

Economics Articulation Committee

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL on ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFERS (BCCAT)

Douglas College, New Westminster

May 2, 2022

Meeting attendees:

Degree-granting institutions:

SFU:	Fernando Aragon	econuchr@sfu.ca
TRU:	Peter Tsigaris	ptsigaris@tru.ca
UBC:	Anichul Khan	anichul.khan@ubc.ca
UBCO:	Wei Dai	wei.dai@ubc.ca
UNBC:	Liam Kelly	liam.kelly@unbc.ca
UVic:	Lijun Zhang	ljzhang@uvic.ca
UFV:	Vladimir Dvoracek (SLP)	vlad.dvoracek@ufv.ca
	Batu Michael	Michael.Batu@ufv.ca
VIU:	Jean-Louis Rosmy	rosmy.jeanlouis@viu.ca

All other institutions:

Acsenda School of Management:	Catherine Kang	Catherine.Kang@Acsenda.com
Alexander College:	Laurel Xiao	l.xiao@alexandercollege.ca
BCIT:	Eddy Fung	Eddy_Fung@bcit.ca
Camosun College:	Narine Grigoryan (Chair)	GrigoryanN@camosun.ca
Capilano University:	Chieko Tanimura	ctanimur@capilanou.ca
Coast Mountain College:	absent	
College of New Caledonia:	absent	

College of the Rockies:	James Wishart	wishart@cotr.bc.ca
Columbia College:	Stéphane Deseau	sdeseau@columbiacollege.ca
Coquitlam College:	Sonya Plater	splater@coquitlamcollege.com
Corpus Christi College	Josiah Akinsanmi	jakinsanmi@corpuschristi.ca
Douglas College:	Kevin Richter	richter@douglascollege.ca
	Rosilyn Teng (recording secretary)	tengr1@douglascollege.ca
	Toni Xiang	xiangh@douglascollege.ca
	Jeff Ward	wardj@douglascollege.ca
	Charles Odoom	OdoomC@douglascollege.ca
	Michael Solyom	solyom@douglascollege.ca
Emily Carr University	absent	
Fairleigh Dickinson University:	Lu Wang	luwang3@fdu.edu
Fraser International College	absent	
Kwantlen Polytechnic University:	absent	
Langara College:	Bryan Breguet	bbreguet@langara.ca
LaSalle College Vancouver	absent	
New Caledonia:	absent	
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology:	absent	
North Island College:	Othman Bennis	Othman.Bennis@nic.bc.ca
Northern Lights College:	Issoufou Soumaila	isoumaila@nlc.bc.ca
Okanagan College:	Michael Sale	msale@okanagan.bc.ca
Quest University:	Halia Valladares Montemayor	Halia.Montemayor@questu.ca

Royal Roads University:	absent	
Selkirk College:	absent	
Trinity Western University:	Tracy Stobbe	tracy.stobbe@twu.ca
University Canada West:	Paul Hedru Mokhtar Tabari	paul.hedru@ucanwest.ca mokhtar.tabari@myucwest.ca
Vancouver Community College:	absent	
Yorkville University	Iqtidar Shah	ishah@yorkvilleu.ca
Yukon University:	absent	
Athabasca University	absent	

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 am, with Narine Grigoryan as Chair and Vladimir Dvoracek as System Liaison Person. Vladimir Dvoracek had made his introductory remarks with territorial acknowledgement earlier in the day. Narine Grigoryan expressed her gratitude to Douglas College for hosting, to the representatives for attending, to the publishers - Pearson, Cengage and McGraw Hill.

2. Introductions/welcome:

Participants introduced themselves by indicating their name, institution and if they were a new participant or guest. Narine Grigoryan provided instructions for voting.

- **New Participants**

- Fernando Aragon, Simon Fraser University
- Catherine Kang, Acsenda School of Management
- Halia Valladares Monetmayor, Quest University
- Tony Xiang, Douglas College
- Jeff Ward, Douglas College
- Charles Odoom Douglas College
- Rosilyn Teng, Douglas College

- **Guests**
 - Anna Tikina, Director, Research and Admissions, BCCAT
 - Bradley Krause, Western Community College
 - Chris Ragan, Max Bell School of Public Policy, McGill University
- **Regrets**
 - Jonathan Buttle, Selkirk College

3. Approval of Agenda and Any Additional Items:

No additional items were added to the agenda. A minor mistake was noted in the agenda that James Wishart is Vice Chair not Co–Chair.

