

# Biology Articulation Committee Minutes

British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfers (BCCAT)  
*Thompson Rivers University, TRUSU Board Room*  
*Kamloops British Columbia*  
*May 10th – 11, 2018*

Present:

BCCAT:

Meg Stainsby

## Articulation Committee Members

Chair: Dezene Huber – University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)

Associate Chair: Tara Stehelin-Yukon College (YUKO)

Larry Anthony – Camosun College (CAMO)  
Allan Arndt – University of Fraser Valley (UFV)  
Tyler Bassett – College of New Caledonia (CNC)  
Greg Beaulieu – University of Victoria (UVIC)  
Aisling Brady – North Island College (NIC)  
Rachel Clearwater – Capilano University (CAPU)  
Kirk Hart – Northwest Community College (NWCC)  
Andrena Heigh – College of the Rockies (COTR)  
Caroline Josefsson – Vancouver Island University (VIU)  
Carson Keever – Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU)  
Mairi Mackay – Thompson Rivers University (TRU)  
Elinor Matheson – Douglas College (DOUG)  
Christine Miller - Thompson Rivers University (TRU)

Tongpil Min – University Canada West (UCW)  
Barbara Moon – Alexander College (ALEX)  
Maria Morlin – Vancouver Community College (VCC)  
Matthew Nelson – University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBCO)  
Sarah Goomeshi Nobary – Columbia College (COLU)  
Kathy Nomme – University of British Columbia (UBCV)  
Mitra Panahi – Alexander College (ALEX)  
Erin Radomske – Okanagan College (OKAN)  
Stephen Seaborn – Selkirk College (SELK)  
Dennis Venema – Trinity Western University (TWU)  
Ji Yang – Langara College (LANG)

## Regrets:

Cindy Broberg – Northern Lights College (NLC)  
Monica De Boer – BC Institute of Technology (BCIT)  
Emelia Kirkwood – Simon Fraser University (SFU)  
Bruce Millen – Coquitlam College (COQ)  
Marina Turlakis – Quest University Canada (Quest)

## Recorder:

Christine Miller - Thompson Rivers University

**Welcome to the Secwepmec Territory by Elder Dr. Margaret Vickers Hyslop from the territories of the Tsimshian and Heiltsuk people**

**1. Meeting Called to Order 08:30 a.m.**

**2. Introductions/welcome**

New members/guests  
Regrets  
Update of contact list

**3. Approval of agenda and any additional items**

Approval of agenda  
Dennis Venema (TWU) requests moving his institution's report to today on the agenda.  
Larry Anthony (CAMO) requests the group set aside 15 minutes for informal items.

*Motion: to accept the agenda with additions*

*Moved: Kathy Nomme (UBC) Seconded: Caroline Josefsson (VIU)*

*Carried unanimously*

**4. Approval of previous minutes of the BCCAT Biology Articulation Committee meeting of May 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2017 (Simon Fraser University)**

*Motion: to accept the minutes as presented*

*Moved: Tara Stehelin (YUKO) Seconded: Kirk Hart (NWCC)*

*Carried unanimously*

**5. BCCAT report (Meg Stainsby, Director of Transfer and Articulation)**

Summary and discussion highlights:

1. Spring update is available on the BCCAT website
2. Several reports are underway:
  - International Transfer Credit assessment: how do language proficiency measures compare? This is a timely study due to the recent and significant influx of international students to many institutions
  - Interdisciplinary Transfer: Challenges for students taking interdisciplinary studies when trying to transfer to and from institutions
  - Indigenous Learning: A survey of persistence, barriers, and graduation success rates for indigenous learners. Phase 1 includes institutional data collection; phase 2 is a qualitative study from the perspective of the indigenous learners
  - Trades ↔ Academics Movement: Study of pathways of students who want to transfer between academics and trades in both directions
3. BCCAT is working on coordinating block transfer agreements. The course-to-course transfer guide is robust, but the block transfer guide is not. A co-op student has completed a review of the currency of the transfer agreements, contacted institutions, and examined institutional websites

4. Transfer innovation funds are available on an application basis for projects that would benefit a discipline at all institutions (e.g: block transfer to multiple institutions, shared discipline specific test bank questions).
5. New transfer credit system software launched February 9<sup>th</sup>, replacing the old TCES software. This program allows for quick turnaround on requests and replies and formatting will be standardized to avoid idiosyncrasies.
6. BCCAT is posting for a faculty 50-100% secondment for an extra research and writing person to help tie up some projects. Position will be posted in the next couple of weeks for a release in fall.
7. From BC Campus: Indigenization project underway to create a toolkit of resources for faculty to indigenize programs, courses, and institutions
8. K-12 Curriculum Changes- working with BC Ministry of Education. BCCAT invited the ministry to send representatives to articulation groups. Ministry of Education was not able to attend many in person. They sent some info through BCCAT representatives.
9. English 12 Assessment- In place for June 2020, British Columbia high school students will not graduate with letter grade but a ranking (emerging, meeting, exceeding etc., to be converted to some sort of system for coding). This will replace a pass/fail system.

#### **6. Guests**

- Dr. Catharine Dishke, Dr. John Churchley, and Christine Miller (Mind the Gap: K-16 Transitions; Thompson Rivers University)
- Discussion on shifting admissions policies and standards (Michael Bluhm, Registrar, Thompson Rivers University)

#### **7. JAM Report (Dezene Huber, UNBC)**

- a. Discussions occurred around how institutions can tailor programs to students heading into the workforce and how to support our indigenous students. JAM website has resources for indigenization of higher education
- b. The JAM website has the meeting recorded in its entirety
- c. BCCAT and several other provinces are hoping to have a joint articulation for Western Canada. The hope is to coordinate with Alberta.

