

BC AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE ARTICULATION COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, May 28th, 2024 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Location: online (Zoom)

Recorder: Elise Menard Jonker, Thompson Rivers University

1. Introductions (Roundtable) – Name, Land Acknowledgement, Institution

In Attendance:		
Name	Institution/Agency	Email Address
Annabella Chun	BCCAT	achun@bccat.ca
Lisa Greig	Camosun College	greigl@camosun.bc.ca
Karen Reburn	Horticulture Centre of the Pacific	college@hcp.ca
Bill Hardy	HortEducationBC	bhardy@horteducationbc.com
Charlene Joynson	SkilledTradesBC	cjoynson@skilledtradesbc.ca
Vern Weber	SkilledTradesBC	vweber@skilledtradesbc.ca
Elise Menard Jonker	Thompson Rivers University	emenard@tru.ca
Derek Churchill	University of British Columbia	derek.churchill@ubc.ca
Jennifer Ryan	University of the Fraser Valley	jennifer.ryan@ufv.ca
Christine Quist	Vancouver Island University	christine.quist@viu.ca
Regrets:		
Name	Institution/Agency	Email Address
Peter Isaacson	Burnaby Schools	peter.isaacson@burnabyschools.ca
Lindsay Lindholm	HortEducationBC	lindsay@horteducation.ca
Maria Valana	Kwantlen Polytechnic University	maria.valana@kpu.ca
Allison Luke	University of British Columbia	allison.luke@ubc.ca

2. Approval of Agenda and Any Additional Items

- Motion: To adopt the Agenda with no additional items
- Moved: Lisa Greig Seconded: Karen Reburn

3. Approval of minutes of the Articulation Committee meeting of May 2023

The 2023 meeting minutes were emailed to the committee after the 2024 meeting for an electronic motion to approve 2023 minutes.

- Motion: To adopt the 2023 Minutes with no additions
- Unanimously approved.

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

No business arising from previous minutes.

5. Election of Committee Chair

Elise Menard Jonker read out the following:

- Laura Biggs was acting chair for the May 2023 Agriculture/Horticulture Articulation Committee Meeting. A new Chair needs to be elected to ensure continuity of future committee meetings. Responsibilities of the Chair include coordinating logistics and documentation for the committee meetings, maintaining an updated contact list for the committee, communicating with BCCAT, and attending the annual BCCAT JAM in early November.

Elise is willing to let her name stand and opened it up for any other nominees or volunteers.

Karen Reburn: happy to volunteer or step in as well.

Annabella Chun: since there are two volunteers there can be a chair and a co-chair. Important for time commitment to be stated, i.e. 1-year, 2-year. Then a motion can be put forward with a specific understanding of

Karen Reburn: request to understand the BCCAT JAM in early November.

Annabella Chun: BCCAT JAM – joint annual meeting for articulation committee chairs as well as registrars of the institutions to join and discuss transfer and student mobility. Not mandatory for chairs to come but you are welcome to join virtually or in-person. Talk about topics that are good for evaluation for agreements – topics related to transferability and student mobility. Time for chairs to join and share their own experiences with each other.

Karen Reburn:

Elise Menard Jonker: proposed that there be a chair and co-chair designated for the committee.

Annabella Chun: recommends having a commitment for a minimum of at least 2-years. Also, that there be a chair and co-chair if someone is not able to attend a meeting or so that it is easier to pass the baton for someone to take the position

- Motion: Elise Menard Jonker serving as committee chair and Karen Reburn serving as the committee co-chair, both for a period of two years.
- Accepted: Lisa Greig Second: Derek Churchill

6. BCCAT Update (Annabella Chun)

Slides sent with minutes as separate attachment.

Updated articulation resources

- Articulation Committee Guide (2023)
- BC articulation committees
- Key responsibilities of committee members
- Best practices for meeting and activities

How to Articulate (2023)

- Reference guide for establishing and/or maintaining transfer agreements within the BC Transfer System.

Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) 2024

- November 7 & 8
- November 7: online only
- November 8: Hybrid at the Paradox Hotel Vancouver
- All sessions available at <https://www.bccat.ca/articulation/jam/> & BCCAT You Tube channel www.youtube.com/@bccat_org
- BCCAT Publications
- BCCAT Technology
 - Working on a three-year strategic plan for Technology to manage priorities
 - As part of this plan, BCCAT will be looking at rebuilding the Transfer Credit System (TCS) Platform
 - BCCAT is currently in partnership with ONCAT to deploy the TCS in Ontario
 - Pathways Project <https://www.bccat.ca/technology/pathways>

7. SkilledTradesBC Update (Vern Weber)

Slides sent with minutes as separate attachment.

