

2022 Adventure Articulation Minutes

May 27, 2022, 12.30 PM – 4.30 PM

Location: Online

Chair(s): David Pinel

Minutes: John Telford

Attending:

David Pinel - North Island College
Chris Ladner – Capilano University
Yue-Ching Cheng – Langara College
John Telford - Camosun College
Bridget McClarty – Capilano College
Emma Courtney – Langara College
Darcy Mullen – NOLS Pacific Northwest
Sarah Osberg – College of the Rockies (MAST)
Terry Palechuck - Thompson Rivers University
Jamie Boulding – SPL
Julia Tashiro - SPL COLT Director
Don Webster – College of the Rockies (ATBO)

Regrets: Matt Kellow (VIU), Dave Wan - College of the Rockies, Chris Dyck – Columbia Bible College (no longer at Columbia)

1. Welcomes
 - a. Brief introduction of participants – Name/Affiliation and territorial acknowledgements/awareness
 - b. Review/adjust/accept agenda
 - accepted
 - c. Clarify any procedures or decision processes/items
 - Informal/conversational; vote/move when required
2. Review/adjust/accept last year's minutes – please ensure you've looked at the attached in advance so efficient, thank you.
 - Don and Bridget proposed and accepted minutes
3. Updates from BCCAT – please refer to Spring Newsletter:
<https://www.bccat.ca/pubs/Resources/ACUpdate202204.pdf>
 - No discussion or question arising
 - We'll continue to be responsive on a student-by-student basis, specific to program transfers

4. Check-ins/reports for 2020/21 (one person from each institution/org to provide a program report for this recent year, including enrolment, successes, issues, changes, updates, trends, risk management, etc.)

College of the Rockies (Golden Campus) – Don Webster

- 16 enrolled, lost 4 (20 max) from inability to find accommodation. Ended year with 16.
- Small 2nd year class of 8 from Covid intake year
- Success was that were able to run all courses, all in-person courses ran in-person, hybrid model also used.
- Attendance rates not so good this year – effects of Covid on patterns of attendance.
- Lacking a campus manager during the year which has now been filled
- Undergoing a program review this year, possibly involving an external party to assist
- Risk management – a few evacuations from trips this year. Significant evac from ski course after student injured in poor visibility. Looking carefully at incident for possible lessons to learn.
- International student enrolment has brought benefits to program

College of the Rockies (MAST program) – Sarah Osberg

- Sarah completed first year as program leader. 18 students started in fall, another joined late. All 19 have graduated. 18 is full cohort – good numbers.
- All courses and electives ran
- No major incidents or evacuated. One grid search to locate lost student during a solo experience. Minor vehicle bump. A dehydration incident that led to a hospital diagnosis.
- Course changes due to fires in September affecting locations
- Covid affected programming due to vaccination status of students
- Finished program review in 2021 and now working on recommendations

Thompson Rivers University Adventure Guide Program -Terry Palechuk

- Full enrollment. Slightly lower first year students due to lower staffing.
- 45% female participants
- Surviving Covid a win, though seemed more stressful than the previous year. More uncertainties around rapid testing. Mandatory rapid tests prior to all field courses. Not foolproof but is another layer of risk management.
- 50% in-person class attendance considered a good turnout
- Resiliency in students decreasing compared to previous years? Due to stresses of Covid? To be discussed within department as to how to address/manage
- Created strategic breaks for students during busy field program
- Incoming students have less experience than would have had in the past

- Every field program had a risk management evaluation element added (faculty evaluate students)

Capilano University Outdoor Recreation Program – Chris Ladner

- 17 students for upcoming year with a lot of applications
- Some students with English language competency not getting picked up/slipping through the cracks
- No Covid outbreaks during the year
- Covid mandates at learning locations were something to be aware of but did not result in being a barrier
- New course sequencing – skills courses in fall (Aug 22 start) and then classroom course condensed in Oct and Nov. Some pushback from students – younger students struggled with time management and workload management. More mature students found it worked well. Have fine tuned that sequence now.
- Prog review due 2025
- Risk management – one stove incident (wood fire stove from Canadian Tire). Lots of flames but no injuries.
- Trying hard to indigenize the program
- Trying to figure out how to manage polarization of study abilities of younger and more mature students
- 50th year of the program!

Camosun College Post Degree Diploma - John Telford

- Numbers last year very good – full and waiting list
- Numbers this year have collapsed after seeming good again – no obvious pattern
- 2 full courses from Sport Man and Kinesiology degrees
- Program review of PDD coming up
- Risk management – student medical forms

North Island College Adventure Guiding Programs - Dave Pinel

- Admin/Reg hiccup led to being 5-6 students down on incoming cohort which has budget implications
- Wrapped up last offering of Indigenous Ecotourism Training program in Oct 2021. No incoming cohort for next year
- Grant funded shorter duration kayak guide program to help address needs on north Vancouver Island. 9 of 10 students completed.
- Lots of courses used hybrid model (not hyflex) of teaching. Has been helpful for some aspects of teaching and program/course logistics
- NIC had new President this last year. Brought change, much good, and lots still settling out
- Adventure Tourism has been moved under Community Education and Training with other cost recovery programs

- Shout out to College of the Rockies graduates within kayak guides alliance whose contributions made the NI College kayak guides course possible
- Covid didn't present insurmountable challenges this past year
- Re-concussion incidents caused some issues for students being able to participate in some field courses
- Sailing course was finally possible again this past year after Covid restrictions previously

Canadian Outdoor Leadership Training / Strathcona Park Lodge - Julia Tashiro / Jamie Boulding

