

BCCEC Spring Articulation Meeting
University of the Fraser Valley
Thursday, May 4, 2017

Minutes taken by Ed Knorr, UBC-Vancouver

9:30 Meeting began with welcome address and song by a native elder from the area

9:35 Announcements and Logistics

9:37 Agenda and Previous minutes - both approved

9:38 BCCAT Research Officer Anna Tikina on Transfer and Articulation Committees

- One page handout: “BCCAT Update”, Spring 2017
- There are 67 articulation committees.
- Very busy season for BCCAT
- bccat.ca has been revamped with lots of info and features
- Innovation funding is available, up to \$15K if there is interest in developing things like FPMs (Flexible Pre-Majors) and other articulation projects
- Joint annual meeting that brings together chairs and system liaison persons and committees in Richmond, takes place in November
- Grades 10-12 provincial assessment and curriculum, work is in progress
 - Handout: “Education Transformation Project: Graduation Program (Grades 10-12) Implementation”
 - Online document, published in April 2017: “Curriculum Comparison Guide”
 - Green Booklet: “Changes in K-12 Education”, specific to BC (online link is in the first handout listed at the top of this page)
- “What is Academic Credit?” booklet
- “Dual Admissions” booklet
 - When a student applies simultaneously to two separate institutions (and takes courses at both), or when a student goes to one institution and plans to bridge to another (e.g., Camosun to UVic)
- Indigenous Persistence
 - Courses and programs
- Expanding Gender Declaration in Post-Secondary Information Systems
- Dual Credit programs
- Flexible Pre-Major
 - Two case studies: Selkirk College, UFV
- BCCAT “Engage” Updates
 - You can subscribe to this periodic update
 - Must subscribe because anti-spam legislation doesn’t allow routine mass mailouts without the agreement
- Education Planner BC
 - Online resource for prospective students who are planning to get into a particular program or discipline
 - Search by keyword (e.g., “engineer”, “hairstylist”)

- Can apply to specific programs via this portal
 - Some institutions are exchanging transcripts electronically
- “Supporting Post-Secondary Student Journeys: An Overview of BCCAT’s 2015-16 Annual Review”
 - Tells people what projects BCCAT is currently up to
- Transfer Credits in Articulation -- web page
 - Anna showed distributions of numbers of transfer credits
 - CS-specific stats for 21 institutions (out of 25), but it excludes 6 major institutions such as SFU, UBC, UVic, etc. (Universities don’t have to participate; other schools do.)
 - 23,713 total credits transferred from 2004-2016
 - 13,155 from Computer Science
 - All the rest are from other CS-related programs
 - If they went from Langara to UBC, those stats wouldn’t be included; but, if they went from UBC to Langara those stats would be included
 - 50% unassigned credits is typical, for transfers
 - About 70% of transfer credits are for first-year courses; about 20% are for second year; about 10% are for third year

10:27 Break and Networking

11:00 Return from Break

11:00 Introductions around the room

11:05 Institutional Reports (see the submitted reports sent out to the mailing list)

- Alexander College -- John Edgar
- BCIT -- Bethany Edmunds
- College of New Caledonia -- George Kaweesi
- Columbia College -- Ken Chan
- Coquitlam College -- Rita Ester
- Douglas College -- Nelson Eng
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University -- Catherine Mayden
 - They’re hosting an [annual Symposium on Cyber Security and Digital Forensics](#) on Friday, May 26, 2017 (and some of Saturday which includes an optional hackathon). BCCEC folks are invited. Mandeep Pannu will send an email to the BCCEC group.
- Langara College -- Bryan Green
- Northwest Community College -- Kirk Hart
- Okanagan College -- Youry Khmelevsky
 - New building, generous funding, expanding admissions/programs including to other campuses. Health Informatics (post-degree diploma -- until now, students had been going to Ontario).
- Selkirk College -- Frank Zhang
 - About 80 international students 4 years ago, to about 700 today--many from India, few from China. There are about 40 CS students. Furthermore, those international students can readily find employment locally. They’re allowed to work up to 20 hours per week in Canada.
- SFU -- Diana Cukierman

12:00 Break for lunch

13:30 Continue with institutional reports ...

- Thompson Rivers University -- Mohd A.
- Trinity Western University -- Rick Sutcliffe and Herbert Tsang
- UBC-Okanagan -- Bowen Hui
- UBC-Vancouver -- Ed Knorr
- UFV -- Paul Franklin
- UVic -- Mike Zastre
 - After many months of discussion, UVic will be transferring to Python this coming year (probably in early 2018) from Java. Like other schools, many of their students come from a variety of backgrounds (engineering, science, humanities, etc.); so, they think that Python will a better language for most students.
- Vancouver Island University -- Gara Pruesse
 - Academic advisory program with industry

14:10 Recruiting

Many schools represented at this meeting will be interviewing and hiring for 2018

14:15 “WCCCE: Where Do We Go from Here?” -- Donald Acton, Diana Cukierman, Mike Zastre

