

**ADULT LITERACY FUNDAMENTAL (ALF) ARTICULATION WORKING GROUP Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> & Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**Vancouver Community College**  
**Broadway Campus**  
**1155 E Broadway, Vancouver, BC**

In attendance:

Leanne Caillier-Smith, acting co-chair (College of the Rockies) Andrew Candela, acting co-chair, (Vancouver Community College) Melinda Worfolk, acting co-chair (College of New Caledonia) Summer Crosson (Vancouver Island University) Mercedes De la Nuez (Coast Mountain College) Marianne Gariepy (Native Education College) Thursday AM only	Betsy Alkenbrack (Capilano University) Terry Gideon (Douglas College) Cari-Ann Gotta (Selkirk College) Pooja Gupta (Camosun College) Wilma Gus (North Island College) Chandra McCann (Okanagan College)
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Regrets: Faith Shields, co-chair (Camosun College), Julia Dodge, co-chair (University of the Fraser Valley), Gurinder Bains (Kwantlen Polytechnical University), Lillian Prince (Native Education College).

Guests by phone: Lisa Lewis (Selkirk, ABE Steering Committee co-chair), Barbara Binczyk (Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training)

**Thursday, October 24, 2019**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- Territorial welcome from Elder Deanna George of the Tsleil-waututh Nation

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** The ALF Working Committee moves to adopt the 2019 agenda with some minor adjustments.

**Moved/Seconded/Carried Unanimously**

**3. Approval of Oct. 2018 Minutes**

**Motion:** The ALF Working Committee moves to approve the minutes of October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, with minor corrections.

**Moved/Seconded/Carried Unanimously**

**4. Business Arising:**

- Moodle – to be discussed
- Career literacy moved to a different group
- All courses will now include the date of articulation

5. Report from the co-chairs (e.g. JAM)

- no report as chairs were unable to attend. Wilma will attend next JAM November 1<sup>st</sup>.

6. Welcome from David Wells, VP Academic VCC

7. Discussion: Low enrollment in Fundamental ABE

- Dwindling numbers of fundamental students in Lower Mainland. Many lower mainland colleges have stopped offering fundamental. Reasons: lack of affordable housing in the area, embarrassment about joining classes and (for FN students) less need for fundamental because students are coming in stronger. Different approaches to supporting students to work at their own pace, competition from other programs.
- In other areas, fundamental numbers have remained strong or increased
- Ideas for supporting and promoting our fundamental students. e.g. instructor-led course at VIU using course pack of Math.

8. Barbara Binczyk, Ministry Update

- Senior policy advisor, adult education with main file in ESL and adult special education
- Articulation guide is out.
- staff changes; very short-staffed
- AUG: increase in income threshold: \$30,600 for single person, \$61,000 for family of 4. Students can access grant for books, transportation, childcare, etc.
- CALP: maximum amount reduced from \$40,000 to \$30,000 to accommodate additional applicants. Next call will be for 2021.
- ABE/ESL tuition-free policy: Up until now, institutions reimbursed for forgone tuition revenue based on invoices from institutions. New model will give money up front based on projected FTE's, to be confirmed based on numbers received. If institutions deliver above the target, there is a small fund to reimburse them. ASE is not included in tuition-free policy because they qualify for AUG. Developmental targets are out of date due to reduction of base operating grants.

**Q&A**

**Q. Re tracking of ASE data.** A. Institutions are expected to meet the needs of adults in their communities. We have never considered the mix of levels that institutions deliver – the ministry has no control over that.

**Q. Institutions don't receive information on special needs, funding programs that student had before entering post-secondary, but this would be useful.** A. I will call colleagues at Ministry of Education to find out what is blocking this information.

**Q. Announcement about additional funds for CALP made this fall/decrease to \$30 000.** A. This will be a small top-up to existing programs. The base budget will remain static for a year or two.

**Question from Barb: It looks like there is a decrease in Fundamental student numbers. What do you see on the ground?**

- Have not fully recovered from imposition of ABE tuition; lack of awareness about our programs; institutions do not assign funding to ABE promotion; some institutions forbid promotion posters by departments but do not provide institutional promotion. Would be helpful if Ministry could support promotion.
  - **Barb will send link to Ministry website “Upgrade BC”**
- Barriers: A lot of our students would not necessarily go to a website; Facebook or Twitter (social media) may be a better strategy.
- Students need to work, take care of children, etc. so are not able to go to school.
  - **Barb: In Alberta, they still have income support for upgrading students. That is needed because people should be studying full-time.**
- The tuition waiver program for former children in care is great! ABE is doing some of that work, but there needs to be wrap-around support, psycho-ed assessment and support, etc.
  - **Barb: will speak to colleague in charge of Tuition-Waiver program. We have no discretionary funding.**
- Two-term registration policy at VCC is a disadvantage to youth in care and to adults who have to leave for work and come back. It is also an administrative barrier for instructors trying to make a case for students getting a second chance, etc. We know that policy is not being applied across the board – only when it is tuition-free. If we want to re-build our numbers and fulfill our mandate, this program needs to be changed. It also goes against the spirit and recommendations for our work with Indigenous students.
  - **Barb: I will talk to Louis Chen about that.**

