



Meeting #141 of the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021; 9:30am – 12:30pm (online & in-person)

MINUTES (Approved)

ATTENDANCE:

COUNCIL MEMBERS

FLEMING, Robert	BCCAT Executive Director [CO-CHAIR]
HAMILTON, Jim	Retired President, Okanagan College [CO-CHAIR]
BIIN, Dianne	Director, Indigenous Education & Engagement, Selkirk College
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-President, 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
McCREIDIE, Karen (ex officio)	Executive Director, EducationPlannerBC
McCULLOUGH, Lisa	Superintendent, Framework for Enhancing Student Learning, BC Ministry of Education
NAUGLER, Diane	Director, Community Engagement & Future Students, North Island College
RENNIE, Kriston	Dean, Faculty of Indigenous Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities, UNBC
SAINI, Sam	Associate Registrar and Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Student Recruitment, UBC
SOMERVILLE, Michelle	Educational Advisor, Student Services, Okanagan College
STYLES, Lauren	Vice-President Academic & Provost, Capilano University
WHITE, Lisa	PhD Candidate, Dept. Of Educational Studies & Indigenous Education, UBC

REGRETS: *Michelle Somerville.*

STAFF MEMBERS:

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

GUESTS:

MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION & SKILLS TRAINING (AEST):

Post-Secondary Digital Policy & Programs Branch:

- Ben Ferrel (Executive Director)
- Tess Syrowik (Policy Analyst)

Indigenous Policy and Engagement Branch:

- Monica Cox (Executive Director) or Fiona Cubitt (Director, Policy and Planning);
- Naomi Adams (Senior Policy Analyst)

BCCAMPUS:

- Mary Burgess (Executive Director).

1. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS – Rob Fleming & Jim 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^wməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Salílwata?/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

1.1. Council Membership: Student Representative

Lisa White, newly appointed Student Representative, introduced herself to the Council. Lisa is currently a PhD Candidate in Educational Studies at UBC. Her research explores the cultural/colonial divide (Cote-Meek, 2014) within efforts of indigenization within the academy.

1.2. Acknowledgement: In Memory of Devron Gaber

The Co-Chairs formally acknowledged the significant contributions of Devron Gaber, Former Director of BCCAT (2003-2012) who had passed recently. Devron's considerable skills, including a keen eye for detail and expert coordination, brought much to the work of BCCAT and to the BC post-secondary system. He was a valued member of the BCCAT staff team, and was also appreciated by many other colleagues who had the privilege of working with him.

2. PROPOSED AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (October 4, 2021)

The minutes of the previous meeting (October 4, 2021) were adopted as presented.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS:

Indigenous Post-Secondary Education & Training Policy Framework

MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION & SKILLS TRAINING (AEST):

Indigenous Policy and Engagement Branch:

- Monica Cox (Executive Director)
- Fiona Cubitt (Director, Policy and Planning)
- Naomi Adams (Senior Policy Analyst)

BCcampus Update & “Pulling Together: Guide for Researchers”

<https://opentextbc.ca/indigenizationresearchers/>

- Mary Burgess (Executive Director, BCcampus), John Chenoweth and Dianne Biin

4. COUNCIL BUSINESS

4.1. Provincial Issues & Developments

4.1.1. Indigenous Education Update – *J. Chenoweth & D. Biin*

John Chenoweth spoke briefly about a recent meeting between the Indigenous Adult & Higher Learning Association (IAHLA) and Vice-Presidents (BC Post-Secondary Institutions). The focus was on strengthening relationships to better enable support for Indigenous students moving through BC's post-secondary system.

There was some discussion regarding ongoing efforts to secure sustainable funding to keep IAHLA training centres afloat and support normative operations.

The group also discussed the Language Fluency program and John noted how vital these programs can be to address matters of identity and belonging for Indigenous students. There was discussion concerning transferability. (To date, UBC Okanagan is the first to offer a full 4-year degree program in partnership. They are currently delivering the third year.)

John noted that IAHLA schools have considerable community-based resources, and queried whether BCCAT may have a role in helping with archiving or accessibility-sharing, particularly as relationships strengthen between IAHLAs and BC's post-secondary institutions.

In closing, John spoke of our responsibilities as individuals to reckon with the imbalances experienced in Indigenous communities, and for post-secondary institutions and organizations to support those communities as they regain their identities, particularly through language.

Dianne Biin informed members of an organization called BCAPSCE (BC Aboriginal Post-Secondary Counsellors and Advisors). The group recently met and discussed what they are noticing about Indigenous students moving through the BC post-secondary system. One key issue that is emerging is concerns regarding food security. Institutions are offering a variety of supports to address this.

Another major concern surrounds mental health challenges for students, and Dianne noticed the importance of supporting these students with the reassurance that they can return to post-secondary education when they are ready and able to continue.

