



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2020

9:30am – 12:30pm (NOTE: This meeting was held online.)

ATTENDANCE:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

FLEMING, Robert	BCCAT Executive Director [CO-CHAIR]
HAMILTON, Jim	President, Okanagan College [CO-CHAIR]
CARDWELL, Steve	Vice-President, Students, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
CHENOWETH, John	Associate Vice-President, Academic-Community Education, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
DENTON, Kathy	President & CEO, Douglas College
DICK, Brian	Professor and Chair, Engineering, Vancouver Island University
HEMANI, Rummana Khan	Vice-Provost, Students & International & Registrar, Simon Fraser University
KRAUSE, Gerda	Dean, Faculty of Science, Langara College
LOUIE, Brenda	Vice-Principal, Columbia College
MCCAUSLAND, Elizabeth	English Instructor, Douglas College
MCCULLOUGH, Lisa	Superintendent of Schools, CEO, Schools District No. 48 (Sea to Sky)
O'MEARA, Tami	Dept. Head, Student Access and Support, and Counsellor, Selkirk College
ROE, Steve	Dean of Academic & Professional Programs, Northern Lights College
STYLES, Lauren	Vice-President Academic & Provost, Capilano University

REGRETS: *Dorys Crespín-Mueller, Karen McCredie, Diane Naugler, and Carolyn Russell.*

STAFF MEMBERS:

ADAMOSKI, Robert	Director, Research & Admissions
DROPOL, Adina	Office Coordinator
HESLOP, Joanne	Manager, Student Transitions Project
KOOK, Jennifer	Manager, Technology Services
McQUARRIE, Fiona	Special Projects Coordinator
TIKINA, Anna	Research Officer
WINSEMANN, Mike	Director, Transfer & Technology
YORKSTON, Valerie	Executive Assistant to the Council & Communications Coordinator

GUESTS: Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training:

- Jamie Edwardson, Executive Director, Corporate Planning, International & Quality Assurance
- Randall Gerlach, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

NEXT MEETINGS (2020/21):

- **Friday, March 12, 2021** (Location/platform tbc)
- **Wednesday, June 2, 2021** (Location/platform tbc)

MINUTES

Item/Speaker

1. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS – R. Fleming & J. Hamilton (Co-Chairs)

JIM: We acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) people. We also want to acknowledge and thank our host community, the Westbank First Nation.

ROB: We acknowledge that we are gathering on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x^wməθkwəjəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Saálilwataʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

2. PROPOSED AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (October 2, 2020)

The minutes were approved as presented.

Rob Fleming reported on an action item (5.3.1) arising from the previous meeting. He confirmed that BCCAT's Letter of Assurance (that new members of the BC Transfer System are required to sign) stipulates that institutions must establish a policy and process regarding the evaluation of transfer decisions.

4. COUNCIL BUSINESS

4.1. Provincial Issues and Developments

4.1.1. Ministry Update – J. Edwardson

Jamie Edwardson provided a brief Ministry update, with particular focus on transitional developments following the election. He noted ongoing commitment to working with post-secondary institutions to support student success in the context of COVID-19 and beyond.

He also spoke about the Ministry mandate as released in a public letter for the new Minister of Advanced Education, Skills & Training (the Honourable Anne Kang), which expressed commitment to five main principles:

- Putting people first.
- Lasting and meaningful reconciliation.
- Equity and anti-racism.
- A better future through fighting climate change.
- A strong sustainable economy that works for everyone.

Jamie also noted other key commitments, including Student Housing (8,000 new student housing units), increased funding for Co-op and Work-Integrated Learning, and programs focused on Student Mental Health & Wellbeing.

4.1.2. Indigenous Education Update – J. Chenoweth

John Chenoweth provided an update on recent issues and developments impacting Indigenous Education:

- IAHLA institutions have received considerable funding to provide training in conjunction with public post-secondary institutions (e.g. Health Care Aides)
 - Planning is underway for a conference in 2021 to focus on how public post-secondary institutions may engage and collaborate with Indigenous institutions.
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- Preparation for the provincial Indigenous Language Fluency programs are well underway. Funding has been confirmed, and there are six groups participating in the pilot. There are opportunities for many other collaborations (e.g. Human Services, Biology, Business, Early Childhood Education).
 - Leaders met in Ottawa last year to focus on collaboration between public post-secondary and Indigenous institutes. (John forwarded this link to the Ontario Act for Indigenous Institutes for more information: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/17i34a>)
 - John is currently involved with the BCCIE to look at how Indigenization can inform and support International education.

