



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2020

9:30am – 12:30pm

(NOTE: This meeting was held online.)

EXPECTED ATTENDEES:

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
CRESPIN-MUELLER, Dorys	Executive Director, Integrated Planning & Effectiveness, Thompson Rivers University
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
McCAUSLAND, Elizabeth	English Instructor, Douglas College
McCREDIE, Karen	Executive Director, EducationPlannerBC
NAUGLER, Diane	Dean, Business and Applied Studies, North Island College
O'MEARA, Tami	Dept. Head, Student Access and Support, and Counsellor, Selkirk College
ROE, Steve	Dean of Academic & Professional Programs, Northern Lights College
RUSSELL, Carolyn	Director, Global Engagement, University of Victoria
STYLES, Laureen	Vice-President Academic & Provost, Capilano University

REGRETS: Brenda Louie, Lisa McCullough.

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 and Quality Assurance Branch

NEXT MEETINGS (2020/21):

- Friday, December 4, 2020 (*Location/platform tbc*)
- 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^wməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Salilwataʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

2. PROPOSED AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (June 3, 2020)

The agenda was accepted as presented.

Rob Fleming provided an update regarding item 5.2.1.1 of the June 2020 meeting. As per Council's request, Rob noted that a statement on recognizing existing transfer arrangements has been posted to bccat.ca/systemnews and conveyed to partners in consultation with sector groups and BCcampus.

In keeping with the [Principles and Guidelines](#) and [articulation practices](#) of the BC Transfer System, member institutions and the Ministry of Advanced Education Skills and Training are committed to delivering quality educational experiences for all post-secondary learners in British Columbia—regardless of the learning delivery model—and respecting flexible credit transfer pathways. Transfer agreements between partner institutions established and maintained through the [BC Transfer Guide](#) remain in place and should not be impacted by mode of delivery (online, in-person, blended, etc.), unless otherwise communicated by institutions through a formal re-articulation process.

4. COUNCIL BUSINESS

4.1. Council Appointments – J. Hamilton / R. Fleming

Rob Fleming announced the Ministry appointment of John Chenoweth (Associate Vice-President, Academic-Community Education at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology) to the Council, and introductions were made. Rob also noted the reappointment of Brian Dick, Jim Hamilton, Rummana Khan Hemani, and Steve Cardwell.

4.2. Provincial Issues and Developments

4.2.1. Ministry Update – J. Edwardson

Jamie Edwardson provided an update, noting that, due to the call of the provincial election, the government is now serving in an interregnum period. Ministers who currently hold office will do so until a new cabinet is sworn in, but substantive decision-making will be limited to urgent issues (including policies, appointments, contracts, etc.).

Jamie also noted the September announcement regarding the Economic Delivery Program, and the approval of proposals regarding micro-credentialing, Indigenous education and training, and training for health and human services. Implementation of these proposals is now underway, since they were approved prior to the election being called.

4.2.2. Indigenous Education Update – J. Chenoweth

John Chenoweth provided an update on recent issues and developments concerning Indigenous education and training. Key points are listed below:

- COVID is rising in Indigenous communities but this has not impeded training. While following safety measures, these communities are finding ways to continue to engage learners. Remote delivery is helping to enable this.
- Language programs are vital and NVIT is launching an Indigenous Language degree framework. It will focus on four languages, and the two-year diploma program will be transferrable to the degree credential. This is thought to be the first one approved in the country. For more information, see <http://iahla.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/BNLF-Degree-for-IAHLA-site-FEB-2020-002.pdf>
- The two-year diploma program designed for articulation focused on four languages.
- IAHLA (Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association) is approaching the government about obtaining core funding for ten Indigenous institutions, for their basic operations. This is similar to a recent approach in Ontario, where six or seven institutions have received funding.
- The interest in micro-credentials is gaining momentum. IHALA is seeking potential partnerships.
- Student emergency funding remains a priority. Indigenous adult higher learning students do not have access to emergency funding if they are not enrolled at public institutions.

4.2.3. EducationPlannerBC.ca (EPBC) Update – *K. McCredie*

Due to COVID, EPBC has been stepping up its outreach online, working with secondary school partners to deliver presentations and workshops. Meanwhile, a major review of the EPBC website has been carried out and a redesign is underway, expected to be completed later this fall. Based on feedback from the review, key new features will include an ability for applicants to save their searches and compare programs.