ACTIONS:

In response to a question put forward by Lauren Styles, Rob Fleming responded that discussions with IAHLA and the Ministry are underway to explore potential approaches (e.g. elective pathways) to enable transfer for Indigenous students. In addition, he noted the possibility of archiving or documenting pathways as they are taken up. As well, in 2022, we'll be looking at BC Transfer System membership options for IAHLA schools. This will involve re-examining the current membership policies, which are currently tied to Minister approval of degree programs that undergo processes overseen by the Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB).

4.1.2. Ministry Update – *B. Ferrel*

Ben informed members of an upcoming post-secondary town hall with Bonnie Henry – coming up on December 8/21 to provide up-to-date information on testing, vaccinations, and current guidelines. Ben's department is continuing to work across the Ministry and with key groups (including BCCAT and EducationPlannerBC) on the Digital Services strategy. The goal is to better align support services for students and the public, particularly regarding education, skills training, and career support.

Work also continues with the Digital Learning Advisory Committee. To date, they have developed a "Vision, Principles, & Definitions" document, and struck three task groups:

- Quality & Enhancement
- Digital Literacy & Inclusion
- Technology, Finance & Administration

4.1.3. EducationPlannerBC (EPBC) Update – *K. McCredie*

Karen McCredie provided this update, including the following:

- Application: To date, there are 23 post-secondary institutions that have onboarded EPBC, including UBC and UVic, which has almost doubled the numbers of students using the application service.
- EPBC Website 3.0: The pilot is going to be extended in 2022, bringing in additional institutions. There has been a lot of interest around these enhancements and the increased flexibility. They are also working with institutions on improving the user experience of international students, which included some exploratory meetings with institutions in fall 2021. The results will be reported out ... and at EPBConnects in 2022.
- Engagement: The engagement team have been working at full force, with 15-20 events per week. Receiving encouraging feedback.
- EPBConnects: EPBConnects has been scheduled for March 3, 2022. This will be the second annual symposium bringing together post-secondary users, for sharing updates on key developments and to gather feedback.
- BC Law Schools are asking EPBC to look at how to support law applicants on the EPBC application platform, including additional functionality for the three law schools offering law degrees.
- Collaboration:
 - BCCAT and BCRA (regarding research focused on data collection supporting Equity, Diversion & Inclusion)
 - BCCAT (on supporting program pathways);
 - Indigenous Policy & Engagement Branch

4.2. Executive Director Report – *R. Fleming*

4.2.1. Key Activities & Developments

Rob Adamoski spoke briefly about the recent CFP put out by BCcampus regarding 6 micro-credential projects (which includes 2 research reports that BCCAT will oversee.).

Rob Fleming provided an update regarding the research partnership with EPBC and BCRA, noting a recent meeting with the Attorney General's office on the legislative work involved. He also provided quick updates on the following:

- Learning Continuity Working Group – sector-wide planning group largely focused on supporting educational operations during and moving beyond Covid.
- Ongoing discussions with IAHLA, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT), and the BC Association of Institutes & Universities (BCAIU) concerning supporting student pathways between IAHLA institutions and the BC post-secondary system.
- Transfer system policy work regarding membership policies, including new applications coming from DQAB-approved institutions.
- Providing feedback on key curriculum issues at some institutions (e.g. Quest University).
 - Inter-provincial: ongoing discussions regarding using BC's TCS system for Ontario and Manitoba. Rob also confirmed that BCCAT has signed on as a signatory to the Groningen Declaration Network (GDN).

- The search for new Director, Admissions (due to Robert Adamoski's upcoming retirement) is currently underway.

4.2.2. Staff Report

The staff report outlining external meetings and activities was provided for information.

4.2.3. Budget Update

The Q3 budget update was provided for information. There were no questions.

4.2.4. Project & Activities Update

A chart outlining the status of 2021-22 projects and activities was provided for information.

5. TECHNOLOGIES/WEBSITES

5.1. Transfer Credit System (TCS) Update – *M. Winsemann*

Mike Winsemann gave the following update:

- New dashboard in development: This will help to provide greater visibility to key performance indicators for users. The new functionality will provide summary data on departments and faculty response rates, and will allow greater monitoring by BCCAT to support the work of transfer personnel across the system.
- Articulation maintenance: As part of the dashboard project, new tools will be introduced to increase the rates of articulation maintenance. This includes the implementation of renewal dates for agreements. In future, all agreements will have a five-year renewal anniversary, with automated reminders as the anniversary approaches...
- TCS Suite: In recent months, the BC Institute of Technology (BCIT) onboarded their equivalencies, including some non-BC agreements. Capilano University is in the final stages of onboarding their receiving equivalencies (including 4,000 non-BC agreements). Meanwhile, Thompson Rivers University (TRU) and the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) are also in the process of onboarding.

