

2019 Adventure Articulation Minutes

May 31, 2019 10AM – 3 PM

Location: Capilano University, North Vancouver

Chair: Don Webster

Attending:

Matt Kellow – Vancouver Island University
Don Webster – College of the Rockies, Golden campus
Mike Neville – North Island College
Albi Sole – Outdoor Council of Canada
John Telford – Camosun College
Chris Ladner – Capilano University
Catherine Boniface – Capilano University
Graham Vaughan – Capilano University
Cyndy Chwelos – Langara College
Emma Courtney – Langara College
Chris Dyck – Columbia Bible College
Masaji Takei – Capilano University
Jaime Boulding - Canadian Outdoor Leadership Training
Bruce Wilson - Capilano University
Rick Davies - Capilano University

Regrets:

Brian Bell – College of the Rockies, Fernie campus
Dave Pinel – North Island College
Craig Lenske – National Outdoor Leadership School
Michael Parry – Camosun College
Terry Palechuk Thompson Rivers University

- 1. Welcome to members and guests (Don)**
- 2. Introductions (All)**
- 3. Review of agenda (Don).**
Addition – Skills instructor pay rates
- 4. Review of 2018 minutes (Don/All) Accepted**

5. Program / Institutional reports (All)

College of the Rockies Don Webster

Mountain Activities Skills Training (MAST) Fernie campus

Brian Bell – program co-ordinator.

One year certificate 24 students.

Enrollment in **MAST** this year is full at 24.

Program offers skill development in a mountain setting.

Includes BC Adventure Programs core curriculum.

Adventure Tourism Business Operations Golden campus

Dave Wan Program Co-ordinator.

Certificate / Diploma 20 students in year 1, 15 in year 2.

Blend of business and academic curriculum with skills including with SKG Alliance, ski industry, rafting industry.

Enrollment this year is 15 - lower than usual.

Experiencing faculty turnover and marketing changes.

Issues include external requirements for instructors meeting standards for maintaining accreditation, insurance etc.

Financial support for the program is good.

Capilano University Outdoor Recreation Program Graham Vaughan Convener

Two year diploma currently has 31 students.

Fall 2019 will see lower enrollment for incoming class.

New program Fall 2020, stretching back out over 2 years instead of 16 month accelerated program.

Program review will be taking place next academic year.

Trend is toward younger demographic.

Institutional marketing target has been high school graduates.

Canadian Outdoor Leadership Training Jamie Boulding

Operating for 43 years at Strathcona Park Lodge.

Lower enrolment - 6 students this Spring.

COLT is a flag ship program for skills development.

Program has private institution accreditation and program reviews are part of that accreditation process.

Instructors are increasingly needing additional training as participant anxiety appears to be increasing.

Vancouver Island University Matt Kellow

Offer a non-credit **Activity Program**.

A challenge for the program is land use access especially with the wildfire issues.

2 staff and student assistants lead activity based trips.

Kinesiology degree at VIU includes outdoor activity units such as backpacking, rafting, sea kayaking. Numbers are strong in Sport – Health area.

Recreation-Tourism has large numbers of students from India, and many German students enrolling in activity courses

Indigenous student numbers are low despite institutional focus.

North Island College Mike Neville / Dave Pinel

Partnership with VIU to run a very successful intensive **First Nation Partnership Program**. Has been running for 4 years and is proposed for future offering. Adventure component – canoeing, sea kayaking, adventure guiding

Adventure Guide Program

Capped at 20 students.

International students cannot enter program until April.

Registration lag time is a concern in getting students enrolled after they apply.

New suite of field courses in second year, running electives in addition to certification courses.

Enrolment in field skills electives can be a challenge.

Discussion – is it more effective to have students enrolling in streams or individually in their area of interest?

COTR limit electives.

Choices made early with coaching for students in decision making stage.

Most academic courses are required.

Small campus - decentralized registration.

Not forcing students into high level certification courses or higher risk courses, those are offered as electives.

Tourism Hospitality Diploma with Adventure Guiding stream.

Low domestic enrolment in the tourism program.

NIC identify a need for faculty PD and training with participant mental health challenges.

Mental first aid for Wilderness first responders for faculty and students is being run at COTR this year.

Bruce said that his coaching certification, life coaching skill development can also be an effective tool in managing students' mental health concerns.

Langara College Cindy Chelsos Emma Courteney

Programming has a community rec focus - operating for 50 years.

Recreation Diploma and a **Bachelor of Recreation Management**

Both 2 year programs.

Municipal non-profit employers.

Diploma cohort.

Outdoor field school with Outward Bound – hiking trip – mandatory course in Diploma Program.

Internship 14 week in facility of choice.

Many (85%) employed in future from that experience.

Bachelor of Recreation Management is two year fully on-line program 11 years old – developed with industry to fill need.

Students have the option to ladder Diploma into Degree.

Super flexible.