Motion: to approve the agenda of the 2022 Economics Articulation Meeting with a change from “Co-Chair” to “Vice-Chair” in item #12.

Moved: Narine Grigoryan; Seconded: Peter Tsigaris. Carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes of the Economics Articulation Committee online meeting on May 3, 2021:

There was a mention of email addresses not being current; the Vice Chair noted that a new system for managing email addresses is forthcoming. On page 3 and page 11 change the spelling of Tracy Stobbe, no “e” in Tracy. Ensure that the Vice Chair is in the minutes and not Co-Chair. Ensure that “Trinity Canada West” is changed to “University Canada West” in institutional reports.

Motion: to approve the minutes of the 2021 Economics Articulation Meeting with the above mentioned changes.

Moved: Tracy Stobbe; Seconded: Issoufou Soumaila. Carried unanimously.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – review of actions items:

In the 2021 articulation meeting, Mike Winsemann reported on Barriers to Articulation Maintenance. The suggestion was to impose articulation expiry dates. Institutions would be reminded of how old their agreements were. Narine requested an update from the BCCAT representative, Anna Tikina.

Anna reported that the decision is to set the expiry date at 10 years. BCCAT is working on an Institutional dashboard where the contact person receives a notification when agreements are getting closer to expiry. BCCAT made this decision to maintain the currency of the articulation agreements and the BC Transfer Guide. A reminder will be sent to the institution highlighting the course(s) that are expiring. If there are changes to the course, then the institution will be asked to send the course for re-articulation.

Narine requested feedback from the committee.

Members wanted to know why courses had to expire after 10 years. Sending courses in for articulation is a great deal of work for departments, that seems unnecessary.

Anna's response was that a student might question whether or not an agreement is valid if it was originally articulated in 1999, for example. The implication being that students might be leery about taking a course that might not transfer. Further to this was the idea that some institutions might not accept transfer credit for courses that have been articulated more than twenty years ago (e.g., courses that use the latest technology).

Anna emphasized that BCCAT recognizes that in some areas courses are changing while in other areas the courses are very stable; Economics is very stable. To ensure consistency BCCAT is asking for updates to ensure the courses are current, consistent, and relevant.

Sonya Plater asked if institutions will be notified of updates and are there going to be distinctions between minor updates for courses versus a new course?

Members noted that putting a course back through the whole articulation process when nothing had changed versus a new course is a very different process and hoped that the system would take this into account.

It was noted that learning outcomes are not changed by the department without approval of the College/University. When learning outcomes are changed through the internal governance process, it triggers a new articulation. The point of an arbitrary anniversary date seems redundant with this process already in place.

The Chair asked if this decision was made by BCCAT based on observations?

Anna did not have the background information.

Members can send notes to the Chair, and she will send them on to BCCAT for further questions, comments, and responses.

6. Report from System Liaison Person, Vladimir Dvoracek:

“The Financial Impact of a Marginal Student, by Program and Fee Type”

Vladimir presented a model that calculates the marginal costs and revenues for students, by fee type, by program. The model takes each individual student registration in each section, and aggregates them by program, both by FTE and by headcount. This model allows an institution to see how marginal changes in student enrolments will affect their bottom line. An important aspect of this calculation is that the domestic Ministry grant is fixed, so the marginal revenue of a domestic student is roughly one quarter that of an international student.

He presented some sample data showing that the marginal revenue is less than marginal cost for a domestic student, while the opposite is true for an international student. The data also show that programs with labs, such as the Bachelor of Science, and programs with small classes, such as Theatre, are more expensive than programs like the Bachelor of Arts. The system needs reflect on the incentives and constraints this implies.

Discussion:

- What message is this sending to the institution? Should they go with a sessional versus a regular faculty? Vladimir noted that the model provides the financial impact of policy decisions, but it does not make direct policy decisions or even recommendations. Decision makers can use such models to inform their decisions about enrolments and programming.
- Was the mode of delivery included? A: No, the mode of delivery was not included.
- Committee members may share the methodology but not specific numbers that were shared.
- Questions to be sent directly to Vladimir Dvoracek.

7. Economics Articulation Committee Moodle Site, James Wishart

James presented the Moodle site. The Economics Articulation Moodle Site can be accessed through <https://moodle.bccat.ca>. Members wanting to access the Economics site must first register an account with BCCAT and then find the [Economics “course”](#).