- Good enrollment. 3 cohorts across the year. Full enrollment with some loss during the year.
- Variety of students coming from BC and beyond – good for diversity
- All F2F since last spring. Mini practicum wasn't possible though – due to Covid restrictions so an outdoor risk management module was added
- All students this year are vaccinated
- Trends – polarization of students: adventure tourism/education career or just coming for a fun experience or just for personal growth. Trying to figure out how to negotiate different needs
- More weather challenges in the past year – seems an ongoing trend that it is more unpredictable
- Increase in students with undiagnosed mental health conditions and students who are willing to disclose mental health struggles. Seems to be more peer to peer empathy and support
- Lot of pressure on increasing wages and therefore finding enough staff
- Risk management: near miss on glacier course -knee gave out and slid but instructor was able to prevent anything serious occurring. Trend of students pushing themselves further than they should and burning out.

NOLS – Darcy Mullen

- 99% full this past summer, 22 courses ranging two weeks to 50 days. A lot of enrolment success. Fall was also very good for enrolment.
- Border and land management issues related to Covid are now diminishing
- Trends: expecting similar enrolment but maintaining field instructors is a challenge for a variety of reasons. Expecting to have to limit courses due to staffing rather than participant challenges
- Risk management – some routes changed due to forest fires or flooding or heat dome. Lots of dynamic risk management

Langara College – Yue-Ching Cheng and Emma Courtney

- Some challenges managing capacities of younger and more mature students
- Some issues with mental health challenges for students and finding ways to keep those students involved and supported
- Shift to a mixed mode of teaching to adapt to students' desires to learn differently

- Developing partnerships with international institutions through virtual media
 - Efforts to progress indigenization – developing relationships, increase indigenous recruitment and retention, curriculum and pedagogy
5. “Moving forward” updates (one person from each institution/org to report/update how things are taking shape for 2022/23 programming and onwards – from an institutional/org and program perspective)

College of the Rockies (Golden Campus) – Don Webster

- Increased push on indigenization

College of the Rockies (MAST program) – Sarah Osberg

- Hoping for full numbers by September
- Implementing new field assessment rubric
- More pre-course communications has been requested, eg. equipment
- Staffing – created field staff pay scale based on certification and experience this year with a pay raise.
- Working on indigenization. 2 indigenous students this past year.

Thompson Rivers University Adventure Guide Program -Terry Palechuk

- This fall is 30th year of program
- Some sabbaticals occurring this year that will need to be accounted for in programming
- Partnership with China currently on pause
- Icelandic partner recently decided not to commit beyond this current year – will be looking for another partner in Iceland
- All students participating in mental first aid course this coming fall
- Recently filled a tenure track position and looking to fill one more

Capilano University Outdoor Recreation Program – Chris Ladner / Bridget McClarty

- Redefined convener role – now shared.
- Students fill in med forms, etc online as an assignment. Can be sent to instructors’ phones
- Questions about accommodations for students in order to allow greater accessibility to programs

Camosun College Post Degree Diploma - John Telford

- Working on a recruitment/advertising strategy to avoid future student decreases

North Island College Adventure Guiding Programs - Dave Pinel

- Navigated whether allowed to ask students if they are vaccinated or not and interesting to note the different regulations that different institutions were held to
- Program review coming up
- Ongoing possibilities of partnering with VIU and Strathcona Park Lodge
- College has changed learning platform – Blackboard to Brightspace
- Using class ambassador for communicating important generic messages to students

Canadian Outdoor Leadership Training / Strathcona Park Lodge - Julia / Jamie

- Enrolment looking good for fall, 50/50 indig and non-indig students
- 7 accepted for spring but no fees committed yet
- Prices increased for next year (2023) and looking to expand instructor pool – likely partly through graduates from the COLT program

NOLS – Darcy Mullen

- Trying to get instructor core expanded. Hoping for board approval to increase instructor pay to help with this
- Expecting to need to manage challenges of instructors contracting Covid as everything opens up more and increased infection rates

Langara College – Yue-Ching Cheng / Emma Courtney

- More students electing to pursue program part-time which provides some challenges
- Conversations in the College around micro-credentials and assisting students in gaining post-secondary credits
- Received grant on work integrated learning so looking at how to implement something with that

6. Items arising from check-in/current state and moving forward updates

- Experience level of incoming students decreasing?
- Table of items arising and program tools/tactics itemized in [Googledoc](#)
- Weather events – less predictable than were able to assume seasonally in the past, more disruptive/severe also
- Instructor pay – some pay raise pressure coming from private school pay scales. Part of a bigger conversation about pay and conditions in the sector; each program navigating this differently

7. Best practices for applicant screening, intake, and prep (see [Googledoc](#))

8. Updating shared documents and tools update

9. Updating Adventure Core Curriculum

- Is there a need to update the document in light of indigenization, EDI, diversification of post-secondary education? Would representatives of Capilano and TRU, as largest institutions in terms of students, be willing to look at drafting something?
<https://www.nic.bc.ca/pdf/bc-adventure-tourism-core-curriculum.pdf>
- Forward to next year's agenda, or tackle through an interim meeting if useful
- Still a relevant document and reference; might just need to be freshened?

10. Identify/elect chair/co-chair for next 2-year term

- John Telford (Camosun) to work with as yet unidentified other (likely from Capilano or TRU) as co-chairs; Chris Ladner and Terry Palechuk to suggest who from CapU or TRU might be a good fit for succession and 'new' input/ownership of the conversation

Other new business

Date of next meeting

Late May / early June 2023