

## ECONOMICS ARTICULATION MEETING

### BUSINESS MEETING

#### COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES

MAY 1, 2023

#### Attendees:

Laura Lamb (TRU)	Kevin Richter (Douglas College)
Nancy Carson (TRU)	Chieko Tanimura (Capilano University)
Tracy Stobbe (TWU)	Issoufou Soumaila (Northern Lights College)
Narine Grigoryan (Camosun College)	Moktar Tabari (University Canada West)
Laurel Xiao (Alexander College)	Sonya Platter (Coquitlam College)
Joshua F. Boitnott (Corpus Christi College)	David Scoones (University of Victoria)
Michael Sale (Okanagan College)	Lu Wang (Farleigh Dickinson University)
Khan Jahirul Islam (UBC-O)	Bryan Breguet (Langara College-Chair)
Fernando Aragon (SFU)	James Wishart (College of the Rockies-Host)
Tony Mookerjee (Yorkville University)	Stéphane Deseau (Columbia College-Recording secretary)
Brad Krause (Western Community College)	

#### Regrets:

UBC-V

VIU

NIC

BCIT

#### 1. Call to order

Breguet called the meeting to order at 10:30. Breguet thanked people for attending and thanked Wishart for hosting and organizing the meeting. Breguet shared with the audience his concerns about the absence of a representative from UBC-V. [Wishart had given the territorial acknowledgment earlier in the morning].

#### 2. Introduction/Welcome

See list of attendees.

Vlada Dvoracek (UFV-SLP) and Anna Tikina (BCCAT) joined the meeting by video link.

### **3. Approval of agenda/Addition or change to agenda**

**Motion:** To approve the proposed agenda without change or addition.

Moved: Lam; seconded: Stobbe. Carried unanimously.

### **4. Approval of previous meeting minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the Minutes from the 2022 Economics Articulation Meeting as submitted.

Moved: Sale; seconded: Soumaila. The motion passed with 1 abstention (Lam), and no vote against.

### **5. Business arising/Review of action items**

Breguet suggested that, in light of the return to in-person teaching for most courses in all institutions, the discussion on students using internet-based tutors and ancillary resources (such as Chegg and Course Hero) had become less relevant and could be bundled with the discussion about AI issues scheduled for later. Breguet made the same suggestion about the discussion on hybrid/flex courses.

### **6. Report from the System Liaison Person (Dvoracek)**

Dvoracek presented research conducted at UFV on “Instructional method analysis: Fill rate, student grade, waitlist, and student satisfaction”. Dvoracek noted that the pandemic presented a useful natural experiment with 3 distinct periods: before the pandemic, the pandemic, and after the pandemic.

The research divided courses into 4 instructional methods: online asynchronous, online synchronous, blended (some classes in-person, some classes online), and fully in-person. The variables measured included (i) fill rate and waitlist for courses by instructional method, (ii) student grades measured by the mean and median grade in a course, pass or fail, and grade distribution, (iii) student self-reported satisfaction.

Whereas in the Fall 2020 about 97% of courses were online, by the Fall 2022 that percentage had fallen to about 26% and 60% in-person. For the Fall 2022, the percentage of in-person course was about the same regarding of the course level (100, 200, 300, or 400).

For the Fall 2022, the fill rate was highest for online asynchronous courses and lowest for in-person courses. The pattern (higher fill rate the more online a course is) is consistent across semesters and across levels.

Grades, as measured by mean and median, seem to have remained pretty stable over the 6 semesters surveyed. If one considers the instructional method, over 3 semesters surveyed, online synchronous courses achieve the highest average whereas there is no clear pattern for the lowest average. However, differences between highest and lowest average are not large. If one considers success rate,

online courses (whether synchronous or asynchronous) achieved highest success rate whereas blended courses achieved lowest success rate. However, yet again, the differences in success rate are not huge. Finally, looking at grade distribution, the highest proportion of A's is achieved in online courses whereas the lowest proportion of A's is achieved in in-person courses. This time however, the differences are large.

Looking at the length of waitlist, it appears students seem to prefer online courses. Though there were fewer online sections, these online sections represented a larger share of the waitlist.

Students expressed higher satisfaction for courses taught in-person and lowest satisfaction for course taught online asynchronously.

Dvoracek agreed to share the slides with attendees of the Economics Articulation meeting. In the research, Dvoracek also looked at differences between domestic and international students, and split by departments. Student composition may have changed during the pandemic. Vocational and developmental courses have different student demographics. There was no adjustment by syllabus. Dvoracek also noted there was no way to control for academic integrity issues (read: cheating) for online courses. In conclusion, Dvoracek noted that students may take an online course because it is the only option available. The research may also be used to do back-casting.

