

NOTES

2023 Articulation / Geography Business Meeting
9:00 am to 11:30 am / May 31, 2023 / Langara College, Vancouver, BC

Note: Please see attached sign in sheet for attendance

1. Approval of Agenda

Mover: Steve Marsh / Seconder: Mary Stoldanske / AIF

2. Approval of 2022 Minutes

Mover: Sharla Stoldankse / Seconder: Michael Pidwiney / AIF

3. Presentation: Accessibility and Inclusiveness in Spatial Data Science (Dr. Arthur Gill Green & Shane Stonechild / Okanagan College). See PowerPoint presentation on BCCAT Geog Moodle Site.

-This is an opportunity to think about your teaching and how students might see it. (AGG)

-Where do I fit as a student with physical disabilities and also with FN identity? How do I make education work? Where can I go afterwards with my degree? (SS)

-What does inclusion and accessibility mean in geography and the spatial sciences? How can we bring in people who don't fit the statistics? What are some good practices in teaching that can help with accessibility? 7 principles of Universal Design:

Principle 1: Equitable Use

Principle 2: Flexibility in Use

Principle 3: Simple and Intuitive Use

Principle 4: Perceptible Information

Principle 5: Tolerance for Error

Principle 6: Low Physical Effort

Principle 7: Size and Space for Approach and Use

-Think about multiple methods of engagement (why), representation (what), action and experience (how).

-Explore OER resources

-Think about physical supports (not just online), like handouts.

-Use auditory methods (podcasts, etc) to break up the need to read for people with low vision.

-Try to think beyond software, focus on meeting the learning objectives. What do students really need to take away from the course. This is also perhaps an opportunity to review standard learning objectives.

-Oral exams are another option

-One other thing to think about is about extending the semester (getting beyond the artificial timeline of 14 weeks).

-Focus more on the students themselves.

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-This different way of thinking may also provide more breadth to deal with other accommodations, and really look at our curriculum.

-This review of our current curriculum in different courses also allows for an opportunity to think about how to indigenize our classrooms as well. (For example, one crossover assessment method might be offering oral exams as an option).

4. Chair Report (Shannon Fargey)

-Loved reviewing the institutional reports, seeing all the different ways people are going about indigenization, finding OER resources etc. Also noting that some institutions/people have more support than others.

-The Moodle site seems to be working well, other than only one person can be admin.

Institutional Report Highlights (and relevant discussion)

UVic: Enrollments steady, more domestic than international. New BSc in Climate Science (EOS and Geog partnership). 2 new hires – geomorphology/spatial sciences. A new indigenous Geog course. A record number of field schools.

Okanagan College: 2 new non lab courses (hazards/climate change). Ongoing questions about articulation of lab vs non-lab course in relation to online vs. f2f assessment. Enrollments stable. Hosting WD Cag next year. It may be moved to April – and the theme is Relevancy.

OBCO: Student population has grown. However, not much increase in Geog numbers. Research faculty has remained the same. Sessional and lecture positions however, have grown. (See submitted report for some graphs). Grade inflation seems to be increasing. Issue of lab and non lab courses is also under discussion. How can we show equivalence?

DISCUSSION: Learning is different now. This seems to be a system wide change (separating lecture and lab components). This was also talked about at Bio articulation.

ACTION ITEM: WE NEED TO ADDRESS THESE KINDS OF ARTICULATION ISSUES AT A HIGHER LEVEL AS THEY ARE HAPPENING ACROSS VARIOUS DISCIPLINES/COMMITTEES

Could we put a project together to study this that BCCAT might fund?

Fairleigh Dickinson U: A private non profit small liberal arts college from the US. They are offering their first Geog course this fall. They do collaborative, online integrated learning.

VIU: Hired a new faculty member – Dr. Juliane Collard – feminist geographer/critical geographer. The students are really loving this new perspective in our program. She has already taken on two honours students starting F23. Enrollments in courses are slightly down, including in first year courses for the last couple years which is a surprise. We are in the first phase of our Program Review this year.

Alexander College: 99% international students. A two-year program and enrollments keep going up. A handful of human geography courses. Some sessional hiring.

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UBC: Steady enrollments. A new climate change certificate. Also a new GIS minor and an urban studies minor. Trying to get rid of most of their prereqs in favour of just having program requirements.

College of New Caledonia: Geog courses, but not a full program. Some enrollment increases.

Yukon U: Small suite of Geog/Geol. Enrollments slightly down. Geog courses taken mainly as electives. In the interview stage of hiring a full-time permanent person.

