and input) in the committee is a hurdle moving forward and is hoping Bob has some ideas to address this in the future.
- As his last act as Articulation Chair, Bryan will compile all required documents and submit the minutes for this meeting.

*Meeting adjourned.*