The site will be primarily a repository for institutional reports and minutes from meetings. This is a public site. A password will be added to the site to prevent “lurkers” from joining the site.

The Chair and Vice Chair will discuss the maintenance of the email list.

8. Report from BCCAT, Anna Tikina

A brief description of BCCAT and its purpose was presented. It helps 66 different articulation committees to transfer courses and programs between institutions. All public and a few private institutions in BC and two out-of-province institutions (Yukon University & Athabasca University).

Spring Update (included in the meeting package):

Prior to COVID, the Joint Annual Meetings (JAM) included the Chairs of the Articulation Committees, the System Liaison Persons and institutional contact persons. With the switch to virtual mode anyone can attend if they register. The last meeting included topics of academic integrity and the BCCAT transfer guide. 21 videos are online on the - BCCAT YouTube Channel; individuals are invited to explore the presentations.

BC Transfer Guide Update:

11 post-Secondary institutions have transferred their non-BC transfer agreements to BCCAT so students may search between institutions and courses from outside the province and country. Adult Basic Education and EAL are now incorporated in the BC Transfer Guide.

Defining Course in the BC Transfer Guide:

The BC Transfer Guide was traditionally bidirectional, BCCAT is now multidirectional in terms of transfer in comparison to 50 years ago. Institutions are now recognized as being both sending and receiving institutions. A committee is working on definitions of courses to determine what should, and what should not, be included in the BC Transfer Guide. The committee is now preparing a report and getting feedback from stakeholders.

Reverse Transfer Project:

This is slightly different from reciprocal transfer and is widespread in the United States. BCCAT is working on this issue as well. For students who have transferred from a community college to a 4-year degree granting college, and then transfer courses back from the 4-year institution to complete the Associate degree from the Community College. BCCAT is examining institutional, sectoral, and students' interest in this issue. Additional information can be found [here](#).

Articulation Meeting Funding:

Moving out of the online articulation meetings, Anna reported that about half the committees are still meeting online (29), 9 are hybrid and 12 are face-to-face. The BCCAT website outlines the position that committees are expected to plan to minimize unnecessary expenses. This implies that committees are to make their own decisions on the format of the meeting. The BCCAT position has not changed and BCCAT has been in touch with the Ministry to highlight the importance of the work of the articulation committees. BCCAT is supportive of the various committee's decision regarding the format of meetings. BCCAT encourages accessible meetings (e.g. hybrid).

The funding for articulation meeting issue was raised as it has affected members wishing to attend this meeting where their institutions did not offer institutional funding and advised members to attend online. Since there was no online option, these members had to pay out of pocket for their expenses to attend the in-person meeting. It was noted that there is a historical tradition for each institution to fund at least one representative to each articulation meeting. Many participants pointed out that they had been told it is a requirement to attend. The Chair requested more clarity to be provided by BCCAT and the Ministry. There was a discussion of how to move the issue forward.

Call for Proposals:

Proposals deadline has been extended until the end of May. BCCAT advised that we share the call for proposals with anyone who may be interested. Current research topics include Pathways from Upgrading Programs to Further Post-Secondary; Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI) & Admissions Practices; Exploring Indigenous Ways of Knowing & BCCAT's Approach to Research; and Online Delivery Post-Pandemic Trends & Intentions. Information is available at <https://www.bccat.ca/spotlight/CFP2022>

9. Presentation of Institutional Reports:

Narine Grigoryan reminded that all institutional reports were merged and shared with the members prior to the meeting. Due to time constraints, she asked that the institutional representatives emphasize the most important points in their reports.

Institutional reports in full are posed in Moodle site.

10. Back to School – Post-COVID Challenges in Post-Secondary Institutions:

HyFlex:

The idea is to divide the class into two groups, those students who want to come to class, and those who do not want to come to class. One member volunteered at Camosun in Economics, there is currently no appetite to continue. This is a delivery method has with high workload.

Assessment issues:

There was open discussion about online assessment, techniques for dealing with access CHEGG other sites where students get answers. Representatives should look for the assessment items that might be on the [CHEGG site](#), and make a formal takedown request. Ideally one should check before an online exam.

Members and participants discussed techniques for conducting online assessment that included breaking up the exam into segments of 20 minutes long, oral exams, 30 seconds to 60 seconds per question and low stake exams.