Note: questions or concerns about SkilledTradesBC can be brought to Committee Chair so that they can be brought to Vern, or reach out directly to Vern. vweber@skilledtradesbc.ca

SkilledTradesBC is going to begin a review of the use and function of the Standard Licensing Exam (SLE). The SLE's have been included as part of the apprenticeship pathway for over 10-years now. Have been included as a main summative assessment tool for each level of technical training except for the last level. A fulsome engagement around the SLE's and

with input from training provider collaborators will take place. Perhaps a sub-committee can form to address some of the following questions:

- What benefits do you feel the SLE's add to the apprenticeship experience?
- What barriers do you observe that the SLE's might present for the apprentices?
- Do you feel they should remain summative or transition to a formative assessment?

Trying to open these types of questions with our instructors and training provider collaborators as part of a fulsome look at the SLE's. More information coming so you will hear about this again.

For instructors there will be a self-paced online course for developing exam questions and how to use program outlines for program development. This is to assist instructors for those that would like it. Any specific topics you would like to see covered? Would you like an instructor led webinar as well as self-paced modules.

Any questions regarding this can be directed to Vern Weber: vweber@skilledtradesbc.ca

Program Update: there is a Landscape Horticulture Red Seal Occupational Standard (RSOS) workshop scheduled for November 18th – December 7th this year. In addition to being a review of scope of trade, the sequencing of training topics is going to come up, i.e. what is taught in each of the levels. Will be seeking an instructor participant – usually reach out to system liason.

Annabella Chun: Jeff Dyck from KPU – will check with him. If not she will search for one. This has been confirmed by Annabella and he will be invited to next years meeting.

Bill Hardy: Betty Cumin was the system liason.

Vern Weber: If anyone is interested in participating at the RSOS workshop – just mention it to SLP to get in and be a part of it. Prior to workshop in November, may undertake a red flag webinar. Gather instructors and industry here in BC to look at the current sequencing and for feedback and comments on it – what is working/what isn't working and send it over to red seal hosts. This is sent on to the red seal hosts and will feed into the discussion on sequencing at the workshop. If anyone has issues for the training topics and how they are delivered it is a good opportunity to make it better.

Apprenticeship numbers: Vern reviewed recent apprenticeship numbers, see powerpoint attached to meeting minutes email for information.

8. HortEducationBC Update (Bill Hardy)

Bill Hardy: Referring to Vern's comments about the RSOS review later this year, Bill noted that he attended CCVA meetings last year in Ottawa on behalf of the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association about a review. The comments Bill made is that the RSOS is a good document just needs some tweaking – it is the sequencing that there is a problem with. This would impact block training more than the foundation programs. They are inviting a much smaller crowd. Bill asked if the meeting would be virtual this year.

Vern Weber: since COVID they have been doing the Red Seal Workshops virtually. The exam development is still live in Ottawa but the RSOS workshop will be virtual.

Bill Hardy: Emphasized to SkilledTradesOntario that there is a lack of harmonization in Ontario. He was told that it would be fixed but he hasn't heard much more out of Ontario. At the CLNA level it is recommended that Lindsay Lindholm goes to that meeting because she understands the sequencing and has now finished all of the Level Books.

HortEducationBC has been very busy, primarily on the Arborist side. Undergoing a full review of all 3 of the programs. One meeting already and looking at all 4 of the arborist trade designations.

Last year had the record for number of books sold.

In light of the changes to sequencing and how the level exams impact the learning resources. A grant was received from the Canadian Agriculture Human Resource Council last year to redo all of the books. There are now 4 books based on RSOS not the level exams, ie. Book A: Common Occupational Skills, Book B: Horticultural Practises, Book C: Installs Landscape, Book D: Maintains Landscape. This will be an invaluable resource for people studying because right now when people study Bill does not recommend buying the Learning Resources because one competency can be spread over the 4 books. From the new series it is from a specific chapter – not over the levels. Nationalized it completely – BC specific references have been taken out. The goal is to not just sell this for apprenticeship exams but to make it available for any landscape horticulture training program across the country. Improvement to photos and practice quizzes added to every single chapter. First print copy happening this week. As soon as it becomes available nationally (about \$400 for a 4-book set). Eventually to be offered additionally as well.

9. Institutional Updates

a. Camosun College (Lisa Greig)

The program is currently in its break. It is a 10-month program that runs from July through to the 3rd week of April. Usual intake is 18 students (this is ultimate). 2023-24 saw really low numbers – there were 12 registered but only 8 showed up on the first day. All 8 completed and all 8 passed. There was a range in ages, as well as 2 people who were in career changes. It was a challenging year – there were a lot of mental health issues. Lisa referred to discussion from last year regarding a program that was used regarding mental health issues. No international students or SIP (South Island Partnership – high school students in grade 11 or 12). Typically, 2 seats are held until a certain date for either SIP or international students. If those seats are not filled by those groups then they are filled by other applicants. A team was sent to SkilledTradesBC competition in Abbotsford. It was also great to see that UBC had a team. Lisa encouraged anyone who has not yet participated to get involved with the competition. This year there was a great energy between the Kwantlen, UBC and Camosun teams. Regarding upcoming intake there are 26 applicants for the July 2024 intake with 18 registered and committed. The Dean informed that if the numbers were low for a second year in a row, that they were comfortable with running the program with low numbers again. A reflection of the fact that the program has been running for so long and has always had consistently high numbers. With some of the other trades there has been fluctuation and there has been such a high need for employees. There has been a new hire with the program, Jake Thompson. He will be the new Horticulture Lab Technician. Jake just finished writing and passing his Level 4 Red Seal and is currently working at getting his hours as well. Camosun is implementing Naloxone training for faculty and staff at the college. More students seem to be wanting to continue to the Level 3 & Level 4. Would like to thank HCP, Karen, for offering Level 3 & Level 4. Lots of changes happening on the Royal Roads grounds. The Horticulture Program has been there on site for 25 years now and have a returning MOA with Royal Roads that is re-visited every 5-years. There is a draft for the agreement and July is the renewal date and it looks like there will be another 5-year term granted. Dale and Lisa are still with the program.

b. Thompson Rivers University (Elise Menard Jonker)

We have just wrapped up as of the end of April. Much like Camosun we had very low numbers, starting with 17 and ending with 13. The previous 5-years to that we were running numbers that were 30-32. Meeting conversations helped inform a lot of

meetings over the past year where there were questions about what is happening with enrollment. There is pressure to minimize instructional support for a 16-18 class size. Elise clarified with Lisa that Camosun has 1.5 positions. In the past year there have been mental health, learning and accessibility challenges. TRU School of Trades and Technology has a designated counsellor within the school. This makes it easy to refer students to someone close by. There has been an increase in the number of mental health challenges. The program continued with field trips and projects on campus. Great cultural diversity in the group with students willing to share their own cultural knowledge. Lots of fun projects on campus and collaboration with other departments and faculty on campus. For the August 2024 intake there are currently 28 applicants with 17 of those confirmed and registered. Still people expressing interest so trying to fill as many seats as possible. Of the 13 students that we had last year, 1 was international and 12 were domestic. Moving into this year there is 1 international student confirmed and no high school students. Seems to be a diverse range of age groups coming in. August 12th start date.

c. UBC Botanical Gardens (Derek Churchill)

Derek has filled a position for Allison Luke who is currently on maternity leave. Mental health was prevalent, and numbers were low. Started with 13 students and finished with 10 students. All 10 students passed, although there were struggles along the way. A couple of the students were hired in the UBC Botanical Gardens with others getting positions at municipalities, etc. Still maintaining the 100% employment record for people that graduate from the program. Graduation ceremony was just held last Friday. Derek is currently going through applications. There doesn't seem to be as many applications as usual. There have been 27 applications. The program looks like it will have a full 16 and Derek hopes to fill 18 seats just in case there is any attrition. Going into the next round of teaching, Derek is trying to adjust things a little to give students a bit more time on the tools which comes from the feedback that has been received. Also, more time dedicated to pruning. Derek plans to add a course on Project Management to the program. A team was entered into the SkilledTradesBC competition at Tradex. Derek has been an official at the event for the last few years running. A couple of the UBC students won Silver at the competition. UBC historically hasn't entered the competition because they have always been very plant focused. One of the applicants for the 2024 intake is already interested in competing at the Skills Competition next year. Derek extended an invitation for anyone to come to the gardens for a tour.

d. Pacific Horticulture College (Karen Reburn)