4.1.3. EducationPlannerBC.ca (EPBC) Update

Kathy Denton provided an update on recent developments related to EducationPlannerBC.ca:

- EducationPlannerBC is now officially a stand-alone body. Kathy expressed appreciation for the support from partners through the development of EPBC's application and transcript services in recent years.
- To date, the EPBC Engagement Services Team have met in info sessions with 2500 parents and advisors (Gr. 10-12). The team is also participating at the Education & Career Fairs along with BCCAT (BCTransferGuide.ca).
- EPBC is working as a hub to enable BC public institutions to join the ARUCC National Network.
- EPBC's technologies are undergoing renewal. The new platform will allow for key features such as user customization.
- Plans are underway for an online system-wide event in 2021, for EPBC partners to discuss key issues and share feedback.

4.2. Staff Report to Council on External Activities

4.2.1. BCCAT's COVID-19 Response – System Support bccat.ca/systemnews

BCCAT staff members have been following up with the Ministry and sector groups to support learning continuity during COVID. As well, there are ongoing consultations with the Canadian "CATs", from Alberta (ACAT) and Ontario (OnCAT) in particular.

4.2.2. Micro-Credentials Consultations

Recently, there has been considerable interest across the provincial and national post-secondary landscape in the issue of micro-credentials. Rob Fleming and Rob Adamoski have been sharing BCCAT's research (see 7.2.1 below regarding this project) with post-secondary partners in BC and across Canada. There are calls for funding for the development of micro-credential programs in Ontario and BC. This topic also drew strong interest and participation at JAM 2020.

4.3. 2020-21 Projects & Activities Chart

This chart was provided for information. Currently, we are on track for most of the projects and activities for 2020-21. (See item 4.4 below regarding two outstanding projects.)

4.4. Budget and Work Plan Update

Due to the constraints of COVID, we anticipated savings regarding travel and meetings costs. The pandemic has also affected progress on two projects: (a) barriers to transfer and articulation, and b) Articulation Committee projects (using the ACP fund; no applications for project funding were received), leaving an anticipated surplus. Rob Fleming forwarded a motion for discussion regarding the re-allocation of these funds.

➔ **MOTION:** That Council authorize the executive director to reallocate anticipated available funds in FY 2020/21 to cover costs of office maintenance and technology development.

L. Styles / T O'Meara **CARRIED.**

Rob also provided an overview of the schedule for the development of the 2021-22 workplan, inviting input from Council members through this period. Proposed projects will be presented to the Council at the March 2021 meeting, based on decisions made at the three standing committees (Transfer & Articulation, Admissions, and Research).

5. TRANSFER & ARTICULATION

5.1. Transfer & Articulation (TAC) Committee (Last Meeting: September 25, 2020)

NOTE: There was nothing to report as the TAC had not met since the last meeting of Council.

5.2. 2020 Joint Annual Meeting (Online): Nov. 4-5, 2020

Mike Winsemann provided an overview of the JAM 2020 event, including the following points:

- This was the first ever online JAM that BCCAT has hosted, and it was the best attended (370 registrants).
- Whova was selected for the online platform, and Dreamfield Solutions managed production of the event.
- Session videos were pre-recorded and then live-streamed at JAM. (Highly recommended as it helps to reduce stress and lower the chances of “glitches” or technical interruptions.)
- All sessions had a minimum of 100 people participating. The presentation on the Micro-Credentials project was the most popular session. The session videos are now available on the BCCAT website at bccat.ca/articulation/jam and on BCCAT’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/channel/UCekj2w_orRdumXCxl-it-dw.
- There was remarkable engagement activity, with participants availing themselves of networking through discussion boards, live Q & As, group chats, icebreakers, and a photo contest (118 photos submitted).
- Participants expressed high levels of satisfaction with the event, based on the survey feedback. For example, “I thoroughly enjoyed these sessions. I am new to the group and it was non-intimidating introduction to JAM. Thank you organizers for the well-run JAM!” And “This was one of the best virtual conferences I’ve attended”.
- The overall cost came to approximately 70% of a live JAM event, based on previous years.

5.3.TAC Projects & Issues

5.3.1.Who Decides Transfer?

This report was presented at the previous Council meeting. The publication is now online at bccat.ca/pubs/reports/WhoDecidesTransfer2020.pdf

6. ADMISSIONS

6.1. Admissions Committee (Last Meeting: September 25, 2020)

Robert Adamoski reported that Kylie Thomas has stepped down from the Admissions Committee after sitting as a member for seven years, to begin her new role as Vice-President Academic at Red Deer College.

