



Meeting #145 of the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer

December 5, 2022 (9:30am – 12:30pm)

Online & In-Person (BCIT Downtown Campus, 555 Seymour Street, Vancouver, BC)

MINUTES (Approved by Council)

ATTENDEES:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

FLEMING, Robert (Co-Chair)	BCCAT Executive Director
HAMILTON, Jim (Co-Chair)	Retired President, Okanagan College
AROCA, Willy A.	Asst. Dept. Head, School of Hospitality, Vancouver Community College
BIIN, Dianne	Director, Indigenous Education & Engagement, Selkirk College
CHENOWETH, John	Associate Vice-President, Academic-Community Education, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
CRISPIN-MUELLER, Dorys	Executive Director, Integrated Planning & Effectiveness, Thompson Rivers University
DICK, Brian	Professor and Chair, Engineering, Vancouver Island University
DOMAE, Lisa	President & CEO, North Island College
HEMANI, Rummana Khan	Vice-President, Students & International, Simon Fraser University
KRAUSE, Gerda	Dean, Faculty of Science, Langara College
KUNKEL, Titi	Acting Vice-President Academic, Students, and International, Coast Mountain College
LOUIE, Brenda	Vice-Principal, Columbia College
McGREGOR, Helen	Superintendent & CEO, Vancouver School District
MITCHELL, Zena	Associate Vice President, Enrolment Services, and Registrar, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
RENNIE, Kriston	Dean, Faculty of Indigenous Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Northern BC
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: Karen McCredie.

STAFF MEMBERS:

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

GUESTS:

- Ben Ferrel (Executive Director, Post-Secondary Digital Policy & Programs, Ministry of Advanced Education & Skills Training)

NOTE: For information regarding acronyms used in these minutes, refer to this list of Common Acronyms used by BCCAT:

<https://www.bccat.ca/pubs/Resources/CommonAcronyms2022.pdf>

MINUTES (Draft)

1. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS – Rob Fleming & Jim Hamilton (Co-Chairs)

We acknowledge that the BCCAT office is situated on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x^mməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlílwata?/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

2. PROPOSED AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (October 3, 2022)

The minutes of the October 2022 meeting were approved as presented (with one minor correction noted).

4. COUNCIL BUSINESS

4.1. Provincial Issues and Developments

4.1.1. Ministry Update

Ben Ferrel provided an update, noting that projects and timelines may well be delayed due to the government transition, as the new cabinet is established. Key points included:

- *Digital Services Hub* – The development of EducationPlannerBC's journey planner is well underway (see 4.1.3 below), and the TCS programs pathways initiative is also in process (see 8.1.3).
- *Digital Learning Strategy* – there has been good engagement with post-secondary institutions in clarifying priorities for development of the Digital Literacy Framework. A key focus has been looking at how to maintain confidence in learning outcomes despite modes of delivery. The Framework is expected to be ready for release in January or February 2023.
- *Funding Model Review* – this has been delayed due to the transition. It will require due consideration by the new leadership.

4.1.2. Indigenous Education Update

Dianne Biin spoke briefly regarding the new funding model for Indigenous services. She noted the significant challenges in meeting a variety of needs students have been facing, including mental health, educational needs, and meals. It's important to provide holistic support for students, and also to ensure that staff providing these services receive the supports they require.

John Chenoweth spoke briefly about discussions at a recent IAHLA conference. He noted that it was a small gathering, and the Minister had attended and met everyone there. A Language Fluency panel discussed transfer credit challenges that occur, sometimes even within the same schools. There are also significant challenges for smaller institutions to commit to funding these programs. In January 2023, a Language Fluency Consortium will be meeting to look at these kinds of issues. (NOTE: John invited Rob Fleming to attend this event along with him.)

Another key issue relates to BC Transfer System membership of IAHLAs. BCCAT is helping to look at this issue and our membership policy (See item 4.2.5 below.)

4.1.3. EducationPlannerBC (EPBC) Update

Ben Ferrel gave a brief update on behalf of Karen McCredie. Key points included:

- *Digital Services Hub* – Work continues on the development of a minimal viable product, involving looking at initial designs, and proceeding through a three-stage process (exploring different firms, etc.).

- PEN validation – This is now live, with PENs embedded in the application process. As a result, institutions will receive only validated PENs.
- BC Services card – Students now have the option to log in using their BC Services card. This appears to be well-received, as students are routinely using this option.
- Engagement – This month, the engagement team are participating at Education & Career Fairs which provide a valuable opportunity to interact with BC high school students. (Ben noted that the number of students interacting has been about 60% lower than usual, due to illness.)
- EPBC continues to work with BCCAT on the EDI Data Collection project.

4.2. Executive Director Report

4.2.1. Key Activities & Developments

Rob Fleming updated members on recent activities and developments. Key points are provided below.

MINISTRY

- Meetings with the *Micro-credential Advisory Group* regarding current research projects.
- Participation on the *Learning Continuity Group* (VP Academics) focused on international education and post-Covid transition issues.
- Working with the *Digital Learning Strategy and Quality Enhancement Working Group* on the Principles and Framework.
- Recent meeting with the *Indigenous Policy & Engagement Branch* regarding Indigenous Institution Membership in the BC Transfer System. Will be following up with the Indigenous Articulation Committee.
- *Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB)* – Considering processes for institutions with new Associate Degree programs looking to participate as BC Transfer System members.

BC TRANSFER SYSTEM – CONSULTATION

- *BC Transfer System Membership*: Policy development in relation to IAHLA schools to follow a future meeting on pathways and DQAB meeting item re Associate Degree.
- *Creative Commons Licensing*: Seeking legal advice on license type from the Ministry and then discussion with BCIT.
- Degree Authorization Act (DAA) BCCAT member institutions – Meetings and report on DAA as part of annual reporting to DQAB.
- *Private Degree-Granting Institutions' Association (PDGIA)* – Meeting about renewals of Letters of Assurance from BCCAT member institutions.
- *BC Post-Secondary Sector Groups*: Meetings with BC Colleges, RUCBC, BCAIU and SAAF regarding research and pathways.

INTERNATIONAL / INTER-PROVINCIAL COLLABORATION

- *CanPESC* – A few BCCAT staff members attended the CanPESC conference in October
- Meetings with the *Nova Scotia Council on Admissions & Transfer (NSCAT)* and *Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC)* in October
- Participation with *OnCAT's Strategic Planning Consultation*
- *BC Scholarship Society Board Consultation* (regarding terms for transfer student scholarships)
- *Languages Canada BCCIE Presentation* - Rob recently presented to a delegation from Japan.
- Meetings and developments regarding Campus Manitoba, OnCAT, TCS partnership

TECHNOLOGIES

- *Transfer Credit System (TCS)*: Reciprocity tool and BCTransferGuide.ca-hosted widget are both to be announced shortly.
- *TCS Pathways Proof of Concept*: 2022-23 Work Plan in process.

4.2.2. Staff Report

The staff report was briefly reviewed, and there were no questions.

4.2.3. Project & Activities Update

The chart detailing the status of current projects was briefly reviewed, and there were no questions. Rob noted that staff members are consulting with standing committees and system partners regarding project planning for 2023-24. One project (the Indigenization of BCCAT research) is currently paused in order to take another look at the framework.

4.2.4. FY22 Budget Update

Rob provided a brief budget update. Fairly healthy surplus at the moment, but normally some projects are completed near year end, so we are on track. There was some discussion regarding the need for multi-year planning for IT projects due to the nature of that work.

4.2.5. Membership Policy (3A) Revisions

At the March 2022 meeting, Council members approved the initiation of a scheduled review of Policy 3A, Membership in the BC Transfer System. Subsequently, Rob and BCCAT staff have had initial dialogue with Ministry staff and other stakeholders concerning key considerations identified by Council, including membership criteria and processes for private degree-granting institutions and First Nations-mandated institutions and Indigenous Institutes.

At this stage, we are looking to assemble an ad hoc working group to include at least two Council members and two BCCAT staff members, to oversee the review and revision of this policy, anticipated to take place over the subsequent 12 months. This will involve consultation with stakeholder groups. The working group will be responsible for finalizing the Terms of Reference and, ultimately, making recommendations to Council concerning revisions to policy.

5. ADMISSIONS

5.1. Admissions Committee (*Last Meeting: September 23, 2022*)

Zena Mitchell (Committee Chair) provided a brief update about the committee, noting two outgoing members: Paul Campo (CNC) and Susan Lewis (previously from UVic). In their place, the following are appointed as new members for three-year terms: Michael Bluhm (TRU) and Jan Smith (BCIT).

5.2. Admissions Projects

5.2.1. Increasing the Availability of Transfer Credit Data

Anna Tikina overviewed the project and presented a dashboard that compiles transfer credit data collected from Central Data Warehouse institutions (CDW) across 5 academic years. Dianne Biin queried as to whether it was possible to look at transfer credit data for Indigenous students in particular, as that would be helpful to flag for receiving institutions.

ACTION: Rob Fleming noted that BCCAT would be prepared to put this kind of information (e.g. Indigenous student transfer credit) together in response to requests from colleges.

5.2.2. Pandemic-Related Changes in Registrarial Policies

This project assessed the effect of pandemic-related changes on functions and practices in registrars' offices. Findings showed that the areas most impacted were student recruitment, class scheduling, and convocation. The report is due for publication within the next few months, in spring 2023.

5.2.3. Data Collection Supporting Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The project is being undertaken together with the BCRA and EPBC. The draft report, which has been released for feedback, recommends a student-centred approach to collecting student data on race, ancestry and ethnicity. Members noted the importance of specificity for the title for more clarity. The researchers presented on the preliminary findings at JAM 2022. The link to the presentation is available at:

<https://www.bccat.ca/Media/NEWBCCAT/pubs/JAM/EDI2022.pdf>

6. RESEARCH

6.1. Research Committee *(Last Meeting: October 14, 2022)*

Brain Dick (Committee Chair) noted that Bill Owen has completed his term in November. Mark Wallin (TRU) has joined the Committee for a 3-year term. One more member is going to be sought before the next Committee meeting. .

6.2. Research Projects

6.2.1. Research Plan Survey <https://form.simplesurvey.com/f/l/research-plan>

This survey was recently launched to gather feedback to inform future research projects within BCCAT's mandate. Council members were invited to complete the survey. The deadline for responses (December 16) will likely be extended to the new year.

6.2.2. Contemporary Issues in Student Mobility <https://www.bccat.ca/projects/call>

There have been three Letters of Intent submitted in response to this CFP, and we anticipate, possibly, one or two more. The committee will review these submissions and invite full proposals that will be adjudicated at the Research Committee meeting in February.

6.2.3. Online Learning in Rural and Remote Communities

This project explores at how students from rural and remote communities have been affected by lack of access during the period of emergency remote teaching through the pandemic, by inspecting grades and graduation rates (rural vs. urban). The draft report is expected later this month, for publication by early spring 2023.

7. TRANSFER & ARTICULATION

7.1. Transfer & Articulation Committee (TAC)

The minutes from the September 2022 TAC meeting were provided for information. The next meeting will be held on January 20, 2023 where the focus will be on potential projects for the 2023-24 workplan, the course definitions policy, and Terms of Reference for articulation committees.

7.2. Joint Annual Meeting (JAM); Nov. 3-4, 2022

JAM 2022 was the first hybrid event hosted by BCCAT, and proved to be very well-received by participants, judging by post-event feedback. Over 300 people registered for this year's event, and there were very high levels of engagement over both days. (Mike Winsemann shared the JAM 2022 engagement report with members.)

Mike noted that this is now the biggest transfer conference in Western Canada, so it makes sense to approach it in that way when planning starts for JAM 2023. Planning for next year's event will likely begin next spring.

Ben Ferrel noted the opportunities for sharing and learning across provinces at JAM, and Jim Hamilton congratulated Mike and the JAM planning committee on their work in putting together another successful JAM.

Check out the JAM 2022 Video Playlist at: https://www.youtube.com/@bccat_org

View presentations and photos: <https://www.bccat.ca/articulation/jam>

7.3. Sustainability and the BC Transfer System

Mike shared the presentation that he had delivered at JAM 2022. The presentation was followed by good discussion about areas for potential improvements going forward. See

<https://www.bccat.ca/Media/NEWBCCAT/pubs/JAM/SustainabilityandBCTS2022.pdf>

8. TECHNOLOGIES/WEBSITES

8.1. Transfer Credit System (TCS) Update

8.1.1. TCS Development Updates

Mike Winsemann provided a brief demo of key TCS enhancements due for launching on December 6th. These included a reciprocity tool and BCTransferGuide.ca hosted widget.

8.1.2. TCS Suite

The BC Transfer Guide expansion continues with the inclusion of pan-Canadian and international course-to-course transfer agreements with BC Transfer System members. Mike reported that Langara College has now imported their American equivalencies to the BC Transfer Guide.

8.1.3. TCS Pathways

Development of this Proof of Concept transfer program pathway building tool is well underway. Meetings with the Northern Consortium post-secondary institutions and Engineering programs stakeholders is helping to inform this work.

Currently, the user interface design is proceeding well, and the technological development is expected to progress early in the new year.

8.2. BCCAT Websites Update

Improvements to the BCCAT website are well underway, and expected to be ready to launch early next year. This and other web projects were delayed somewhat by the TCS Pathways initiative which was not originally included in this year's work plan.

9. COMMUNICATIONS – V. Yorkston

9.1. Kate Ross: Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

Kate Ross was presented with the BCCAT Lifetime Achievement award at JAM 2022, with Karen McCredie and Kathy Denton also offering their congratulatory remarks. Several of Kate's colleagues were in attendance to share in the celebration, and photos and video footage were taken of the event. A formal letter of congratulations has been sent to Kate, and copied to the Minister. For more information, see <https://www.bccat.ca/about/awards/2022>

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

10.1. Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions & Transfer (PCCAT) <https://www.pccat.ca>

PCCAT is planning on hosting another online Learning Day in June 2023. Check the PCCAT website as details unfold.

10.2. Groningen Declaration Network (GDN) – Fall 2022 Conference (Oct. 12-14)

Rob shared this link to presentations from the GDN Fall 2022 conference, for information.

<https://www.groningendeclaration.org/2022-groningen/2022-presentation-files/>

10.3. Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC)

10.3.1. CICIC Overview of Education in Canada

Rob shared this link inviting others to review and provide feedback to him if they see anything they think needs flagging or correcting.

<https://www.cicic.ca/1130/an-overview-of-education-in-canada.canada>

10.4. Collaborations with ACAT – *M. Winsemann*

Mike informed members that we are in the process of exchanging transfer credit contact information with our Alberta counterparts, as part of our ongoing collaboration.

11. **IN THE NEWS (for info only)** – *R. Fleming*

This digest of news items was shared for information only: <https://mailchi.mp/e69b04a19dd8/gd0mdypkrv-6136932>

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

13. **NEXT MEETINGS & ADJOURNMENT**

TAC	Friday, January 20
ADMISSIONS	Friday, January 27
RESEARCH	Friday, February 10
COUNCIL	Monday, March 13*
TAC	Friday, May 26
COUNCIL	Monday, June 5
ADMISSIONS	Friday, September 22
COUNCIL	Wednesday, October 4
RESEARCH	Friday, October 13
COUNCIL	Monday, December 4