

BCCAT CREATIVE WRITING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL ON ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFERS (BCCAT)

1866 Main Hall, Buchanan Building
April 28, 2017 – 9:30-2:30 PM

Call to order – 9:30am

Present: Brook Houglum – Capilano University, Dee Horne – UNBC, Anthony Grieco—Vancouver Film School, Jill Goldberg– Langara College, Aleya Abdulla – UBC, Candace Fertile – Camosun, Graham Pierce – CNC, Derek Hanebury – North Island College, Shashi Bhat – Douglas College, Leesa Dean – Selkirk College, Jake Kennedy – Okanagan College, Aaron Bushkowsky - KPU

1. Introductions/welcome

- New Members/Guests: Anthony Grieco—Vancouver Film School

2. Approval of Agenda and Any Additional Items: Approved

3. Approval of Previous Minutes of the Articulation Committee 2016 meeting: Approved

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes (if any)-- None

5. BCCAT Report + 2016 Joint Annual Meeting

- John FitzGibbon from BCCAT was unable to attend the meeting. No additional notes were provided for discussion.

6. Associate Arts Degrees and transfer partnerships between institutions

a. What transfer partnerships already exist?

i. How are they working?

- KPU and Camosun currently have outstanding articulation requests.
- General consensus is that current transfer partnerships are working well. No major issues were identified.

b. What partnerships should be developed?

- Anthony Grieco from the Vancouver Film School presented a brief overview of VFS' 12 month Writing for Film and Television program.
- The semesters are structured differently at VFS: in the Film and TV program, each semester is eight weeks.
- When asked about granting credits from other institutions towards this program, VFS suggested it would be unlikely.

- The possibility of a student arriving from another institution at any point other than the first semester also seemed unlikely since the program is cohort-based.
- Camosun has a graphic novel and animation program, so there may be transferability potential there.

7. Review of grading practices: What grading rubrics are currently being used?

- Most, but not all instructors use rubrics in Creative Writing classes.
- Instructors have found rubrics to be especially useful for international students.
- Certain instructors use a gradual rubric: it becomes more elaborate as the students' knowledge/experience grows.
- Instructors have found rubrics often reduce pushback from students about grades.
- Certain instructors have students self-evaluate using rubrics first.
- Peer review using rubrics is common practice as well.

ACTION: Instructors will submit example rubrics to the Chair who will post them on a shared Google docs site. Anticipated timeline: September 2017.

8. Classroom issues and practices

- Jake at OC mentioned he's shifting away from grading student work and is instead engaging more with theory and the artistry of the writing life.
- UNBC has students pay a \$40 fee for guest speakers so writers can be brought in from other locations.
- Graeme at CNC hosts readings and gives credits to students for attending literary events.
- Ongoing issues exist with subversive writing, especially that of a sexual or violent nature. Generally the writing is evaluated in terms of craft (has the sex and violence been written *well*?)
- Trigger warnings are becoming more commonplace in the classroom when dealing with sensitive content.

9. 12:00 Lunch

10. Presentation of Institutional Reports

- Institutional reports were circulated prior to the meeting and supplemented with commentary by each participant.
- **CNC:** Enrolment in Creative Writing is up 24%. Extracurricular activities for writers have helped generate and sustain interest.
- **Capilano:** is currently developing a new Writing Practices minor. See the attached institutional report for full details.

- **Camosun:** had to let go of second year Creative Writing courses because the classes didn't fill. Too many students transfer to UVIC in their second year.
- **Douglas College:** Enrollment is strong across the board, with the exception of their third-year playwriting course which is going to be withdrawn from circulation due to consistent low enrollment.
- **UBC:** The BFA requirements have changed. Students no longer have to take a science course. A podcast and a video game writing class have been added to the 300-level offerings.
- **UNBC:** Caps Creative Writing classes at 15 students. English MA students taking the Creative Writing option take upper-level undergraduate workshops.
- **Langara:** Numbers in CWRT were down this year. The college is receiving a lot more international students, and they do not typically take creative writing. Langara has a reading series: Strangers on a Train.
- **Kwantlen:** Enrolment was significantly lower for theatre writing/drama classes, but screen writing was popular. Kwantlen's reading series pairs student readers with professionals.
- **NIC:** Offered an online Introduction to Poetry/Drama course which was successfully piloted. The college is considering adding a Creative Writing certificate program as well.
- **Selkirk:** Successfully delivered a hybrid, dual campus second year course. They also started a literary magazine, The Black Bear Review.

11. Any Other Business

- The importance of articulation and transferability was discussed. We have agreed to compare learning outcomes for first year fiction classes at next year's articulation meeting.
- Potential topics for next year were brainstormed: internationalization, retention, collaboration.
- Changing the meeting date from Friday to Thursday was discussed and agreed upon to facilitate logistics, hotel bookings, and to allow regional writers time to travel home and participate in Authors for Indies, which is always held the last Saturday of April.

ACTION: Submit first year fiction course outcomes to the Chair before the 2018 meeting (early 2018)

12. Next meeting:

- Location: UBC, same location.
- Date: Thursday, April 26, 2018