A major focus of discussion at the last committee meeting was potential projects for 2021-22. One project under consideration would focus on post-secondary policy changes due to COVID, regarding transfer and mobility (e.g. grading or deadlines), especially for changes that may become usual practice beyond the pandemic. The project would also include a look at the impact on retention and progression later on.

6.2. Admissions Projects

6.2.1. Block Transfer and Degree Partnerships in the BC Transfer System

bccat.ca/pubs/Reports/BlockTransferDegreePartnerships2020.pdf

This report builds on Central Data Warehouse (CDW) data gathered over the last 8-9 years. These data were used to analyze the volume, features, and trends characterizing block transfer and degree partnership pathways in the BC Transfer System. The project aimed to look at the impact of existing practices at BC and Alberta institutions on degree pathway data, and to identify successful practices for recording these kinds of agreements.

6.2.2. PRESENTATION – by Joanne Heslop, Manager, Student Transitions Project

Pre-Pandemic Trends in Transition, Mobility and Persistence

7. RESEARCH

7.1. Research Committee (Next Meeting: October 30, 2020)

The Research Committee is focused on project planning for 2021-22.

ACTION: The draft minutes from this meeting will be made available when the Council next meets.

7.2. Research Projects

7.2.1. Micro-Credentials bccat.ca/pubs/Reports/MicroCredentials2020.pdf

Anna Tikina spoke briefly about this project, referring members to the report (link above), and presentation delivered by Joanne Duklas at JAM 2020 (available at <https://youtu.be/RyEa01D5Lbk>). The report looks at the implications of developing and recognizing micro-credentials for transfer and admissions. This project continues to draw much interest as post-secondary partners discuss and explore micro-credentials in BC and across Canada.

7.2.2. 2021 Contemporary Issues CFP bccat.ca/projects/call

This latest CFP was launched in recent weeks, inviting submissions for projects addressing contemporary issues impacting the BC Transfer System. The deadline is December 15. Research Committee will suggest successful proposals for inclusion in the workplan which will be brought to the Council in March 2021.

8. TECHNOLOGIES/WEBSITES

8.1. Transfer Credit System (TCS) Update

Mike Winsemann reported that the international transfer interface on the TCS is the primary priority at this stage, in addition to incorporating Adult Basic Education programs and uploading course attributes to the system. As well, work is underway on reciprocity of agreements where it exists. An ongoing project will entail maintenance of articulation agreements.

8.2. BCTransferGuide.ca Enhancements

The next stage of improvements to BCTransferGuide.ca will focus on making the site more accessible for international students (brand new users). An RFP is being prepared to identify a contractor to work on a major redesign of the site. A letter will be going out shortly to senior administrators (VP Academics) across the system to invite them to participate in the expansion of the BC Transfer Guide. Those institutions that onboard are then in a position to utilize the TCS workflow for their own agreements.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

9.1. BCCAT Videos on YouTube www.youtube.com/channel/UCekj2w_orRdumXCxl-it-dw

A range of videos are now available on BCCAT's YouTube channel, including session videos from JAM 2020, the "Transfer Stories" series, and others.

9.2. BC Transfer System / BCTransferGuide.ca – Animated Video

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdWQncBglhE

This new video features animation and narration to provide an overview of how the BC Transfer System works, what transfer is, and how BCTransferGuide.ca can help with planning transfer pathways.

9.3. Education & Career Fairs (ECF) www.educationcareerfairs.com/

This year's ECF events are held online to reach students across the entire province (with six days scheduled in December 2020, and February, March, and May 2021.) We are participating to engage with students and others and raise awareness about BCTransferGuide.ca. We have arranged to co-present with EducationPlannerBC for the "Learning Lounge" talks. The presentation is focused on "finding your path" by exploring pathways through BC's post-secondary transfer system.

10. INTER-PROVINCIAL/INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

10.1. CATCan Meetings

Rob Fleming noted that monthly meetings with CATCan partners continue, and have been focused recently on tracking practice and policy decisions relating to educational accommodations. Meanwhile, OnCAT has been consulting with BCCAT and ACAT regarding renewal of the technologies for their transfer platform.

10.2. ARUCC National Network Initiative www.aruccnationalnetwork.ca/

Recently, this project has focused particularly on using the web service to support digital data exchange. EducationPlannerBC and others are participating as "hubs" to facilitate post-secondary institutions to onboard.

11. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13. ADJOURNMENT