5.2. Program Pathways Project – *J. Kook*

Jennifer Kook noted that this project is progressing well. The project leads are currently in the process of exchanging data extracts, and working out what may be needed from post-secondary institution (PSI) partners. At the moment, they are looking at Badger or Degreeworks to learn more about their functionality and consider what might be of use for this initiative. One key goal of this project is the development of a program pathway builder, so they are exploring potential tools to make that work. The next step will be looking for committed post-secondary partners, so a mock-up for feedback is in development.

5.3. BCTransferGuide.ca Update

The redesigned BCTransferGuide.ca website was launched in mid-November, with an updated look and feel and improved interface for users. Feedback to date has been mostly positive. The new Adult Basic Education (ABE) transfer search tool has been well received. A new interface to support English as an Additional Language (EAL) transfer search is in development, and will be launched in January 2022.

6. ADMISSIONS

6.1. Admissions Committee (Last Meeting: September 24, 2021) – *R. Adamoski*

The minutes of the September 2021 meeting of the committee were provided for information. Robert Adamoski provided a quick update on behalf of Zena Mitchell (the new committee chair). All projects are proceeding on schedule. A key project discussed at the meeting focuses on supporting students with lived experience in care. It is expected that this report will be ready for publication in spring 2022.

Robert also noted the addition of two new members:

- Dr. Susan Lewis, Acting Vice-Provost, University of Victoria
- Ms. Kathryn Verkerk, Associate Registrar, Student Recruitment & Admissions, Simon Fraser University

6.2. Admissions Projects

Robert spoke briefly about two Admissions Committee projects:

- **Data Collection Supporting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion** (a collaborative project with EPBC and BCRA): There have been some recent developments. In particular, the researchers, and representatives from the BCRA Advisory Committee were able to meet recently with Milan Singh, Acting Director, Anti-Racism Policy, Ministry of Attorney General. The dialogue was encouraging and productive, and made clear the points of alignment between that initiative and this project. See <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/antiracism/data>
- **Pathways Partnerships with Indigenous Post-Secondary Institutes:** This project is now completed; the report is available at bccat.ca/intro/PathwaysPartnerships2021

7. RESEARCH

7.1. Research Committee (Last Meeting: October 8, 2021) – *B. Dick (Committee Chair)*

Brian Dick began by acknowledging the 32nd anniversary of the École Polytechnique tragedy. He then provided a committee update, referring to the minutes from the October 2021 meeting of the Research Committee. Discussions focused on the status of current projects, and projects planned for the next fiscal year.

7.2. 2021-22 Research Plan – *R. Adamoski*

The 2021-22 Research Plan outlines the research projects in BCCAT's current workplan, as well as some potential future research topics. Robert invited members to review the document and to think about other projects that may be appropriate for BCCAT to undertake in the future. (This Research Plan has since been published, and is available at <https://www.bccat.ca/pubs/resources/ResearchPlan2021.pdf>.)

7.3. Research Projects - *A. Tikina*

7.3.1. Contemporary Issues CFP

For the last few years, BCCAT offered funding for Contemporary Issues in Student Mobility projects (as separate from the Council's planned projects). A CFP recently went out, and two Letters of Intent were received. Proposals are due by December 15, 2021, and they will be brought forward to the Council in the workplan presented at the March 2022 meeting, if recommended by the Research Committee that oversees the Contemporary Issues initiative.

7.4. Student Transitions Project

7.4.1. STP Research Results (Nov. 2021)

Joanne Heslop provided the Executive Summary for this report that had recently been published. She spoke particularly about the early findings from the new longitudinal cohort model – a new way of looking at student mobility. The report has been drawing considerable interest (the report is available at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/post-secondary-education/data-research/stp/psm-highlights.pdf>).

8. TRANSFER & ARTICULATION

8.1. Transfer & Articulation Committee - TAC (Last Meeting: September 20, 2021)

– *E. McCausland (Committee Chair)*

Elizabeth McCausland referred members to the minutes from the September 2021 meeting of the TAC, referring members to the minutes.

8.2. Articulation Committees – *M. Winsemann*

A few articulation committees have met over the fall season, including some of the ABE committees. There have been several queries regarding what format these meetings may take in the coming months. BCCAT is encouraging that committees offer a hybrid option, wherever possible. (It is up to the committees to determine which format is best for their group.)

Plans are underway for a kick-off meeting for committee chairs in March 2022.

Mike noted that BCCAT staff were able to attend many more meetings this year, given the online option.

8.3. Joint Annual Meeting – JAM 2021; Nov. 3-4, 2021 (online) – *M. Winsemann*

This year's JAM was very well attended (399 attendees), a 10% increase from the previous year. Of those, 339 logged in at some point, and the average user attended 6.35 sessions. (Mike noted that 10 attendees attended every session!) Two sessions were particularly popular with viewers: the keynote presentation on "Contract Cheating" by Dr. Sarah Eaton, and the presentation by John Chenoweth and Dr. Verna Billy-Minnabarriet regarding the Language Fluency Degree program.

Engagement and participation, while strong, appeared less active than last year, and perhaps due to online fatigue. The event received positive feedback and came in under budget. Next year, we are planning on holding a hybrid event; the online format allows for a much wider audience. The date, and other details, are to be confirmed shortly. In terms of budget, a hybrid event will require a larger

budget, which will be reflected in the budget request for next year. For more information, see bccat.ca/articulation/jam. A playlist of the JAM 2021 session videos is available at: https://youtu.be/3UGujGYwM_s

8.4. TAC Projects – *M. Winsemann & F. McQuarrie*

8.4.1. COVID-19 and Transfer

This project looks at the effects of COVID-19 on transfer and articulation on BC transfer system institutions. The report has just been published and is available at bccat.ca/pubs/reports/CovidandTransfer2021.pdf

Fiona noted that there is also a research project underway looking at how registrars dealt with closures and restrictions.

8.4.2. Reverse Transfer

This project looking at the potential for reverse transfer in the BC Transfer System. The draft report will go to the TAC for review in January 2022. It's a complicated topic, so the challenge was to make it coherent and readable. It was presented at JAM where Fiona received helpful feedback. The report focuses on looking at Associate Degrees in particular. Fiona extended thanks to Joanne Heslop for providing STP data on mobility among Associate Degree students.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

9.1. 2021 BCCAT Transfer Awards bccat.ca/about/awards/2021

At the October 2021 meeting, the Council confirmed the approval of Zena Mitchell (Registrar, Kwantlen Polytechnic University) as the 2021 winner of the Leadership Award. Zena and her colleagues received the news with delight, and we were able to present the award to her in a Zoom ceremony which was then recorded and shared at JAM 2021.

Val expressed thanks to Steve Cardwell for nominating Zena, and to Karen McCredie (along with Dianne Purvey and Paul Campo) for endorsing the nomination.

9.2. Coop Student: January-March 2022

Last year, Tu Bui, Communications & Design Assistant (Coop), provided valuable help with our communications projects. We are in the process of searching for another Coop student to take up this role for January – March 2022, with the possibility of extending it to August 2022.

9.3. Upcoming Video Projects

Val Yorkston provided a brief update on upcoming video projects:

- Indigenous Pathways Partnerships – a video interview with the researchers (as well as an infographic art piece) as accompanying, more digestible ways of presenting the research findings.
- JAM 2021 highlights video – to encourage participation at JAM 2022!
- BC Transfer System – our animated clip needs updating to reflect the changes to the BC Transfer Guide website.

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

10.1. ONCAT Leadership Transition

<https://www.oncat.ca/en/news/yvette-munro-accepts-role-yorks-avp-student-success>

Rob Fleming shared the news that Yvette Munro is leaving her position as Executive Director of OnCAT to go to York University as AVP, Student Success.

10.2. ONCAT MyCreds.ca Ontario Institutional Funding for Onboarding

<https://mycreds.ca/2021/10/18/oncat-and-arucc-announce-mycreds-institutional-fundingopportunity-to-support-transcript-digitization/>

<https://oncat.ca/en/mycreds-institutional-onboarding-funding-opportunity-0>

For information, Rob informed members of OnCAT’s funding support for institutions onboarding the MyCreds platform.

Kathy Denton informed members that EPBC is supporting BC post-secondary institutions with respect to onboarding MyCreds. She invited people to contact Karen McCredie if their institution is interested in participating.

10.3. Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions & Transfer (PCCAT)

<https://www.pccat.ca>

10.3.1 Conference co-located with ARUCC in Niagara Falls Ontario for June 22-23, 2022
Plans are underway for this joint conference next year, including exploring the possibility of holding it as a hybrid event.

10.4. Groningen Declaration Network (GDN) – Conference (Nov. 10-12)

<https://web.cvent.com/event/b0f88260-1dbe-4c01-b708-40c534ecc183/summary>

Rob spoke briefly about this biennial conference.

11. IN THE NEWS (for info only)

The articles shared at the link below were provided for information only.

<https://mailchi.mp/4ce3b7bd97d2/gd0mdypkrv-5249201>

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13. NEXT MEETINGS & ADJOURNMENT

- Friday, March 11, 2022 (*Details tbc*) *ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING
**The March 2022 meeting will focus on the budget and work plan for 2022-23.*
- Monday, June 6, 2022 (*Details tbc*)
- Monday, October 3, 2022 (*Details tbc*)
- Monday, December 5, 2022 (*Details tbc*)