

Minutes of BC Political Science Articulation Meeting, Thompson Rivers University, May 4, 2018.  
TRU Residence and Conference Centre. 1:30-5pm

Chair: Ayla Kilic (Okanagan College)

Recorder: Robert Hanlon (TRU)

In attendance:

Boris DeWiel (UNBC),

Allen Sens(UBC),

Conrad King(Capilano University),

Rob-Roy Douglas(Northern Lights College),

Paul Rowe (Trinity Western University),

Dan Reeve(Camosun College),

Greg Millard (KPU),

Paul Prospero(Langara College),

Edward Akuffo (UFV)

Robert Hanlon (TRU)

Ayla Kilic (Okanagan College),

Jocelyn McGrandle (Columbia College)

Maryanne Cliché (Coquitlam College)

Alex Netherton (VIU)

### **Agenda**

1. Welcome, Introductions, Recognitions
  2. Approvals
    - 2.1. Approval of Agenda
    - 2.2. Approval of the Minutes of 2017 Articulation Meeting
  3. Business Arising
    - 3.1. Academic integrity & predatory journal (*Derek Cook, TRU*)
    - 3.2. Grades 10-12 Curriculum and Assessment Changes ( *BCCAT*)
    - 3.3. Inclusion of POLI in High School Curriculum (*CapU*)
  4. New Business
    - 4.1. Impact of internationalization on student mobility in BC and beyond
    - 4.2. Use of paraphrasing tools/essay rewriters by students (*Rob-Roy Douglas, NLC*)
  5. Election of BCPSA Articulation Chair
- Break (3:30-3:45 pm)**
3. Reports / Subcommittees
    - 3.1. Chair's Report
    - 3.2. Institutional Reports
  4. Next Meeting
  5. Adjournment

1. Welcome to the meeting by Ayla, introductions
2. Approvals
  - 2.1. Motion to Approve Agenda (Boris, Seconded): The agenda be approved. Carried.
  - 2.2. Motion to Approve Minutes(Paul Rowe, Allen): That the minutes amended be approved. Carried.
3. Business Arising:
  - 3.1. *Academic Integrity and Predatory Journals:*
    - 3.1.1. Allen raises issue brought up in previous meeting by Derek Cook (non-attending) regarding predatory journals. Suggests that faculty do their best to educate graduate students on the risks of such publishers. Proposes that the BCPSA develop a resolution that that can warn students to the risk.
    - 3.1.2. Robert suggests the OASPA can serve as a possible resource for students to identify legitimate online journals.
    - 3.1.3. Committee agrees and drafts proposed resolution: *'The BCPSA urges all member departments to warn their students of the dangers of predatory self-publishing journals that can be damaging to their professional and academic careers. Students are encouraged to seek out reputable sources such as those identified but not limited to the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA).'*
  - 3.2. *Grades 10-12 Curriculum and Assessment Changes:*
    - 3.2.1. BCCAT member cannot make this articulation meeting. Discussion about how secondary school curriculum has changed should be postponed until next year when the BCCAT member can attend.
    - 3.2.2. Paul Prospero discusses a meeting he had with principals in North Vancouver noting that the changes in curriculum are currently implemented for K-9 students. Discussion on the impact of moving away from provincial exams. It is noted that the university time-frame to adjust for new curriculum could be up to seven years. There is resistance to new curriculum from teachers in public schools
    - 3.2.3. Alex notes the curriculum changes project started under the Liberal government and is continued by NDP. Cites an inherent debate around pedagogy challenges since high school teachers may not have context or training to teach political science. As well, the new curriculum is centred in utopian ideals of education raising questions on evaluations.
  - 3.3. *Inclusion of POLI in High School Curriculum:*
    - 3.3.1. Conrad provides update on his work on BC high school curriculum, suggests BCPSA work to develop skeletal framework to help guide teachers planning on developing political science curriculum for core part of grade 12, and maybe grade 11.
    - 3.3.2. Conrad notes any teacher wishing to add political science to the semester may do so in the 2018-2019 academic year.
    - 3.3.3. Conrad informs committee of upcoming professional development meeting for teachers help in Vancouver about curriculum changes. The meeting is being run on October 19,2018.He suggests it may be a good idea for BCPSA to send members to run workshops on political science curriculum. Naomi Klein will be at the workshop.