**9. Lisa Lewis, ABE Steering Update**

- Policy manual previously stated that all course changes needed to go to institution’s EdCo committee. Now they can be approved by articulation as long as they meet requirements in the handbook and institution’s requirements. Lisa will let us know when it will be official.
- Re: Impact of K-12 curriculum changes on ABE: We will maintain an 80% fit with the K-12 system wherever possible. We are asking people to review the ABE/K-12 comparison report and give us feedback. They would like more funding to re-look at realigning.
- Timing of meetings: Science, Social Science and Health committees will be meeting Oct 22-23, probably at Cap U. Would you like to meet then too?  
**ACTION: We will let Lisa know what we decide.**
- Once we approve courses here, it goes to Joint Steering committee approval, then it goes into the handbook. Send to Julia, Colin and Lisa.

**Lunch**

## **10. Discussion: Provincial mandate for online registration – impact on Fundamental students?**

- At Okanagan College faculty are being pressured to make our students register online. They need to either pay by credit card or pay cash for a voucher which they then apply to registration. This is a nightmare for students. If they try to register using a paper form, they get sent to a computer.

**ACTION:** Find out if this is a future trend in other institutions and throughout the province and ask Barb Binzcyk about whether this is policy.

## **11. Course articulations**

Motion: The ALF Working Committee recommends that Steering Committee add the following Vancouver Island University courses to both the ALF grid and the English Transfer Guide: English 011, 012, 013, 014, 015, 016.  
Moved/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

Motion: The ALF Working Committee recommends that Steering Committee add the following North Island College courses to both the ALF grid and the English Transfer Guide: English 013, 014, 015, 025, 026, 027.  
Moved/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

Motion: The ALF Working Committee recommends that Steering Committee add the following Selkirk courses to both the ALF grid and the English Transfer Guide: ESK 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06 with the recommended adjustments.  
Moved/Seconded/Carried Unanimously

## **Break**

## **12. Introduction to reorganization of ALF Math Outcomes Project**

- Update from subcommittee of project: ZTC (Zero Textbook Costs) funds are being applied to development of textbooks. (see list circulated and sent out by email). Leanne applied for funds to develop new Math outcomes. One requirement is that there should be instructor resources.

## **13. We worked as a group on ALFM level 1, then split into groups for other levels.**

Friday, October 25, 2019 Room 2229

1. **Continuation of work on ALFM levels**

- In groups, completed outline of draft outcomes for Levels 2-6; subcommittee will refine and polish

2. **Discussion: Report on Impact of K-12 curriculum changes on ABE**

- Questions about the relevance of 80% fit of K-12 outcomes to ALF courses
- Feeling that we ought to use what works with our students rather than try to keep our methodology consistent with K-12
- Big ideas: preparing students for Math 10 and for math skills needed in life
- relate sample and practice tasks to trades, life skills
- Indigenization
  - Kitchen Math (Northwest Territories Literacy Council)  
[https://www.nwtliteracy.ca/sites/default/files/resources/kitchen\\_math\\_2017\\_139886\\_0.pdf](https://www.nwtliteracy.ca/sites/default/files/resources/kitchen_math_2017_139886_0.pdf)
  - [https://www.oise.utoronto.ca/deepeningknowledge/Teacher\\_Resources/Curriculum\\_Resources\\_%28by\\_subjects%29/Math/index.html](https://www.oise.utoronto.ca/deepeningknowledge/Teacher_Resources/Curriculum_Resources_%28by_subjects%29/Math/index.html)
  - Mathematics in the First Peoples Context  
<http://www.fnesc.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/PUB-LFP-Math-First-Peoples-8-9-for-Web.pdf>
  - series called Make Math Work (workplace math skills)
  - *Where the Rivers Meet* (novel by Don Sawyer)
  - *Him Standing* (novel by Richard Wagamese)
  - *Two Old Women* (novel by Velma Wallis)
  - *Math in a Cultural Context* (Dr. Jerry Lipka)  
<https://www.brushededucation.ca/catalog/math-in-a-cultural-context>
- Adding same outcomes language that K-12 uses in all our 6 level outcomes
- Are these conversations happening in other committees?
- We should provide input into the paragraph that Steering will put into the ABE handbook
- This report validates our focus on indigenizing, but it might not be reflected in the texts

3. **Institutional Updates**

Lunch

4. **Institutional Updates continued**

5. **Closing**

- Next meeting: Oct. 22 and 23, 2020 at Capilano University (to align with other groups)

6. **Meeting adjourned 3:15**