In terms of EPBC's application services, the onboarding of UBC is expected to be complete by March 2021, and UVic is looking at a revised launch date. The application service is undergoing major enhancements.

EPBC is working with institutions to move to an XML format for the transcript services. Since spring 2020, 15 out of 25 institutions have gone live, yielding just over 12,000 transcripts. EPBC is also working with Ontario and Alberta regarding BC integration into their networks.

The first ever user group meeting is being scheduled for spring 2021. There will be a variety of sessions for different groups, including registrars and front line staff. As well, they will be working with a student panel to learn how applicants are using the system.

4.2.4. K-12 Learning in 2020-21 - Consultation Discussion

Rob Fleming provided slides from this consultation session, a discussion with post-secondary representatives regarding Ministry of Education priorities and planning. Particular attention was given to issues raised by COVID this year, and the implications on K-12. He noted that ongoing discussion is somewhat delayed due to back to school priorities.

4.3. Staff Report to Council on External Activities - *R. Fleming*

Prior to the K-12 consultation session (see item 4.2.4), there was discussion at a meeting with the BC Registrar's Association in June to gather feedback from institutional partners. A major focus was the question of how student outcomes (in preparation for post-secondary education) are met despite COVID. Rob Fleming will continue to keep this discussion going with system and BC Transfer System member institutions.

4.3.1. BCCAT's COVID-19 Response – System Support – *R. Fleming/R. Adamoski/M. Winsemann*

See bccat.ca/systemnews

Rob noted that there continues to be considerable discussion with the Ministry and sector groups regarding post-secondary issues and developments related to COVID-19. Meanwhile, BCCAT continues to work together with BCcampus to address these issues, facilitate discussion, and share resources. As well, there is ongoing consultation with the Canadian “CATs”, such as ACAT (Alberta) and OnCAT (Ontario) in particular.

4.3.2. Micro-Credentials Discussions

Rob noted the growing interest across Canadian jurisdictions (particularly Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan and BC) on micro-credentials. This was also a priority at CMEC (Council of Ministers of Education, Canada).

While there is much discussion and enquiry, the discussions on actual frameworks are at very early stages and definitions continue to be highly differentiated. There are calls for funding for research and development in Ontario and BC.

Meanwhile, a BCCAT research project looking at this issue (but focused on admissions and transfer) is due for publication later this fall, and findings will be presented at a BCcampus FLO event.

4.4. 2020-21 Projects & Activities Chart - R. Fleming

Rob noted that most projects continue to be on target, but there are challenges in identifying institutional partners for some initiatives, especially given the extra demands raised by COVID. For this reason, we will be bringing the “Transfer & Articulation Barriers to Articulation” project in-house. Articulation Committee Project (ACP) funds will not be awarded until next fiscal as articulation committees and faculty are necessarily more focused on learning continuity and challenges with the recent pivot to online learning.

4.5. Budget Update – R. Fleming

Rob referred members to a letter of accountability from the Ministry to BCCAT, outlining—in broad terms—the mandate of the Council and the terms of accountability and reporting guidelines. Rob also provided a budget update on Q2 of this fiscal, noting that it is expected that there will be significant savings in travel and meeting expenses this year, in addition to funds allocated for “barriers to articulation” research and ACP funding (both are explained in item 4.4 above).

These savings would cover the expected shortfall caused by carrying over a few projects from the previous fiscal year (which was discussed at the October meeting of Council). Under the circumstances, funds will be allocated to speed up replacement of operational hardware and software, and for the expansion of the Transfer Credit System and BC Transfer Guide development initiatives where possible.

4.6. BCCAT Transfer Awards – V. Yorkston/M. Winsemann

Valerie Yorkston provided an overview about the candidate recommended for the Rising Star Award this year, as a result of deliberations by the Awards Committee. Tamara Sweet (Registrar Services Officer at UNBC) was nominated by Burt Annear (Registrar) for her exemplary dedication in supporting and advancing transfer at UNBC and across the province. One key example has been her involvement with BCCAT’s Transfer Credit System testing and UNBC’s Transfer Credit Database project. Mike Winsemann added his support to this recommendation, referring to his experience of working together with Tamara.

-> MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Awards Committee regarding this year’s Rising Star awardee. K. McCredie / T. O’Meara - CARRIED

-> ACTION: Val Yorkston will arrange for an online “awards ceremony” to present the award to Tamara, and a short video will be presented at JAM 2020.