Enrollment has been great. Started with 20 last year and ended up with 18. This year they had 18 in the full-time Certificate Program, of which 2 deferred to this year so there were 16. It was an amazing class that will likely be friends for life. There are some struggles, as some of the students have learning differences. SkilledTradesBC has been amazing in offering support for this. Karen has been doing some verbal exams in plant ID. Learning all the plants has made Karen love the program even more. For Levels 1-4, they finished Level 4 and Level 1. Each were at 20 students. The Level 2 is coming up in August. It looks like all the participants from Level 1 will be continuing to Level 2 so there will be 20 students. The Level 3 starts in October and it is full with 20 students. Karen is interested to hear back about the updates to the exams as she has a lot of feedback from the Level 1 exam. It is on-brand with Vern's comment about recognizing differences. Karen looks forward to the conversation about the exams. For next year's (2025) Level 1 and Certificate Program they have applications and interest and urgency. Karen is excited for all the changes that are coming from HortEducationBC and from SkilledTradesBC.

Karen Reburn: "What is your learning management system (LMS) that is compliant with Private Training Institution Branch (PTIB)?"

Lisa Greig: asked for clarification.

Karen Reburn: stated that the PTIB, which is one of their governing authorities, puts out compliance measures that must be implemented immediately. There is a requirement to have LMS software that has 24 hours/7 days a week security support. New software must be purchased and implemented and faculty trained immediately. Karen is wondering what everyone else uses.

Lisa Greig: Lisa noted that Christine added to chat that VIU uses D2L Platform which is what Camosun uses as well. Lisa explained that Dale and herself had never utilized the D2L. Also, when Jessica Gemella was at VIU, she found it worthwhile to take the time to input the information to get it set up.

Elise Menard Jonker: TRU Horticulture uses Moodle.

Karen Reburn: confirmed that Moodle is not compliant with PTIB.

Vern Weber: Will check in with the designation team to see if they have any sense of what they feel PTIB is compliant.

Lisa Greig: Welcomed Karen aboard to HCP.

e. Vancouver Island University (Christine Quist)

Foundation program runs January – December each year. 2023 saw low enrollment – started with 16 students and ended with 14. Although in 2024 a full class of 22 started and they are now at 20. There is a new instructional assistant, Hugo St. Louis, who started in July in a full-time position. VIU has a unique location a little bit away from the main campus so there is someone managing the site. Jessica Gemella is on leave from the department so there is a backfill of 3 other instructors to meet the capacity needs of 2.5 FTE. There is a 5-week program that accepts Japanese exchange students. There are 2 cohorts this year. Applied research has been taken on in the Department. A big interdisciplinary project with other departments is just wrapping up. The project looked at food security and sovereignty in Heiltsuk First Nation. It was an important learning experience for students as it increased their own cultural competencies and expanded learning outcomes outside of the classrooms. It also strengthened connections to other departments on campus and brought in capital money for upgrades. The Department is continuing to look at applied research projects. One upcoming project is with Parks Canada to propagate seeds for revegetation of Sydney Island. The Program accepts CTC students (similar to the SIP's program that Lisa was mentioning) also called Dual Credit. Three seats are held for students coming from these students in the program. This program has been really important to help with full class sizes as the students come with funding prepared to take the program. These students also come with a lot of support which is important as they transition into post-secondary. One project that Christine wanted to share with the group is: [Modules for Greening the Landsdape Trade](#) . It is a project that she has been working on in collaboration with Jessica Gemella through CICAN and it is a faculty training module for all Horticulture Instructors across Canada. It is an open-educational resource that is free to use and anybody in the world can use it. Essentially it is addressing the issue of bringing in some component of greening the trades, especially the Horticulture Trades, and addressing the Western view of curriculum and how to bring in an Indigenous lense or knowledge or views where appropriate. The research brings in some practical ways to do that. It went through a peer review process from December 2022 through to this January 2024. It is for everyone as a group to review and Christine is happy to accept feedback when anyone is ready to engage with it. Looking forward to ways of increasing program

offerings in the department as they move forward into the 2025 year. The 2025 program is approximately half full at this point.

f. University of the Fraser Valley (Jennifer Ryan)

This year, there were 20 enrolled in the Ag-Tech Diploma. There were 9 enrolled in the Horticulture Certificate and 5 enrolled in the Livestock Program. There are lots of international years – some years seeing up to 50% of the cohort. The majority of these students are from India. Registration begins on June 17th so there are no enrollment numbers to report for the upcoming intakes. All the instructors have noted a rise in mental health concerns and anxiety. There has been discussion amongst faculty about why this happening – is it more accepted? More easily diagnosed? Mechanisms in place to deal with it for students? Or is it because there more? Or both? Right now the University is in summer term. Jennifer is working on independent studies and practicums. The program will be starting up again in September for the academic year.