## **7. Report from BCCAT (Tikina)**

Tikina presented recent updates from BCCAT.

- i. Reciprocity tool
- ii. Dashboard: released last spring, the dashboard allows institutions and departments to track articulation requests.
- iii. BC Transfer Guide widget: the widget allows institutions to create their own transfer guide on their own website.
- iv. International equivalencies: BCCAT has established 80,000 international equivalencies with courses taught in foreign institutions.
- v. BCCAT website: the BCCAT website will be updated in the near future. So will the handbook on how to articulate a course.

Tikina talked about the latest JAM (Joint Annual Meeting) held in a hybrid format on November 3-4, 2022, and in which 300 people participated. The next JAM session is scheduled for November 2-3, 2023. The first day will be online only whereas the second day will be hybrid.

BCCAT has its own YouTube channel to enable institutions to showcase themselves.

Recent publications by BCCAT:

- i. Student data on race, ethnicity, and ancestry
- ii. Stranded credits
- iii. Hitting the reset button
- iv. 2019 Survey of mobile students

Tikina answered questions from the audience.

- i. She clarified there is no expiry date on course articulation agreements. However, a receiving institution may occasionally ask for a course to be re-articulated. To encourage institutions

to stay up to date, BCCAT sends institutions a reminder when a transfer agreement is nearing its 5-year anniversary.

- ii. Instructors are encouraged to sign up to the BCCAT newsletter where information about JAM sessions are posted.
- iii. Breguet read from an email he received from the Director of Undergrad studies at the Vancouver School of Economics declining to attend this year's Economics Articulation Meeting and asked whether BCCAT had received similar comments from other UBC departments. Tikina will follow up with UBC-V.

[Morning session adjourned at 11:45. Afternoon session resumed at 1:00].

## **8. Presentation of institutional reports**

- i. College of the Rockies: new dean. Enrolment up a bit.
- ii. Corpus Christi: enrolment down a little in Economics, but course offerings are up. Still waiting for final approval of merger with St Mark's College.
- iii. Alexander College: Significant increase in enrolment overall, but a small fall in Economics. New offering: Pre-Principles course. Increased Math pre-requisite to reduce failure rate at 100-level Econ courses. Question to the audience: does your institution enforce class attendance?
- iv. Camosun College: enrolment is alright, though some 200-level courses have been cancelled which had a negative effect on students transferring to UVic. Online offerings still account for 25-30% of all course offerings. School of business is developing a new BBA on socially responsible management. Econ 315 (Economics of Sport Management) is a required course for the Sport Management Program.
- v. Trinity Western University: 500 students in the School of Business. A handful of upper-level courses have been cancelled. New building soon. Finally streaming Micro-economics before Macro-economics.
- vi. Thomson Rivers University: Enrolment is back to pre-covid levels. Some new course offerings. Approval of a post-bac program is in progress. Economics is a service provider to the School of Business. There are concerns about the number of Econ courses to be included in the core of a Business program. A retention program to monitor and help students with poor performance has been put in place; this program provides extra review sessions before exams.
- vii. Langara College: Stable enrolment. Large increase in international students, largely from Punjab. There are plans to diversify intake of international students. Between 15% to 20% of the courses are online, with a higher percentage for 2<sup>nd</sup> year courses. Most instructors prefer to teach in-person. Project: course on Globalization, but it needs to be indigenized before being offered. A review is being conducted by indigenization consultants.
- viii. Northern Lights College: the acting-president has been formally named president. Overall enrolment is stable, but the composition is changing with fewer domestic students and more international ones. Economics is a service provider to other programs. NLC is offering a survey course. Question: is the survey course sufficient to meet micro/macro requirements for transfer at other institutions? Expanding offerings at the Chetwynd campus. Planning to offer more Econ courses online.