Wordtune and Speed write are sites where students upload a whole paper, and it is rephrased and Turn It in will not detect it.

Members discussed the role of an educator and how policing fit or did not fit into the role. It was stated that the primary role of faculty is to find fair methods of assessment rather than meting out punishment for transgressions.

Action Item: It is the responsibility of the Committee members to bring this discussion to the attention of their institutions.

Online courses:

There was a suggestion to create a platform where students can find out where the courses are offered online. There are some search costs. There was an idea that BCCAT would have this information.

11. Any Other Business:

None.

12. Election/Re-Election:

SLP:

Narine Grigoryan asked Vladimir Dvoracek if he is willing to continue serving the role of System Liaison Person. He said he is.

Motion: to re-appoint Vladimir Dvoracek as System Liaison Person for another year.

Moved: Stéphane Deseau; Seconded: Michael Battu. Carried unanimously.

Chair:

Narine Grigoryan expressed gratitude for members entrusting her with the Chair role for the past few years. She said she is stepping down and calling for other members to step up for this important role.

Bryan Breguet from Langara College was nominated as Chair of BC Economics Articulation Committee for two years. Narine Grigoryan asked Bryan if he accepts this nomination. He said he does.

Motion: to appoint Bryan Breguet as Chair of BC Economics Articulation Committee for two years.

Moved: Kevin Richter; Seconded: Chieko Tanimura. Carried unanimously.

Vice Chair:

Narine Grigoryan acknowledged James Wishart's work over the past year and reviewed the discussion from previous years regarding the Vice Chair and the succession planning into the Chair. Narine Grigoryan asked James Wishart if he is willing to continue serving the role of Vice Chair. He said he is.

Motion: to re-appoint James Wishart for another year as Vice Chair.

Moved: Tracy Stobbe; Seconded: Stéphane Deseau. Carried unanimously.

13. Format of future articulation meetings. Hospitality fee.

Hospitality Fee:

Narine Grigoryan summarized the rationale of the hospitality fee to help institutions host the event. Kevin Richter highlighted the importance of the fee and the fact that the Dean of Commerce and Business at Douglas College was very supportive of this year's meeting. Sonya Plater noted that attendance at the Business meeting is free.

The hospitality fee has been questioned each year by BCCAT and by other institutions. The hospitality fee covers less than half of the expenditures associated with the meeting. The costs include breakfast, coffee breaks, lunches, dinners, speaker fees, speaker transportation costs. In some cases, the fee covers the cost of the hosting location.

The hospitality fee of \$100 has not been raised for several years. There was a discussion of the amount to be raised and alternative meeting formats were discussed, for example, a self-funded dinner.

Motion: to raise hospitality fee for the 2023 meeting to \$110.

Moved: James Wishart; Seconded: Michael Battu. Carried unanimously.

Format:

Stéphane Deseau, Halia Valladares Montemayor and others mentioned the importance of a face-to-face meeting. James Wishart commented on the value of the discussions over coffee, lunch, and dinner with colleagues. The work continues over the course of the two days. The social value of the committee was considered very important.

Sonya Plater mentioned that the meeting is always the first day of classes at Coquitlam College and so an online or hybrid meeting would be preferable.

Motion: to have the 2023 BC Economics Articulation Committee Meeting in person.

Moved: James Wishart; Seconded: Michael Battu. Carried unanimously.

14. Topics for round table discussion/Interactive sessions/presentations:

Below are the suggested topics for next year's meeting:

- Curriculum Indigenization
- Climate Change
- Pedagogy
- Economic literacy versus principles
- Assessment

15. Next meeting:

College of the Rockies and Langara College have expressed interest in hosting the meeting but will need to consult with their institutions.

Location: College of the Rockies or Langara College (pending)

Date: May 1-2, 2023 (tentative)

16. Closing remarks:

Narine Grigoryan expressed her appreciation of the host institution faculty, especially Kevin Richter. She thanked members for support of her during the past year. She has enjoyed serving the committee in her role as the Chair.

Vladimir Dvoracek spoke how Narine has gone above and beyond in role as Chair, in continuing as chair for an additional two years, and finally, in making her own way to this meeting. These comments were met with a resounding applause.

Kevin Richter thanked the members for attending and highlighted the accomplishments for the two days.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm.