



Meeting #152 of the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer

October 7, 2024 (9:30am – 12:30pm)

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

MINUTES (DRAFT)

ATTENDEES:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

FLEMING, Robert (Co-Chair)	BCCAT Executive Director
GRAEME, Angus (Co-Chair)	Retired President, Selkirk College
AROCA, Willy A.	Assistant Department 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
DOMAE, Lisa	President & CEO, North Island College
HULBERT, Avery	Faculty Instructor/Program Coordinator, College of the Rockies
KIRKEY, Jennifer	College Instructor, Faculty of Science, Douglas College
KUNKEL, Titi	Vice-President Academic, Students, & International, Coast Mountain College
McGREGOR, Helen	Superintendent & CEO, Vancouver School District
McKEOWN, Stephanie	Chief Institutional Research Officer, UBC
McMILLAN, Grant	University Registrar, Trinity Western University
MITCHELL, Zena	Vice-President, Students, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
SAINI, Sam	Associate Registrar, Undergraduate Admissions and Student Recruitment & Advising, UBC
SIEDLACZEK, Kathy	Dean, Academic Planning & Quality Assurance, BCIT
SOMERVILLE, Michelle	Educational Advisor, Student Services, Okanagan College
WHITE, Lisa	PhD Candidate, Department of Educational Studies & Indigenous Education, UBC
WIEBE, Sunita	Director, Academic Quality Assurance, Langara College

REGRETS: *Karen McCredie, Laureen Styles.*

STAFF MEMBERS:

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

GUESTS:

- MINISTRY OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION & FUTURE SKILLS: **Ben Ferrel** (Executive Director, Post-Secondary Digital Policy & Programs.)

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

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

MINUTES

1. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS – R. Fleming & A. Graeme (Co-Chairs)

We acknowledge that the BCCAT office is situated on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlilwətaʔ/Səlilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

2. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP – R. Fleming & A. Graeme

Rob and Angus welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the new and re-appointed Council members. A round of introductions followed for everyone attending in-person and online.

A special acknowledgment was made for the four outgoing members: Lisa Collins, Dory Crespín-Mueller, Gerda Krause and Kriston Rennie.

3. PROPOSED AGENDA

The proposed agenda was approved as presented.

→ **MOTION: To approve the proposed agenda as presented. J. Kirkey/A. Hulbert CARRIED.**

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (June 10, 2024)

The June 2024 minutes were approved as presented, with a few minor amendments in the “attendees” section for Laureen Styles and Zena Mitchell, who were originally marked absent on June 10, 2024. Also, under the *Communications* section 9.1, BCCAT Transfer Awards topic, the year 2023 to be updated to the current year, 2024.

→ **MOTION: To approve the June 2024 Council meeting minutes as presented. S. McKeown / S. Wiebe CARRIED.**

5. COUNCIL BUSINESS

5.1 Provincial Issues and Developments

5.1.1 Ministry Update

Ben Ferrel provided a brief update, noting the following:

- The election writ has been issued and the interregnum period is ongoing. As a result, the Ministry will be limited in its public communications likely until mid-November, after the election results have been revealed and a new cabinet is established.

- The Federal government has made more announcements with regards to changes to the study permit process and allocation for the coming year, such as further reduction of the overall number of study permits available for BC in 2025 and the permits will also apply to graduate students, an audience not previously captured.

- Announcements were also made with regards to some of the labour market priorities related to post-graduate work permits and the eligibility for people who have graduated from college to receive work permits. Ministry staff are currently working closely with the Federal government to get all the specific details. Communication will be forthcoming around the allocation of the study permits.

- The Ministry has initiated a project with BCNET to support the Joint Procurement of a Curriculum Management System. This project was initiated based on interest being raised through the Registrars from at least 8-10 institutions interested in onboarding to a solution. The Ministry has provided funding to BCNET to lead this project and procure a course and catalogue management software accessible to multiple post-secondary institutions. This would enable post-secondary institutions to implement the software, to have an opportunity to benefit from a centralized resource and to gain an accumulated understanding from all other participating institutions. BCCAT and EPBC are participating in this project as there may be opportunities for interoperability of data and information with BCCAT and EPBC systems. Jan Smith, the Chair of BCRA, is chairing the Steering Committee.

- The Ministry has also launched an AI policy working group, under the Digital Learning Strategy umbrella, consisting of 25 members with expertise and interest in the topic. The goal of the working group is to look at how to support the sector with the development of guidelines and potential model policies regarding the use of AI. Neil Fassina, the President of Okanagan College, will be chairing this group.

5.1.2 Indigenous Education Update

John reported that there were no significant updates from within the system. He was optimistic about NVIT venturing into a new phase in relation to the way Indigenous Higher Learning is viewed. The four Rs – Respect, Relevance, Reciprocity, and Responsibility – represent a guide for institutions to engage with learners in a meaningful way.

However, attention has shifted to protocols from Indigenous communities. Protocol is currently reflected in the system through Indigenous land acknowledgments in everyday practice. For non-Indigenous communities to embrace protocols within Indigenous communities' practices more broadly and perhaps within their policies would be a great shift in higher learning.

Dianne added that a lot of the work Indigenous communities carry out is based on relationships and understanding where everyone comes from. Creating a place of respectful relationships is acknowledging that there are protocols and procedures in place for a reason and it is up to the post-secondary system to amend disruptions and embrace opportunities to create more of an openness and willingness to work together again. For example, there could be changes to the Convocation ceremony protocols and creating better spaces, including elders that could serve the broader communities.

A lot of the work within the post-secondary system is about the traumas of Indigenous communities and it is important to recognize that part of the policies and procedures carried out are also about creating space for celebration.

One of the setbacks at the start of the Fall 2024 semester was the suspension of the Indigenous Emergency Bursary Fund, which is intended for students to receive the support they need to start attending university/college.

The Indigenous Articulation Committee is starting to think through how to create space for Indigenous courses to articulate well, and for courses that are Indigenous curriculum to be recognized and articulated as such across the system.

As an action item, it was agreed BCCAT would be interested in a future overview presentation on the 4Rs to provide context for Council members on the work of providing accessible inclusive educational opportunities.

5.2 Executive Director Report

Rob provided some highlights on recent activities and developments.

5.2.1 Key Activities & Developments

MINISTRY/GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

- Rob highlighted discussions with Ministry staff and EPBC around CARE Economy programs, in particular Nursing, with a focus on a more coordinated admissions process and laddering opportunities across programs. The follow-up meeting was going to take place the following week, in preparation for discussions with Deans and Directors of Health Programs on October 24. BCCAT is interested in the bridging that occurs between Licensed Practical Nursing and BSN programs, and whether pathways can be replicated more thoroughly across the system.
- In terms of Ministry Digital Services Strategy Initiatives, BCCAT is continuing to move forward with the Pathways work. Looking into next year, BCCAT will complete the Proof of Concept version of the tool, and begin working with next phase partners as well as develop interoperability with EPBC and others.
- In relation to the Digital Learning Strategy Advisory Committee, BCCAT has been following up with TRU regarding the BC Credit Bank to leverage the Transfer Credit System as a work tool and repository for micro-credential credit awards. For the remainder of this fiscal year, BCCAT will finish uploading the current micro-credential credit information into the TCS and developing a BC Transfer Guide page. Future discussion will focus on development of TCS as workflow for the BC Credit Bank.

-
- Rob attended Ministry workshops on Board governance in the BC PSE system. For reference, see attachment in the June 10 meeting package.
 - DQAB has been focusing on the revisions to standards and processes, such as the Stage 1 Review for public and private institutions. Rob will be attending the Retreat at the end of October.

BC TRANSFER SYSTEM – CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

- Rob met with Ministry representatives at the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to discuss credit recognition opportunities for First Nations Guardian Programs.
- Rob had several meetings with the Trades, Training BC Consortium (TTC) and with the BC Association of Trades and Technical Administrators (BCATTA) organization and he presented at VCC on the topic of laddering opportunities between trades and academic programs. BCCAT is committed to supporting trades to academic pathways development.

INTER-PROVINCIAL / INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

- Mike was attending and presenting on BCCAT technology and services at the Groningen Declaration Network (GDN) in San Diego the day of the Council meeting. Rob deferred due to conflict with the Council meeting.
- The PCCAT Conference, jointly hosted with ARUCC, took place in Calgary from June 23-26.
- Rob and Mike met with CMB regarding renewed provincial interest in implementing a TCS solution.
- Meetings and development regarding a TCS collaboration with ONCAT are ongoing.

5.2.2 Staff Report

The staff report was presented for information.

5.2.3 Project & Activities Update

Rob reported that the projects are on track.

5.3 Budget & Accountability

5.3.1 2024-25 Budget Update

Rob walked the Council members through some highlights of the FY25 budget right before Q2 submission to Ministry.

5.3.2 FY2025-26 Accountability Letter & Plan

The Accountability Letter & Plan for FY25-26 was included in the agenda package for information.

5.4 BCCAT Transfer Awards

Val was pleased to present the report for recommendations of the BCCAT Transfer Awards committee for Council consideration. The committee met in September to review and adjudicate the submitted nominations. This year, there were two recommendations for two separate categories: Pricilla Stone, Articulation & Transfer Credit Officer, VCC, was nominated for the Rising Star Award, and Emily Gadzala, Student Advisor, UNBC, was nominated for the Transfer & Articulation Service Award. The latter is a new BCCAT Recognition Award especially introduced to commemorate BCCAT's 35th anniversary and the 10th anniversary of the BCCAT Transfer Awards.

→ **MOTION:** To accept the recommendations of the Awards Committee regarding 2024 nominees. **L. Domae/K. Siedlaczek**
CARRIED

Val noted that she would inform the awardees and their nominators, and proceed with planning the Awards Ceremony, to be held on November 7, 2024 at the JAM 2024 reception. A public announcement will be released following the ceremony.

6. ADMISSIONS

6.1. Admissions Committee – Z. Mitchell (Chair) (Last Meeting: September 27, 2024)

Zena stated that the most recent Admissions Committee minutes were not included in the October Council package as the Committee met on September 27. There were a few membership updates. Paola Baca and Sue Sterling have stepped down from the committee. The committee welcomed Amanda Street, Registrar, NVIT, for a standard three-year term. Zena mentioned her term as Admissions Chair was also up in October, but she has agreed to continue for an additional year in the role.

Two new projects were launched:

- *Students' Affordability Considerations for Post-Secondary Access*. The project has been contracted to Ted James. Affordability and all the various costs associated with attending post-secondary are currently prevalent topics of discussion.
- *Policies and Practices of Course Syllabi Distribution at BC Post-Secondary Institutions*. This project has been contracted to Academica. This study aims to assess the timing of syllabi distribution and its influence on student engagement and retention at BC Post-Secondary Institutions.

In terms of completed projects, the *Pathways from Upgrading Programs to Further Post-Secondary* has been completed and a link to access the report was provided in the Council agenda package.

A first draft report for the project called *Transfer Pathways of International Students from private to public BC Transfer System Post-Secondary Institutions* has been submitted and is being reviewed.

5.2 Admissions Projects

5.2.1 Pathways from Upgrading Programs to Further Post-Secondary (<https://www.bccat.ca/publication/upgradingprograms/>)

The project explored pathways from Adult Basic Education (ABE) to undergraduate programs in BC institutions. The study results indicated a decline in ABE enrollment in the last decade, due to a variety of reasons. A significant number of ABE students continue to further studies in post-secondary. There will be a presentation of the report at JAM in November. Anna also handed out hard copies of the report.

7. RESEARCH

7.1. Research Committee (Last Meeting: February 9, 2024)

Anna reported on behalf of Brian Dick, the Research Chair. The Research Committee was going to meet later in the week and the minutes will be included in the December meeting package.

In terms of membership changes, three new members have joined the Research committee for a three-year term: Elizabeth Adjin-Tettey, Associate Vice-President, Academic Programs, UVIC; Katerina Standish, Vice-Provost, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, UNBC; and Zareen Naqvi, Executive Director, Institutional Research and Planning, SFU, who has returned to the committee.

Anna highlighted the *BC Transfer Student Profile and Performance Report*, which is a standing publication that BCCAT has been producing for the past 35 years. This project compares the demographic profile of the transfer students and direct entry students at the public universities in BC. The most recent iteration covers the years 2018-2019 to 2022-2023. The final draft has been received and was going to be included in the Research committee package for consideration and approval. Anna will present on this project at JAM on November 8.

7.2. Research Projects

7.2.1 2024 Research Plan (Attached)

The Research Plan was included for information. It lists all the Research Projects that are ongoing, and includes topics of interest for future BCCAT research. Anna asked the Council members to connect directly with her for any new topics/ideas to be explored.

Elle reported on the Contemporary Issues projects:

- A project led by UVIC, *Learning from Comprehensive Qualification Frameworks*, was completed in the summer. The final report is entitled *Ever Better Access: Learning from Qualification Frameworks*.
- The project by VIU and SFU researchers *Monitoring Persistence in Engineering Studies According to Demographic Groupings* is nearing completion. This project looks at a possible relationship between student identity factors and persistence amongst 1st year engineering students. The draft final report will be reviewed at the upcoming Research Committee meeting (October 11).
- The 2024-25 *Admissions models for Authentic Inclusion* project is currently underway and being led by VIU, in partnership with STEPS Forward, a family-driven organization that partners with BC post-secondary institutions to support students with developmental disabilities. The contractors have already completed their interview recruitment plan.

The next call for proposals (CFP) for Contemporary Issues projects will be posted by the end of October.

8. TRANSFER & ARTICULATION

8.1. Transfer & Articulation Committee (TAC)

(Last Meeting: September 20, 2024)

8.1.1 Minutes from May 24, 2024 meeting (Attached)

Sam provided an update on the last TAC meeting. The May minutes were included in the agenda package and the September minutes should be included in the December meeting package.

As a result of some of the changes to the *Terms of Reference* for the TAC committee, Grant MacMillan, University Registrar, TWU, has joined the committee and TAC is expecting a few new members to join in the coming months.

The meeting consisted of discussions around the EAL/EAP project and the upcoming JAM. Two new projects are being conducted by BCCAT staff. One is the *Letters of Permission* report that Fiona is working on. Some of the preliminary results from this project will be on the JAM agenda. Elle is working on a project about awarding equivalence for courses completed at institutions outside of BC and this will be presented at JAM as well.

8.2. JAM Update

Val provided the JAM update on behalf of Mike Winsemann. This year's theme is *Growing Together*, as BCCAT celebrates its 35th anniversary. It is also the 15th anniversary of JAM and the 10th anniversary of the transfer awards. The BCCAT team is working on putting together a great event. The event will take place on November 7th online only and on November 8th both online and in-person, at Paradox Hotel, Vancouver. Registration was filling up really quickly. Val urged the Council members to check details about the event on the BCCAT website, under JAM 2024, including the viewing party and the awards ceremony celebration. Council members were encouraged to register if interested in attending.

8.3. TAC Projects

Fiona informed the Council members that the report for the project by the English as an Additional Language (EAL) articulation committee was not received in time to be included in the TAC meeting agenda. In the meantime, the committee has applied for a new grant to cover the development of a new course in EAL at level 5. Currently, there are 4 levels of EAL and the project is to develop a 5th level of EAL curriculum, which is intended to be transferrable approximately at the level of a 1st year ENG course.

The issue the committee faced with these two separate projects is that part of the original benchmarking project, which covers EAL levels 1-4, has some uncompleted work at level 4. The committee felt that it would be problematic to approve a project to develop level 5 if level 4 was not finalized. The committee decided to ask the contractor to complete the current project and then ask the committee to resubmit its proposal for funding to develop a level 5 course once that first

project is completed and approved by TAC. The contractor has been asked to submit the revised EAL 1-4 report in time for review at the January 2025 TAC meeting.

9. TECHNOLOGIES/WEBSITES

9.1 Transfer Credit System (TCS) Update

9.1.1 TCS Modernization

Jennifer reported that BCCAT is putting together a TCS Modernization plan that will see an end-to-end review and re-development of TCS technologies. This goes beyond just the TCS and seeks to integrate with existing system resources to leverage the overall transfer system. Currently, there are several systems that are siloed that could complement each other to build what BCCAT is internally referring to as a “smart” transfer system.

9.1.2 ONCAT Project

Jennifer reported that the ONCAT project entered Phase II and is the development part of the project, where BCCAT is developing a course catalogue import tool. BCCAT is also working to adopt the PESC Geocodes using an API provided by ACAT. Pilot testing with Ontario post-secondary institutions begins in January, with the goal to go live in June, 2025.

9.2 TCS Pathways Update

Jennifer stated that the Pathways project was in different stages of broadcast. During the summer, the BCCAT team worked on clearing deficiencies and bugs. There were two sandbox sessions in June and July with folks from different post-secondary institutions across the system, who use different tools that are connected to transfer. The sessions were intended to socialize the Pathways tool, for those who had not been exposed to it directly.

In November - January, the intention is to identify additional partners and have them engage with the project.

In the Phase II part of the project, BCCAT will be working with some Nursing programs to identify patterns, programs and structures that would align with the project.

PRESENTATION: Student Transitions Project: Contextualizing Student Transitions

Joanne provided an informative presentation to Council members on the Student Transitions Project (STP), with a focus on Contextualizing Student Transitions.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

10.1. ENGAGE Newsletter: <https://www.bccat.ca/about/news/#Engage>

Val reminded the Council members that BCCAT’s Engage Newsletter is sent out on a monthly basis, and is the primary way of pushing out news updates. She encouraged the members to go to that link and subscribe and tell others about it as well.

11. IN THE NEWS

Rob Fleming shared some recent news items of interest: <https://mailchi.mp/7736d0f27f54/gd0mdypkrv-6743657>.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other items of business.

13. NEXT MEETINGS & ADJOURNMENT

TAC	Friday, September 20, 2024
ADMISSIONS	September 27, 2024
COUNCIL	Monday, October 7, 2024
RESEARCH	October 11, 2024
COUNCIL	December 2, 2024
COUNCIL	March 17, 2025