5. TRANSFER & ARTICULATION

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

– D. Naugler (Chair)

Diane Naugler provided a quick overview of discussions at the last meeting of the TAC. Key items included discussion and approval of the “Who Decides Transfer” report which is due for publication shortly. As well, there was discussion regarding the budget, the ACP funding program (see item 4.4 above). Preparations for JAM 2020 were a major focus, as the agenda is being finalized and registration open for the first online JAM in BCCAT history.

There was also discussion regarding what kinds of courses should be included in the BC Transfer Guide database (e.g. interdisciplinary, ESL, Adult Basic Education, etc.).

There are some changes in membership of the committee: Darrell Bethune’s term will expire in December, so he will be stepping down. As well, four members (James Gifford, LillAnne Jackson, Elizabeth McCausland and Kathy Siedlaczek) have agreed to have their memberships renewed for another three years.

(NOTE: Due to the tight timelines following the meeting, the draft minutes could not be made available in time for the Council meeting. It is expected that they will be brought forward at the December meeting of Council.)

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

Mike Winsemann provided a brief demo of Whova, the digital platform we will be using to present this year’s JAM. In addition, he noted that we have contracted a production company (Dreamfield Solutions) to help with the “back end” production of videos, including recording and streaming. To date, 115 people have registered, and the event has been opened up more broadly than usual, given the lack of the usual constraints presented by facility space, catering, etc.

Council members are welcome to participate and to share the news with others. Registration is open at bccat.ca/articulation/jam

5.3. TAC Projects & Issues – M. Winsemann

5.3.1. Who Decides Transfer?

Fiona McQuarrie presented on this report which looks at the process for making transfer credit decisions at BC Transfer System (BCTS) institutions. It is due for publication shortly. Currently, many BCTS institutions do not have a clear policy regarding who evaluates transfer requests. The report looks at the issue and recommends this be addressed to allow for more clarity and transparency for external users.

Karen McCredie queried whether the Letters of Assurance that are set up with institutions entering the BC Transfer System are required to establish a policy and process for this (in conjunction with an appeals process). If not, it would seem to be a sensible stipulation for BCCAT to make.

-> ACTION: Mike will check on this, but there is a requirement for a proper policy in place for transfer students. (He just isn’t sure that it touches on this level of detail.)

(Fiona noted that there is a section in the report regarding transfer appeals policies and processes.)

6. ADMISSIONS

6.1. Admissions Committee (Last Meeting: September 25, 2020) – K. McCredie (Chair)

Karen McCredie gave an overview of the last Admissions Committee meeting, noting that a number of reports are due for publication over the next few months. The project looking at supporting students with lived experience in care is taking some time due to the ethics process, but it is hoped that a number of post-secondary institutions will be in a position to participate as the project moves forward this fall. Other recent reports (or soon to be published) include Block Transfer and Degree Partnerships and Competency-Based Assessments (see item 6.2.1 below).

(NOTE: Due to the tight timelines following the meeting, the draft minutes could not be made available in time for the Council meeting. It is expected that they will be brought forward at the December meeting of Council.)

6.2. Admissions Projects – R. Adamoski

Robert Adamoski reported that, due to the new budget and reporting cycle, the timing of a number of reports have been affected, with a number of them now reaching the final stages of publication. For this reason, we will be spreading out the publication schedule and announcements, and request that Council members help to raise awareness of new BCCAT publications.

6.2.1. Competency-Based Assessments – F. McQuarrie

bccat.ca/pubs/Reports/CompetencyBasedAssessments2020.pdf

Fiona McQuarrie walked through the findings of this report which looks at how competency-based admissions are used for admissions. While the report does not come to a conclusion on that question, it includes four case studies on institutions in BC and elsewhere that have been using this approach with considerable success. In short, it finds that this is a useful approach for assessing things that don't appear on transcripts.

6.2.2. Academic Dual Credit Students (infographic) bccat.ca/pubs/Reports/DualCreditStudents2020info.pdf

This infographic was developed at the request of Council at the June 2020 meeting. It presents a visual overview of key findings from the *Dual Credit Students* report which is available at bccat.ca/pubs/Reports/DualCreditStudents2020.pdf

7. RESEARCH

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

– D. Crespin-Mueller (Chair)

Dorys Crespin-Mueller noted that the Research Committee have not met since the last meeting of Council, so there is not much to report at this time.

7.2. 2020-21 Research Plan bccat.ca/projects/research

The four-page Research Plan newsletter outlining projects for 2020-21 was provided to Council members. Robert Adamoski noted that it covers projects underway and also project areas for potential projects in the future.

Council members raised other research topics, related to challenges during COVID:

- Dual Credit: Would students be more open to recruitment for Dual Credit programs given the increased flexibility of online study during COVID.
- Impact/Influence of COVID: What changes brought by COVID will be long-lasting in their impact going forward?
- Youth in Care: How are post-secondary institutions keeping students connected and engaged during COVID?

7.3. Research Projects – A. Tikina

7.3.1. Profile & Performance: BC Transfer Students (2013/14-2017/18)

Report: bccat.ca/pubs/Reports/BCTransferStudents2020.pdf

Infographic: bccat.ca/pubs/Reports/BCTransferStudents2020info.pdf

Anna Tikina presented on this project, a profile and performance study of transfer students. The project has been running for 25 years; the most recent report was published in June 2020. It looks at students transferring from more than 30 BCTS institutions to six BC “research universities” (all members of the Research Universities’ Council of BC – RUCBC). The study found that, of all mobile students (53,000), 10% transfer to research universities, and they constitute more than 1/3 of all students admitted in a year at the six universities. Notably,

after an initial drop in GPA by the end of the first semester at an RU, the GPA for both RU transfer students and those who enter directly from high school improved significantly by graduation. Transfer students graduated with a GPA comparable to the direct-entry students.

8. TECHNOLOGIES/WEBSITES

8.1. Transfer Credit System (TCS) Update – *M. Winsemann/J. Kook*

The TCS is undergoing a user design process, which will see both cosmetic and functional improvements to the user experience. In addition, BCCAT staff are now conducting quarterly training sessions to assist new and experienced users. As well, the TCS Suite is restarting, which will expand the BC Transfer Guide with the inclusion of newly published non-BC agreements. The goal is to go live with these changes next year.

8.2. BCTransferGuide.ca Update – *M. Winsemann/J. Kook*

A “guided tour” feature was implemented in the summer for new users to address feedback from the external review that was carried out last year. In addition, other features such as pop-up buttons and “hover-overs” help to explain terminology. In September, we launched COMMS 100, a client management platform, to assist and answer questions. It should also help to capture data to help us continue improvements to the site to meet user needs.

We are rethinking how students move from the landing page to the information they are seeking, using a number of different student profiles, to help inform wire framing of the site. These changes, with fresh design elements, are expected to be completed this year.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

9.1. “Transfer Stories” Video Series

Val Yorkston reported that the “Transfer Stories” video series has now been uploaded to the website and to BCCAT’s YouTube channel. They will be rolled out over the coming weeks. She expressed her appreciation to all of the interviewees for sharing their stories, and to Elton Huber at Eyes Multimedia for his expertise in putting together these pieces to share across BC and beyond.

9.2. Education & Career Fairs (ECF)

Val is preparing for the upcoming ECF events planned for November and December. Due to COVID, these will be held online, so it involved setting up a virtual booth and uploading our promotional materials and videos. We will be co-presenting with EPBC on navigating BC’s post-secondary transfer system, and answering questions through chat and live Q&As. For further information, see www.educationcareerfairs.com/

9.3. BCTransferGuide.ca demo clip

We are working with Eyes Multimedia on an animated clip presenting the basics of transfer in BC, and how to use BCTransferGuide.ca for planning. It is due for finalizing later this fall, in time for the Education & Career Fairs.

10. INTER-PROVINCIAL/INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES – *R. Fleming*

10.1. Colleges & Institutes Canada (CICan) Consultation

Rob Fleming and Robert Adamoski have been involved with a CICAN consultation regarding BCCAT research on micro-credentials.

10.2. CATCan Meetings

Rob Fleming continues collaboration with our inter-provincial partners, including monthly meetings, tracking post-secondary institution decisions regarding experiential learning, and other issues. Meanwhile, OnCAT is in the process of consulting with BCCAT and ACAT regarding renewal of their transfer platform technologies.

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

Rob and other BCCAT staff members continue to collaborate with this initiative. Karen McCredie reported on EPBC's collaboration, noting that it is moving into a more operational phase now, with the focus being on getting the student portal and the website ready to go. There will be formal notification of this soon, and announcements re onboarding institutions.

11. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

A list of recent articles of interest were provided for information only.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other items of business.

13. ADJOURNMENT