Students come from across Canada.

Articulation with Sask Polytech for students to enter into Degree, and with COTR Diploma into Degree.

Enrolment had lowered in diploma and because municipal recreation industry and parents want degrees, a change has been implemented this semester so that students can enter directly into degree in year one.

Apply from high school straight into degree, and exit with diploma after two years, or continue to year 4.

Alternatively, can transfer in a 60 credit diploma, or enter through articulation.

Program review just finishing up identifies gaps / overlaps.

External reviewer self-study report. Overall self-study was a very useful process.

Camosun College Post Degree Diploma John Telford

30 credit program

2/3 of a Masters degree. Do not have to have Bachelor degree to enter.

Cohort based.

Typically, 10 students per year, with a max of 24.

13 months, July to August.

Predominantly on-line.

July residency field school - attractive to teachers.

Would like to diversify intake of students.

Teachers get category upgrade = graduate certification.

Environmental education focus.

Includes OCC hiking certification.

First trip is to Strathcona Park Lodge (program partnership) – facility based experience.

Second field study is Clayoquot / Hesquiot sea kayak trip.

90% female this year, usual is 60% female 40% male.

Age range 25 – late 50s.

Camosun College is encouraging indigenizing / decolonizing. Faculty / Department of Indigenous Education at Camosun College is incorporated in field school.

Where can take diploma from Camosun?

Where can Masters be completed?

Outdoor Council of Canada – Field Leader Program Albi Sole

Entry program for outdoor leadership.

Program has grown and is continuing to grow across the country. In Nova Scotia it is now the primary program for teachers taking children out on overnight trips.

Indigenous instructors are taking the program because they see value.

Increasing number of post-secondary institutions are offering OCC programming. Including in Alberta, NS, Ontario and BC.

Originally developed for teachers to get students out of class.

No profit

Goals:

Every Canadian has access to Outdoor education and activity.

Every Canadian child is competent in the outdoors .

Decreasing physical ability and increasing anxiety show an increasing need for this programming.

Columbia Bible College Chris Dyck

Emergency Rescue Technician Program

Training for first responders.

WFA switched to Justice Institute first aid course for first responders.

Skills include high angle rope rescue, ground SAR.

Less guiding skills in first year with this program, still offered in second year.

Enrolment good.

Positive response to training.

Core curriculum Tues / Thurs. Skills training three days / week Mon / Weds/ Fri.

Retention in second year is good.

ERT certificate in year one and some do exit with certificate.

Program changes show no negative impact on students' continuation to second year.

Cap is 20, usually 18 students enrolled.

NOLS Craig Lenske

Transition time for NOLS.

President change and Director of Operations change after 17 years.

Standard courses experiencing declining enrolment,– down 40% since 2016.

Interest in Wilderness Medicine programming is growing.

Operate only in summer now (May to October) – a shorter operating season.

Wildfires have had a huge impact on Washington State land access.

Climate change is impacting programming.

International student numbers across institutions

Although international student numbers on campuses are increasing the international student interest in outdoor programming is generally low.

Capilano, COTR and Langara see low numbers of international student in their programs.

OCC is seeing a growing need in China for outdoor training.

6. Risk Management

- **Mental Health**

COTR seeing an increase in challenge for instructors managing student mental health. Evacuation from trips more due to mental health and physical injury. Offering First Aid for mental health in Wilderness at COTR for faculty and students. Capilano also had an anxiety related evacuation this year.

- **Communication** co-ordination between field instructors and administration
COTR backpacking trip in Alberta evacuation assistance requested through IN Reach resulted in need for clarification of communication between field staff and college. Don has since reviewed communication and risk management policies for better co-ordination and communication with college administration.

- **Active fires / closures** – area major challenge in the interior.

- **Injuries outside program time**

COTR students get a pass for Kicking Horse Resort. Program experiences some challenges with students pushing their limits outside of program time due to exposure to culture in town and on the ski hill. Social media continues to play a part in encouraging risky activities.

COLT Instructors pushing limits on time off. Solution is hiring for soft skills.

Columbia – 5 injuries off course.

Varsity sports programs sign a contract regarding **safety to self** which could be adopted by adventure programs.

Also limiting use of school equipment outside of program time.

Students represent the institution even when not on program in a small community.

Collective view point needs to be discussed with students.

Bruce noted that extreme fatigue is a great weapon against activity out of program time when on field trips, and that internal policing also works well with students taking ownership for their behavior and experience.

- **Marijuana**

Discussion about concerns over student use of now legalized marijuana.

Not permitted at any time on course, day or evening.

Accessibility to edibles makes use more challenging to detect.

Medical use – require doctors' note.

If students require medical marijuana or other medications they maybe not able to be on trip or in program depending on the nature of the activities, and amount of use.

Doctor needs to sign off on student ability to participate in program, and to provide information about prescription i.e. specific dose and frequency.