11. Other Business

Christine Quist: Would like to learn bit more about the history of the Production Horticulture Certification through SkilledTradesBC. Would there be interest in the group to bring something like that back? Is this a good time for it or should there be another meeting?

Vern Weber: Suggests another meeting so that he can go back to open those files and look at them. The program was going into deactivation when Vern was coming on with SkilledTradesBC (formally ITA). To reactivate it would take a strong thrust from industry. Vern is willing to send folders over to Christine so that she can see what is in the folders. The deactivation happened around the time that harmonization was activated.

Bill Hardy: Bill helped developed the Production Horticulture Certification when it first started. Harmonization really killed it because Production used to be common core with Landscape, Level 1 and 2 were common core, from which you would specialize into Production or Landscape. Part of the problem was the understanding of pay difference between Production and Landscape – making the Landscape specialization a more popular choice. The main thing that killed it was when BC developed the seasonal international worker program. This gave agriculture and production nurseries the ability to use foreign labour in place of lower skilled people. Industry, at the time, moved away from training at the lower skilled positions and moved into hiring Degree and Diploma level. After 2-3 years of no interest at all, Bill has been getting phone calls and a lot of interest in the Production Program. In the RSOS there is a Level 5 that is all around Production. The only

province in Canada to take advantage of that is Alberta. They do 8-weeks of training for this session. Production could be looked at and may require a steering group from that sector. When the program was killed, they were working with Jason who was with SkilledTradesBC (formally ITA) and they were looking at combined a combined Youth in Trades Program with the Food Production side. If Production was to be brought back in to include a food component, maybe even a cannabis component. Maybe move away from some of the field production stuff and more into container, then it might work. There is still SUP and that program isn't going away anytime soon. Bill would be really interested in working with SkilledTradesBC and a group to bring the Production Program back. Bill noted that KPU has a program in cannabis and a Production Diploma. Even Bill's staff at the garden centre who want to do production training have nowhere to go to for training.

Vern Weber: Wondering if Bill is getting calls regarding interest?

Bill Hardy: Yes, he is getting interest at HortEducationBC.

Christine Quist: Spends time explaining the difference between Landscape Horticulture and Production Horticulture. Christine was one of the last students to go through the Production stream. She feels that future applicants are concerned about food. Also, there are a lot of small producers who are looking for skilled labour. Enters into the agriculture realm as well, so may be able to address it through Horticulture as well. Anticipates lots of jobs coming up.

Jennifer Ryan: UFV does have some courses that would be called Horticulture Production.

Bill Hardy: The focus would have to be more on the food production side of horticulture because the old production class was all ornamental, field and container growing.

Elise Menard Jonker: At TRU there is Fruit and Vegetable Production course. Elise noted that because TRU provides a foundation program it is a little bit easier to broaden the scope on Horticulture. Elise asked "Is it worthwhile to send out an email to set up a group to see if there is interest in someone taking the lead to discuss the possibility of bringing back Production Horticulture?"

Christine Quist: Yes

Elise Menard Jonker: Will put send out an email to initiate a group with someone taking the lead.

Lisa Greig: Agrees with Christine about the interest from applicants in food production. Camosun also has an organic vegetable production component that is taught. Lisa would be interested in partaking. Lisa noted that she was just at an agriculture show in the

Cowichan Valley recently and she was speaking to a woman about the microcredential courses being offered at VIU and North Island College.

12. Next Meeting

Elise Menard Jonker: Proposed next meeting will take place at the end of May 2025. Also, asked about interest in a rotating hosting of the meeting.

Derek Churchill: Happy to host the May 2025 meeting at UBC.

Lisa Greig: supported that Derek host the meeting in May 2025.

Elise Menard Jonker: Confirmed that Derek would be able to provide the venue as well as online/virtual access to meeting.

Annabella Chun: Agreed that rotating locations for hosting the meeting would work well. Annabella also addressed the fact that Karen Reburn will not be able to take the co-chair position because HCP is not a BCCAT member. As part of the terms of reference, this is a requirement for individuals to be in leadership positions on the committee.

Elise Menard Jonker: Will move forward with Elise Menard Jonker serving as chair, with a 2-year commitment.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:00pm