- ix. Capilano University: The Economics Dept is facing a large influx of international students, leading to the addition of 7 Econ sections for the summer semester. A similar increase is expected for the fall semester. This increase may also affect Science and business programs. They have developed 7 upper-level courses for the PPE degree; but still awaiting Ministry approval.
- x. Douglas College: Stable enrolment. All summer sections are full, some with considerable waitlists. Staff-wise: one retirement, one hiring. New course offering: The Canadian Economy, geared to satisfy light Econ requirement in some programs. How will this course transfer? New building is in progress.
- xi. Western Community College: Started a new degree last year. January was the beginning of the first regular full-term, with 100 students. 200 international students are expected for the summer. Economics courses are offered at the diploma level. Space is in short supply and WCC is actively looking for a new to expand. Also needed: people with administrative skills.
- xii. Columbia College: Stable enrolment. The Principal and the Vice-Principal-Operations are both retiring this summer within weeks of one another. The position of Principal has already been filled internally (pending society approval).
- xiii. Yorkville University: 2 compulsory Econ courses, the syllabi of which have been revamped. Use free online resources. Enrolment is up, with about 2000 students in BC. Head office is in Fredericton (NB). Developing an Associate of Arts degree.
- xiv. Simon Fraser University: Declining enrolment in Economics. Hired 2 instructors last year. Have gone through an exercise of identifying educational goals. Trying to update course content to make them more relevant to students. Lowering the CGPA to declare a major in Econ from 2.6 to 2.5 was a time-consuming and arduous endeavour. SFU receives a lot of international students from Fraser International College (FIC). FIC students mostly come from China (PRC). Wondering whether Economics is becoming less popular with students. SFU is having trouble recruiting faculty, in part due to uncompetitive wages.
- xv. University of British Columbia-Okanagan: No major change. Stable enrolment.
- xvi. Okanagan College: New dean. The Associate dean is retiring. Hiring a full-time term position.
- xvii. Farleigh Dickinson university: Celebrating their 15-year anniversary in Vancouver. Successfully passed DQAB. Launched a Centre on mental health study during the pandemic. 4 campuses in England, Canada and the US. New Master's degree in Computer Science. Noticed a decline in undergrad enrolment. Trying to launch an Associate of Arts degree.
- xviii. University of Victoria: Despite the decline in enrolment, made some hirings. Some retirements are expected. All classes are in-person mostly because of academic integrity issues. The housing shortage in Victoria makes recruiting challenging. Working on differentiating the B.Sc. degree from the B.A. degree. The B.Sc. degree would be geared toward graduate studies whereas the B. A. would include more econometrics. The Co-op program is making some changes to incite students to apply sooner. The B.A. degree currently requires taking 2 Economic History courses.
- xix. Coquitlam College: No change.
- xx. University Canada West: New Econ course for MBA program. UCW is growing, and may have become the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest university in BC. Created a Centre for Teaching Excellence. Encourages the use of OER textbooks and Lyrix. Two new programs: Master's degree of Entrepreneurship and Master's degree of Marketing.

[Coffee break: 2:45-3:00]

## **9. Roundtable discussion**

- i. Partner institutions outside of Canada: Camosun College, FDU, TWU, TRU Dougals College reported having partnership agreements with foreign institutions (mostly in the PRC, some in Europe, very few in India). These partnerships offer the opportunities for BC-based instructors to teach abroad. Most partnerships are about teaching rather than researching.
- ii. ChatGPT: it was noted that for students, ChatGPT is essentially making the cost of cheating 0, but for the instructors, the methods to detect cheating are little different from those used in the past. Still detecting cheating remains labour-intensive. Is using ChatGPT different from hiring someone to write a term-paper? Is research skill still a skill worth teaching? What are your department's educational goals? Turn-it-in has an AI tracker. How much policing are instructors willing to do? Or should teaching be revamped? ChatGPT may improve the writing but not the critical thinking. How to test students then? By redefining assignments? ChatGPT is one more form of cheating. Charging a student is time-consuming, so much so that some instructors may prefer not to make a charge in the first place. During the pandemic, Cap U put in place a Centre for Teaching Excellence where students charged with cheating are referred to. There, they are educated about cheating rather than punished. Final words: Ultimately, instructors will have to adapt.

## **10. Other business**

None.

## **11. Election or re-election of chair, co-chair and SLP**

Since last year, the Chair is elected for 2 years. Therefore, there is no need for an election this year. Wishart was acclaimed co-chair for another year.

Dvoracek, in his absence, was acclaimed System Liaison Person for another year. He had indicated by email that he was willing to continue in this role.

## **12. Format of future Articulation Meetings. Funding. Hospitality fee**

One lonely voice was heard in favour of hybrid meeting. An objection was: if the Articulation meeting goes hybrid, how many institutions would actually be willing to pay to attend in-person? It was noted that the hallway discussions are just as useful as the Business meeting and presentation.

**Motion:** Langara College will host the 2024 Economics Articulation Meeting. The meeting will be in-person, on April 29-30, and the hospitality fee remains unchanged at \$110.

Moved: Tanimura; Seconded: Aragon. Carried unanimously.

## **13. Topics for roundtable discussion/interactive sessions/presentations**

Breguet asked for discussion topics for next year's meeting. Attendees can send their suggestions to him by email.

## **14. Next meeting**

Already settled (See 12. Format of future Articulation Meetings. Funding. Hospitality fee)

## **15. Closing remarks**

Some housekeeping items for the evening and the guided visit the next day.

Breguet thanked Wishart for hosting and organizing the meeting. He thanked the attendees for their time and contributions.

Minutes submitted by Stéphane Deseau, with help from Nancy Carson.

These minutes have not been generated by ChatGPT.