- 3.3.4. Ayla suggests sending an email to whole committee informing them of this workshop.
- 3.3.5. Conrad notes as a pilot, BCPSA could also web-conference and post weblinks to our website to help develop the new teaching curriculum.
- 3.3.6. Alex sees this as a good idea, noting that school boards are approaching BCPSA. Suggests a BCPSA sub-committee should be formed and approach school boards. Identifies 'Genocide Studies' in BC curriculum as an example of courses being taught that could use a 'sympathetic, expert eye' from BCPSA
- 3.3.7. Conrad agrees, notes now is the time to get BCPSA insight into curriculum while the debate is open otherwise will be hard in the future.

## 4. New Business

### 4.1. *Impact of internationalization on student mobility in BC and beyond*

- 4.1.1. Ayla: what is impact of international credit transfer on student mobility
- 4.1.2. Boris asks for clarification with Ayla providing context noting that former PM Stephen Harper's effort to 'internationalize' education to increase international student numbers in Canada. Ayla notes that some of her classes are now composed of 50 percent students from India.
- 4.1.3. Ayla notes what happens at one institution in BC impacts another since students transfer. Need for BCPSA to stay on top of trends, and measure risk associated with increased internationalization and foreign credit transfer
- 4.1.4. Boris points to importance of language assessment
- 4.1.5. Edward notes every university in province is dealing with this. Structural, and beyond political science. School wide issue.
- 4.1.6. Ayla notes that this agenda item was set by BCCAT
- 4.1.7. Greg points to importance of faculty being vigilant
- 4.1.8. Paul Rowe asks how other institutions are approaching international credit transfer
- 4.1.9. Greg, KPU is seeing many students from China while Alex notes how best to accommodate intellectual training of such students. Suggests the need for additional resources.
- 4.1.10. Conrad notes challenges in providing assessment, especially if half the class is getting Ds. They're may be question from Dean's office of why low grades in courses.
- 4.1.11. Ayla and Conrad: both speak to pressures of grading
- 4.1.12. Discussion moves to articulation, with Allen receiving 75 requests on average to assess if credits/syllabus transfer. Notes that each institution has different approach for this
- 4.1.13. Alex cites faculty must be diligent to insure their institutions are following proper procedure and consulting faculty on credit transfer.
- 4.1.14. Alex and Allen both point to importance of experts in the discipline being responsible for ensuring foreign student transfer credit is at an acceptable standard

4.1.15. Edward notes the option of interviewing students. General discussion between Edward, Ayla, Alex, Dan, Conrad and Boris on pros and cons of interviewing. Citing much easier when student is in country trying to take upper level courses, but more of a challenge when they are abroad.

4.1.16. General statement of BCPSA: Continue to keep colleagues and departments up-to-date with challenges on credit transfer

#### 4.2. *Use of paraphrasing tools/essay rewriters by students (Rob-Roy Douglas, NLC)*

4.2.1. Rob-Roy presents his previously circulated report on plagiarism software and how it is being used by students to rewrite assignments.

4.2.2. General discussion on difference between paper exam writing and in-class essays.

5. "Paul Prospero discusses a meeting he had with principals in North Vancouver noting that the changes in curriculum are currently implemented for K-9 students. Discussion on the impact of moving away from provincial exams. It is noted that the high school time-frame to adjust for new curriculum could be up to seven years. There is some resistance to new curriculum from teachers in public schools."

5.1.1. Challenges: Ayla cites good work of TAs and tutors that can improve a student's work; Greg cites there is only so much we can do but must be vigilant; Dan suggests asking better questions that are harder for students to find examples; Conrad asks for an annotated bibliography.

#### 5.2. *New Item added:*

5.2.1. Alex takes a few minutes noting that this will be Ayla's last year as Chair of articulation. Alex thanks Ayla for her service and requests that committee give serious thought to volunteering for a two-year commitment. Proposes a vice-chair to help with committee work. Motion is moved and carried unanimously. BCPSA will have a chair and vice chair

5.2.2. General discussion on who can become new chairs. Greg Millard and Robert Hanlon are nominated and supported as new chairs. Motion is carried

5.2.2.1. New BCPSA Articulation Chair is Greg Millard (KPU)

5.2.2.2. New BCPSA Articulation co-chair is Robert Hanlon (TRU)

## 6. Reports / Subcommittees

### 6.1. Chair's Report

- Ayla thanks the committee for her support over the years and wishes good luck to future chairs
- Brief note on a survey that will be distributed in the role of interdisciplinary education

### 6.2. Institutional Reports

-See circulated institutional reports for full-details of presentations.

7. Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.

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