

Minutes of BC Political Science Articulation Meeting, Douglas College May 5, 2017.
South Building. 2-5pm

Chair: Ayla Kilic (Okanagan College)
Recorder: Carey Doberstein (UBCO)

In attendance:

Boris DeWiel (UNBC),
Allen Sens (UBC),
Tim Schouls (Capilano University),
Marcel Dirk (College of the Rockies),
Eva St. Jean (Northern Lights College),
Paul Rowe (Trinity Western University),
Mona Brash (Camosun College),
Greg Millard (KPU),
Paul Prospero (Langara College),
Derek Cook (TRU),
Jennette Ashe (Douglas College),
Darin Nesbitt (Douglas College),
Fiona MacDonald (UFV),
Ayla Kilic (Okanagan College),
Matt Wadsworth (Columbia College),
Anna Tikina (BCCAT),
Dina von Hahn (NWCC),
Cara Camcastle (Corpus Christi College),
Carey Doberstein (UBCO).

Agenda

1. Welcome, Introductions, Recognitions
2. Approvals
 - 2.1. Approval of Agenda
 - 2.2. Approval of the Minutes of 2016 Articulation Meeting
3. New Business
 - 3.1. Grades 10-12 Curriculum and Assessment Changes (*Anna Tikina, BCCAT*)
 - 3.2. Unassigned Credit Definition Survey (*Anna Tikina, BCCAT*)
 - 3.3. Academic integrity & predatory journal (*Derek Cook, TRU*)

BREAK

4. Reports / Subcommittees
 - 4.1. Chair's Report
 - 4.2. Institutional Reports
5. Continuing Business
 - 5.1. Inclusion of POLI in High School Curriculum (*Conrad King, CapU*)
3. Next Meeting
4. Adjournment

Welcome to the meeting by Ayla, introductions

1. Approvals

- 1.1. Motion (Eva; Derek): Agenda item added for discussion on Indigenous representative for articulation. That the agenda be approved. Carried.
- 1.2. Motion (Greg; Robert): That the minutes amended be approved. Carried.

2. New Business

2.1. Grades 10-12 Curriculum and Assessment Changes (*Anna Tikina, BCCAT*)

-Anna provided BCCAT update, summarizing the Spring 2017 two-pager provided to members

-Website updates for articulation matters such as Calls for Proposals for funding up to \$15,000, New member orientation guide.

-Ministry still accepting feedback from stakeholders on matters related to articulation; advice suggested by Anna is to send multiple letters to make sure concerns are heard and responded to

-Anna shared Education Transformation Project: Graduation Program Implementation document for grades 10-12 summarizing changes to be implemented for 2018/19; Question from Tim Shouls about whether Ministry has moved away from abandoning numerical grades and moving towards “portfolios”, which concerned Registrars; Anna confirmed that the Ministry is not currently pursuing that path

-Short discussion followed about trends towards emphasizing trades and other vocational training in high school, particularly in the Interior

-Discussion on whether this committee should be proactive to lobby for information, or wait and see what the Ministry proposes; Gred Millard, Paul Prospesi and Jennette Ashe volunteered to form sub-cmte to observe, follow up and inform the articulation committee on this matter; Conrad Kim from Capilano would be useful for the sub-cmte to contact

-Tim Shouls asked about field school articulation study being conducted by BCCAT; Anna will provide Ayla the contact information for the researcher conducting this study, and she will distribute to members

2.2. Unassigned Credit Definition Survey (*Anna Tikina, BCCAT*)

-41% of student transfer credits in Political Science are unassigned (excludes transfer credits to UBC, SFU, UVIC, UNBC, the four biggest receiving institutions); which is slightly higher than the average across other disciplines

-Survey results to the question: is the Ministry definition for unassigned credit adequate? 94% of articulation members agree with the Ministry definition, which is slightly different from that found in the Articulation manual

-Discussion followed around the importance of unassigned credits to students, which can affect their ability to meet political science degree requirements; assigning credit is often done at the departmental level, is not subject to formal or standardized procedures (even if done with integrity).

2.3. Academic integrity & predatory journal (*Derek Cook, TRU*)

-Derek Cook reported on a study conducted by a colleague in Economics that found that numerous professors in his institution have published in “predatory” journals, which do not adhere to peer review standards and impose costs on the author. His colleague was admonished by Administration for publishing and promoting this study. Derek wanted us to know this apparent trend, which he believes will undermine our profession.

-Incredulous discussion followed that faculty would do this unintentionally, and broad agreement that we all need to take this information back to our institutions and spread the word, particularly among undergraduate and graduate students to avoid this, as the reputational implications are severe. Derek will report back next year after following this issue and exposing his students to this study he summarized for us.

2.4 Indigenous representative for articulation

-Following Alex’s expressions to consider this issue, Ayla asked whether we should invite Indigenous studies representatives to our group

-Discussion followed and it was decided that we would not invite to the political science articulation, as there are plenty of other analogous fields that touch on political science (e.g. Women’s Studies) that could also be justified. Allen proposed that we signal openness and seek cooperation with Indigenous articulation colleagues as needed. Discussion that we might add to our institutional reporting structure Indigenous-related issues in political science (including articulation, new faculty members, etc.), though how one frames these issues is sensitive. Might be considered as an agenda item for the next meeting.

5. Reports / Subcommittees

5.1. Chair’s Report

-Enjoyed cross-disciplinary articulation meeting and was impressed by Economics website, where they share articulation issues throughout the year

-Pending transfer requests from Capilano, Douglas, TRU (online), Columbia, VCC, Kwantlen, UVIC

-Dual credit courses (e.g. joint enrollment agreements); Ayla can forward information on any questions about this.

-Any comments on new Institutional Report template, send to Ayla

5.2. Institutional Reports

-Fiona MacDonald (UFV): new dept head; did not receive any information to report

-Paul Prosperi (Langara): new international enrollment puts pressure on political science, to make them more attractive to these students; rates up academic misconduct and failure up

-Jennette Ashe (Douglas College): international enrollment high and academic dishonesty is an issue; some information sessions targeted just international students to try to address this; also increasingly grade disputes from same students; overall enrollment in POLI up. Shawn Ticoff now part of administration. New hire for open position almost completed. Also have taken on popular interdisciplinary International Studies 1100 course within POLI.

-Darin Nesbitt (Douglas College): International enrollment makes DC flush with cash, but unable to spend it to support students according to Ministry rules. Also: new 3rd year course "The Politics of Utopias and Dystopias" coming in the Fall, and hopeful that credit will be recognized.

-Boris DeWiel (UNBC): ongoing "budget crisis"; Indigenizing movement apace at various levels of university; noted that this is ongoing at CPSA as well. Possible reorganization of department. Enrollment trends unknown at the moment.

-Carey Doberstein (UBCO): relatively new hire, pleased to join this meeting as a stand-in and learn about articulation; enrollment in POLI up slightly; David Ding now retired, will hire tenure-track replacement for him this Fall.

-Greg Millard (Kwantlen): not awash in funds or international students; enrollment steady; IR is lower than others; new faculty hiring process ongoing

-Tim Shouls (Capilano): down severely on base sections; losing a course to low enrollment means that course is lost forever, unless waiting lists occur in the future; Ed Laval has retired. Interdisciplinarity is new focus. New president wants to double to number of degrees offered to attract and retain students.

-Dina von Hahn (NWCC): small department, 1 full-time and 1 part-time; enrollments at 29 students; Experiential learning field schools is an area of strength. International students is another priority for administration.

-Derek Cook (TRU): ongoing open pit mine controversy; two undergraduate conferences hosted (both in Winter term); Grade disputes also prevalent among international students, mainly directed at female faculty

-Eva St. Jean (Northern Lights College): blessed and cursed with international students; diversity is welcomed, but grading is difficult. All international students need to take

English 99 as first class, where they learn about academic integrity, and have seen dramatic decrease in incidents. Also: online module called Plato that international students complete before they arrive.

-Marcel Dirk (College of the Rockies): witchhunt against political science has lessened; two students in last term, yet administration did not cancel class, which is a new approach from administration to offer more and diverse courses. A lot of engagement in politics given the election year.

-Mona Brush (Camosun College): recent retirements have not been replaced; slightly increased enrollment; New Dean hiring process is ongoing. Many Camosun graduates participating in the current provincial election across all parties either as candidates or as campaign managers.

-Paul Rowe (TWU): enrollment plateaued; demand at Richmond campus is high and hopeful to expand; Administration has recently been more responsive to faculty demands on work load. New course on Contemporary South Asia. Core requirements review completed.

-Matt Wadsworth (Columbia College): 10 full sections of political science, highest ever. Opening secondary campus next year. New courses: International Relations and Canadian Politics. Successful pilot bursary program for Syrian refugees; increased to 16 for Sept. term.

-Allen Sens (UBC): new dept head Barbara O'Neill; new TT hire in Political Theory; CDN TT unsuccessful search, held for this coming year and will be advertised in 2018/29. UBC Policy School will be coming fully online in the coming year. Vantage College is up and running: is first year international students only, to get students up to English competency through language and discipline-specific courses. Initial results look promising. Undergraduate enrollment is experiencing very high growth. 26% of enrollment in POLI is international students. Six new courses coming online in new year.

-Ayla Kilic (Okanagan College): enrollment slightly down; lost one section for the coming year; will have a new chair soon; expressed disappointment that no POLI courses in Social Work applied degree.

6. Continuing Business

6.1. Inclusion of POLI in High School Curriculum (*Conrad King, CapU*)

-Conrad not present, but Tim Shouls updated on his behalf; Stand-alone POLI will be an elective in Grade 11 starting in 2018-19, among other social studies electives, which will replace Social Studies 11. This has implications, given that high school teachers

may be interested in obtaining further training in Political Studies/Science in order to offer this course. Might consider approaching the BC Social Studies Teachers Association to assist them. To think about: pushing for Political Studies/Science 12 in the future.

7. BCPSA meeting next year at Thompson Rivers University.

8. Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

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