#### **8. SLP report (Barbara Moon)**

Province wide concerns:

Internationalization and Language Prerequisites: Language proficiency entrance tests and the IELTS are not corresponding. Numeracy is also coming up as a problem, particularly for students entering subjects requiring math (chemistry, economics, etc.) Most institutions are experiencing high waitlists and very full classrooms. Academic Fraud also cited as an increasing concern

**9. Presentation of Institutional Reports**

- 1) Trinity Western University: Dennis Venema
- 2) Mitra Panahi from Alexander College

**10. Pending articulation requests**

**ACTION:** Dezene Huber will send out an updated list

**11. Business arising from previous meetings**

- **Greg Beaulieu (UVIC): Ongoing liaison effort with the Ministry of Education regarding K-12 curriculum changes**  
Organized an email campaign and has been engaging with this issue on UVIC Campus. We should have ongoing engagement with this issue.
- **Allan Arndt (UFV): Member(s) emeritus policy**  
Kathy Nomme and Carol Pollack (UBC) will be working on this

**12. Possible entrance exam for Biology majors**

Background: If students are coming to post-secondary and don't necessarily have grade 11 and/or 12 Biology or these course have changed with new curriculum do we need some way to assess what they know?

Following a detailed discussion and testimonials from institutions where this was attempted the committee generally thought this would be difficult to pursue (e.g. hard to cover what's needed on one exam and needed concepts would differ across specialties, may be a barrier, etc.).

**13. Dezene Huber (UNBC): Field School Coordination Project update**

Committee discussed the BCCAT Field Course Coordination Report and is in full support of BCCAT moving forward with this.

*Motion: Move that the Biology Articulation Committee write a letter in support of field course coordination to BCCAT.*

*Moved by Dezene Huber (UNBC)*

*Seconded by Carson Keever (KPU)*

*Unanimously Carried*

**ACTION:** Maria Morlin (VCC) and Tara Stehelin (YUKO) volunteer to draft a letter from the Biology Articulation Committee to BCCAT advocating for supports in creating and maintaining a province-wide field school database that is visible to institutions and students.

**14. New business**

**2018-2019 Call for Project Proposals for Transfer Innovations Funding (BCCAT)**

BCCAT is requesting proposals for projects around learning outcomes, block transfer, etc. Up to \$15000 per project is available.

**Dezene Huber (UNBC) Moodle for BAC archiving**

BAC has documents stored in many locations. KPU is hosting a Moodle platform for articulation committees to use. Every articulation committee would have documents in Moodle for better continuity and make it easier to access information.

**ACTION:** Andrena Heigh (COTR) will be willing to set it up and host it.

**Presentation of institutional reports, continued**

- 1) Larry Anthony from Camosun College
- 2) Rachel Clearwater from Capilano University
- 3) Tyler Bassett from College of New Caledonia
- 4) Sarah Goomeshi Nobary from Columbia College
- 5) Andrena Heigh from College of the Rockies
- 6) Elinor Matheson from Douglas College
- 7) Carson Keever from Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- 8) Ji Yang from Langara College
- 9) Aisling Brady from North Island College
- 10) Northern Lights College (No Representative)
- 11) Kirk Hart from Northwest Community College
- 12) Erin Radomske from Okanagan College
- 13) Quest University (No representative)
- 14) Stephen Seaborn from Selkirk College
- 15) Mairi Mackay from Thompson Rivers University
- 16) Matthew Nelson from University of British Columbia- Okanagan
- 17) Kathy Nomme from University of British Columbia
- 18) Tong Min from University Canada West
- 19) Allan Arndt from University of the Fraser Valley
- 20) Dezene Huber from University of Northern British Columbia
- 21) Greg Beaulieu from University of Victoria
- 22) Maria Morlin from Vancouver Community College
- 23) Caroline Josefsson from Vancouver Island University

24) Tara Stehelin from Yukon College/Yukon University

**15. Various Topics**

**Accommodations and accessibility**

The committee discussed implementing and improving accommodations in sometimes difficult lab and field situations. There are a variety of approaches and accommodation capabilities across the system

Discussion on lab hours per course and how many needed for articulation

**16. Any other business**

The committee discussed the use of open textbooks across the system

**17. Mail list coordinator 2018/2019**

Rachel Clearwater (CAPU) will be the mail list coordinator for 2018/2019.

**18. Election of Chair and Associate Chair for 2018/2019**

*Motion: To elect Tara Stehelin (YUKO) as the 2018/2019 Chair*

*Moved: Dezene Huber (UNBC)                      Seconded: Kathy Nomme (UBC)*

*Approved unanimously*

*Motion: To elect Andrena Heigh (COTR) as the 2018/2019 Associate Chair*

*Moved: Dezene Huber (UNBC)                      Seconded: Carson Kever (KPU)*

*Approved unanimously*

**19. Next meeting:**

Location: Tentatively Langara College

Date: As early as possible, the end of April or beginning of May

**20. Adjournment**

*Motion: To adjourn*

*Moved: Dezene Huber (UNBC)                      Seconded: Erin Radomske (OC)*

*Approved unanimously*