Selkirk College: New indigenous language course (Interior Salish). A new pathways project moving people from phys geog to GIS.

Coast Mtn College: In Terrace and PR. Applied coastal environment focused program. New Geog instructor – Joanne Nelson is FN. Happy to have her as normally new hires not hired more than 0.5. Lots of international students who want an associate degree (100% from Punjab). Most of these students have a background in the agricultural sciences. They have an Associate of Arts College Degree which makes students a preferential visa applicant for places like UBC. Also, most of them get their assoc degree and then head to service industry – not geog careers.

DISCUSSION: Enrollments should be growing in the future as there is 30% expected domestic enrollment growth in BC. The local high schools are booming.

DQAB is also instituting a new requirement that faculty at both private and non profit colleges need to be more than contract employees – need to be 0.5 or 0.75 faculty in the future. This will be of benefit to sessionals.

Douglas College: Seeing declines in enrollments. In 23 years never saw Geog sections cancelled until this year. Still undergoing transition since Covid – can't offer more than one course online, but if courses are under enrolled, then they move to online. This all makes it hard to plan. GIS and Quant Methods courses are always full, and also act as service course. Doing Program Review but no release for that. Have a new climate action course (modelled after UBC). 2nd year level.

Langara: Challenging enrollments. Some unprecedented cancellations (5 cancelled 1st year courses in Fall. A bit of an uptick in spring. Some 2nd year courses at risk. There is now a 50/50 international/domestic requirement. Used to be 30 Int/70 Dom. They have a new phys geog instructor. They are developing in Urban Studies program to feed to the UBC Masters. Have a new 1st year sustainability course.

Fraser International College: Have a pathway program to SFU for international students. They also have an Associate Arts degree. Offer 2 Geog courses. Seeing some declines in enrollments back to 209 levels. However, Env Sci has increased. 100% international enrollment. Offers conditional acceptance to VIU. A lot of admin support for international students. FIC ONLY teaches students going to SFU, so FIC declines may affect SFU numbers. Students from India/China less than half of students – more coming now from S. America and other places.

Capilano: High proportion of international students. 40% across the university. Make up 50-80% of lower level courses. They have a Bach of Env and Science now at DQAB. They have space issues – with

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lecture space, offices, and dedicated geog space. There is a new campus housing development underway.

Corpus Christie College: This will be their last time sending someone as they are amalgamating with St. Marks College (both private Roman Catholic colleges on the UBC campus). They have Geog courses but not programs. Seeing steady to growing enrollment numbers.

Camosun: Hilary is celebrating her 28th year of teaching! Their faculty numbers have declined from 8 to 4/5. One person is on leave due to program review. Personnel changes affect course and program rejuvenation.

UFV: Steven is celebrating his 31st year of teaching! Their program is seeing major structural changes with BSc and GIS being split from Env Studies and the Planning Degree. Most of the Degree paths are in the BSc and GIS side. There have been a few classes cancelled on the BSc side. There is a new Dept Head for the new BSc. There are six full time people there. Steven is retiring next year. They are attempting to hire a planner and Env Studies person (hazards). Have had approval for a 3rd hire – an indigenous planner. Doing a lot of outreach to high schools.

Columbia College: Seeing increases in enrollments. Getting close to the highest they have ever seen. There are no teaching assistants in GIS. Some new classes are in development. They have four faculty.

University College West: Numbers are growing a lot. They have mostly Sessionals. 95% of courses are online. They have 13000 enrolled students, and have gone up from 174 faculty to 416 faculty. Currently doing program review. They have an Associate of Arts Degree. They offer 10 sections of Geography. Most of their students are from India.

SFU: Enrollments are pretty good. They are trying to link Geog and Business more. “GeoBusiness” A new joint Major. Also a joint major with computing science, and a new urban change major. They are working on adding indigenous content to every degree. There is an overwhelming demand for indigenous studies courses.

BCCAT Update – Anna Tikina

-There is a set of pending articulation requests that are going to expire in June so please check them. These can be found in the folder on the Geog Moodle site.

-The next Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) will be Nov 2-3, 2023. Nov 2 will be online only. Nov 3 will be hybrid.

-BCCAT has a Youtube channel with some useful videos about transfer requirements to various institutions

-The Stranded Credit report is worth reviewing. If students owe money they sometimes can't get transcripts. This is more prevalent in the USA than here. www.bccat.ca/publication/strandedcredit2023

-BCCAT also did a survey in 2019 of student mobility which can be found on their website.