- **Medical forms** generally self-disclosure is used by programs.
NIC have a medical doctor sign medicals.
- **Van rental / van use** speed limits and driver safety.
GPS in vehicles show log of speeds travelled.
Safety is of primary concern for all van travel.

7. Articulation Agreements– Discussion (All)

Camosun College looking for connections to Master's degree.

Action Contact John if interested in further discussion.

Revisit Core Curriculum - Interest?

Could potentially be a funded and supported project within the articulation for adventure programs.

Action Interested parties to communicate with Don.

8. Industry Organization Reports

Paddle Canada – Chris Ladner Chair for agency sea kayaking.

Looking at option for national strategy.

Paddle Canada has SUP, canoe, sea kayak , white water kayaking.

Camping certificate being developed through Paddle Canada.

Looking for an executive director, Kingston ON.

Envisioning – and redefining direction – process is underway.

BC River Outfitters Association

International Rafting Association

No updates.

Canadian Avalanche Association Chris Dyck

Industry Training Program – for entry level professionals.

CAA transitioning to be more like other professional associations e.g. engineering / law.

Professionalization is being increased in revised curriculum – with alignment with geotechnical engineering field. Determining the scope of practice of a professional member , and competencies required.

Training

Rebuilding level 1 and level 2 Operations courses.

Extensive on-line course before field course. Better preparation for level one field component.

Level 2 course and level 2 evaluation being implemented instead of pre-existing three modules. Beginner recreational outdoor numbers are rising and needing training – can access Avalanche Canada on line.

Level three operations no changes – is for program managers involved in risk management .

ACMG

Moved to Canmore office (running outside of TRU).

Wilderness tourism Association Jamie

Lobby for protection of tourism – land use / tenure.

New website.

Valuable coastal based advocacy work.

Encourage membership.

Issues that affect us all in industry.

Action

Institutional adventure educators membership – need WTA to organize to invoice the colleges / universities for collective membership.

9. Canadian Outdoor Summit OCC Albi

Goal is for all Canadians to have access to outdoors

Canadian Outdoor Summit steering committee organizing a national conference in Gatineau Quebec, in Fall 2020.

Event within a process, of interest to a broad outdoor community including

K – 12

Training and certification providers

Adventure therapy

Risk managers

Parks and land managers

Post-secondary

Concept involves taking control of narrative of outdoors – away from view of outdoors as dangerous, to further develop outdoor literacy and seasonal comfort with outdoors. More similar to the way that citizens view the outdoors in Northern Europe – Germany, Scandinavia.

Conversations are occurring in outdoor communities (training and certification and risk management communities) across the country.

Funding model, asking for money and support of individuals in organizations to sign up.
Organizations get involved in Summit.
Put logos on as supporters of Summit.
Funds / logos – from institutions.
Paddle Canada, ACMG signed up to participate.

This is an opportunity to reconceptualize a system for Canada, which is a country divided by climate politics, culture, - build from ground up.

Active for life – sport community receives large amounts of funding from federal, provincial and municipal governments.
No federal funding for outdoors. Need to increase outdoor literacy. Summit aims to do that through Canada wide event.

Aim is that people will recognise that outdoor space and activity is critically important to the health of our country.

Motorized / no motorized?
Motorized needs to be incorporated.

Levels of support

1. Commitment attendee support with no funds
2. \$400
3. \$1000
4. \$2500 send one person to conference booth and Logo prominent in literature.
5. Top sponsorship level large amount of financial support – corporate

Student involvement in Summit

- Events outside of conference – opportunities
- Practicum
- Projects
- Event volunteers

Action

Albi will send links with specific request to go to administrators for support.

10. Capilano Outdoor Recreation Program Review

Program review next academic year.
Institution / industry - need 3 external members, we put forward 5 names and three are selected by the review committee.
Looking for three external reviewers.
Spend 2 days mid – late spring.

Reviewing self-study

Meeting with VP academic

Preparing and approximately 10 page summary from 3 reviewers.

Action Contact Graham if interested in joining external review team.

11. Program Revisions Capilano OREC

Fall 2020 implementation of updated program.

Snow, water and hiking – skills streams.

Co-op and co-op prep course.

2 year program.

OCC certifications offered.

Ladders into Bachelor of Tourism - adventure concentration.

12. Rates of Pay Discussion

\$250 - \$350 - \$450, sliding scale dependent on experience of guides.

Higher rates paid in lieu of benefits – travel and meals excluded.

Instructors hired as auxiliary employees with a fluctuating wage scale.

Excluding per diem.

Some institution hire instructors as employees - with a section load for hours worked, which includes PD, vacation, benefits.

Step placement with hourly wage – 9 hours max if overnight.

Pay reasonable expenses - case by base.

Retention is a concern – great value for quality instructors.

Heli ski guide employment means that finding instructors can be a challenge for winter skills courses in ski season.

Date of next meeting

Late May early June 2020