- History: started 22 years ago (1995)
- Changed from informally meeting to a much more structured conference
- ACM In-cooperation status since 2009
- Increasingly onerous to organize the committee
 - Fewer volunteers, and those volunteers are increasingly busy with their own jobs
- More venues for people to publish at
- Current WCCCE is not sustainable
- Move to every two years?
- Should we adopt an “un-conference” model with a focus on best practices, new technology, emerging topics, war stories--yet still maintain some structure?
- Focus on ideas, “half a paper” ideas, course experience ideas, “Here’s what I tried in class” (and either worked or didn’t work), etc.
- Ideas from the floor, after a short brainstorming session:
 - Directly apply tactics to teaching and research
 - Networking with other teaching faculty
 - Avoid submission dilemma (qualify)--e.g., WCCCE has a very high acceptance rate, SIGCSE has a fairly low acceptance rate (e.g., < 25%)
 - Loose
 - Focused
 - Open

- Professional Development--careful about the title or name because some faculty may need to justify the event to administrators to get funding approved.
 - If there are no accepted papers, this may be hard to justify:
professional/personal funds vs. funds for actually delivering a paper
- Flexible topics
- Experience reports
- BCCEC + WCCCE = 3 days (plus $\frac{1}{2}$ day travel)--can be very onerous on busy faculty
 - How about BCCCE = $\frac{1}{2}$ day + WCCCE = $1\frac{1}{2}$ days
 - 2 intense days
- Workshops to learn new topics (e.g., privacy and security workshops at the WCCCE conference sponsored by KPU a few years ago)
- It's a **lot** of work to run the conference:
 - Facilities
 - Paper submission
 - Paper reviews
 - In-cooperation status with ACM, Publication process with ACM
 - Setting up the Web site -- we seem to be reinventing the wheel
 - Accepting payments
- How about holding the conference at a host hotel? This would reduce the burdens associated with facilitating at a post-secondary institution = less work for the host institution.
- Hire people to organize?
 - IEEE Computer Society (chapter) can help organize, if the conference is self-sustainable
- Every 4 years associated with a bigger conference?
- 2018 -- was tentatively TWU, but can't happen due to a sabbatical; therefore, will move 2019 conference at UVic to 2018 at UVic, instead, but with a new model because it's currently not sustainable ... i.e., it's a LOT of work
- What would we need to put on an "un-conference"?
 - Space
 - Projectors, flipcharts
 - Registration facilitation
 - Collect a fee for lunch
 - Active participants
 - A small group of people committed to start organizing
 - Choose a set of topics at end of year n's conference with plans to talk about these topics in year n+1
 - "Let's practice what we preach" - include active participation activities in our conference

15:25 Break

15:45 Back from Break, some announcements, setup for Skype session

16:10 Skype Session with Stephen Price of the West Vancouver School District

- Ministry of Education initiative:
 - Grade 5-9 range: coding ... but for only about 2 hours per year!
 - Baseline: "Every student should get 9 hours by the time they reach Grade 9."
 - "Every high school graduate will speak code", goes the mantra.
- What should you do with Grades 5-9?
 - Computational Thinking
- What should you do with Grades 11-12?
 - There should be two streams: university prep and technical focus.
- Will all the professional development take place in Vancouver?
 - Is there capacity to serve in-service teachers?
 - What about teachers in remote areas?
 - A critical mass of teachers who then teach other teachers?
 - Professional development time is the time to train, for many teachers -- they want vacation time in the summer. But not all teachers go on vacation.
 - 1-2 weeks max. -- a fairly intensive 5 days may be appropriate
 - Depends on the funding available from the Ministry
 - Lots of opportunity for collaboration
 - Longer-term mentoring?
 - Connect with your school district to see how you can become involved.
 - 3rd Friday in October
- UBC Faculty of Education
 - How do we incorporate computational thinking into the prerequisite to teaching stream?
 - Would-be teachers should take a basic course in computing, just like they would for math, etc.
 - code.org is useful

16:35 Upcoming Meetings

- Fall 2017: Selkirk (date: possibly Thursday/Friday, Oct. 19/20 -- the weekend after Thanksgiving may be too short a week; suggest starting at noon on Thursday, and then work all day Friday -- this might help. There is the possibility of bad weather delaying air traffic (cancellations are not uncommon at Castlegar Airport ... alternative: Trail, fly in with Pacific Coastal Air).
- Spring 2018: tentatively UVic
- Fall 2018: Langara
- Spring 2019: TWU

16:50 Meeting Adjourned

Those who wished to join the group for dinner made their own arrangements.

List of Attendees:

Alexander College	John Edgar
BC Council on Admissions & Transfer (BCCAT)	Anna Tikina
BCIT	Bethany Edmunds, Trevor Lord
College of New Caledonia	George Kaweesi
Columbia College	Ken Chan, William Cheng
Coquitlam College	Anne Dawson, Rita Ester, Megan O'Connor, Nadine Turner
Douglas College	Nelson Eng
Kwantlen Polytechnic University	Marie Lichimo, Catherine Maydan, Mandeep Pannu
Langara College	Bryan Green
Northwest Community College	Kirk Hart
Okanagan College	Youry Khmelevsky
Selkirk College	K. Frank Zhang
Simon Fraser University	Diana Cukierman
Thompson Rivers University	Mohd A
Trinity Western University	Herbert Tsang, Rick Sutcliffe
UBC-Okanagan	Bowen Hui
UBC-Vancouver	Donald Acton, Patrice Belleville, Ed Knorr
University of the Fraser Valley	Paul Franklin
University of Victoria	Mike Zastre
Vancouver Island University	Gara Pruesse