

Biology Articulation Committee

Meeting Minutes

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL on ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFERS (BCCAT)

Meeting Date(s): **09, 10 May 2019**

Institution/Campus Location: **Langara College, Vancouver B.C.**

Present:

Committee Member Name	Institution Name	Email/contact
Mitra Panahi	Alexander College (ALEX)	mitra_panahi@hotmail.com
Eugene Chu	Capilano University (CAPU)	eugenechu@capilanou.ca
Kirk Hart	Coast Mountain College (Northwest Community College) (CMTN)	khart@coastmountaincollege.ca
Andrew Taylor	College of New Caledonia (CNC)	taylor18@cnc.bc.ca
Andrena Heigh	College of the Rockies (COTR)	aheigh@cotr.bc.ca
Rachel Moens Sarah Goomeshi-Nobary	Columbia College (COLU)	rachel.moens@gmail.com
Raymond Wang	Coquitlam College (COQ)	rwang@coquitlamcollege.com
Shamsa Jessa	Douglas College (DOUG)	jessas@douglascollege.ca
Sherry Wilson	Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU)	Sherry.Wilson@kpu.ca
Ji Yong Yang	Langara College (LANG)	jyyang@langara.ca
Georgie Harrison	North Island College (NIC)	georgie.harrison@nic.bc.ca
Stacey Sakakibara	Okanagan College (OKAN)	ssakakibara@okanagan.bc.ca
Molly Welsh	Quest University (QUES)	molly.welsh@questu.ca
Stephen Seaborn	Selkirk College	sseaborn@selkirk.ca
Emelia Kirkwood Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Simon Fraser University (SFU)	ekirkwoo@sfu.ca
Susan Purdy	Thompson Rivers University (TRU)	BiologyChair@tru.ca
Dennis Venema	Trinity Western University (TWU)	Dennis.Venema@twu.ca
Matt Nelson	UBC-Okanagan	matthew.nelson@ubc.ca
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Tong Pil Min	University Canada West (UCW)	tongpil@gmail.com
Dezene Huber	University of Northern BC (UNBC)	huber@unbc.ca
Greg Beaulieu	University of Victoria (UVIC)	gregoryb@uvic.ca
Maria Morlin	Vancouver Community College (VCC)	mmorlin@vcc.ca
Caroline Josefsson	Vancouver Island University (VIU)	caroline.josefsson@viu.ca
Tara Stehelin	Yukon College (YUKO)	tstehelin@yukoncollege.yk.ca
Guest Name	Institution	Email/contact
Fiona McQuarrie	BCCAT	
Robert Adamoski	BCCAT	
Yvette Munro	ONCAT	
Carolyn Poplak	ONCAT	

Regrets: Larry Anthony, