

FRIENDS OF BCCAT

* MARTIN GERSON *



Photo Credit: Jennifer Oehler

"I spent most of my career at Langara College, where two-thirds of our students are in university-transfer programs. These students rely completely on the BC Transfer System and information provided by BCCAT (through BCTransferGuide.ca) to plan their transfer pathways."

Meet Martin Gerson

Vice-President Academic and Provost, Langara College (2009-2012), Executive Director and Campus Dean, New York Institute of Technology (Vancouver Campus, 2013-2014), Dean of Instruction, Langara College (1993-2009), BCCAT Council Member (2006-2012) and TAC Chair (2006-2012).

Martin has supported transfer and articulation in BC throughout his post-secondary career, not least through contributions as an articulation committee member, and by serving on the Council and chairing BCCAT's Transfer & Articulation Committee. He continues to stand as an advocate for access and mobility for BC's post-secondary students.

Martin's Story

My first encounters with the BC Transfer System came about in the 70s when I was at SFU completing my PhD in Mathematics and doing some teaching. I heard about a mathematics "articulation" meeting where participants were discussing and comparing the curriculum and standards for their math courses to determine transfer credit for students wishing to transfer from college to university. And when I began teaching at Langara College, I discovered that students were referring to "transfer guide" documents to plan transfer routes from Langara to UBC and SFU.

Little did I know at that time that I would later spend more than 20 years working closely with the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer, first as a member of the Math articulation committee known as "BCCUPMS" (the BC Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics and Statistics), and later as the "system liaison person" for the Computer Science and Criminology articulation committees.

I spent eight years (2004-2012) as a member of BCCAT's Transfer and Articulation Committee, the last six of those as chair, and then served for six years (2006-2012) as a member of the Council. Through the years, it has become clear to me that BCCAT's oversight of the transfer system, facilitation of articulation committees, and engagement with post-secondary partners has enabled the development of a robust and reliable transfer network.

I spent most of my career at Langara College, where two-thirds of our students are in university-transfer programs. These students rely completely on the BC Transfer System and information provided by BCCAT through BCTransferGuide.ca to plan their transfer pathways.

The transfer system gives students enormous flexibility to move among institutions. This can be particularly important for students whose working or family lives may require them to move from one part of the province to another. I have often said that it is the operations of BCCAT that make the BC post-secondary system a system and not merely a collection of individual and varied institutions.

In the last decade or so there have been a number of "CATs" (councils on admissions/articulation and transfer) established across Canada. Building on the strengths of the BC Transfer System, BCCAT has served as a leader and mentor in supporting the development of transfer within and beyond BC.

Looking ahead, I see areas for ongoing improvement (e.g. possible expansion of "block transfer" arrangements between institutions) as BCCAT continues to address ways to expand transfer opportunities, advancing mobility options for BC's post-secondary students.

"The transfer system gives students enormous flexibility to move among institutions. This can be particularly important for students whose working or family lives may require them to move from one part of the province to another."

"I have often said that it is the operations of BCCAT that make the BC post-secondary system a system and not merely a collection of individual and varied institutions."



Martin is pictured here with Finola Finlay, BCCAT Associate Director of Transfer & Articulation (1996-2010) and Frank Koop, in Dublin, Ireland, 2009.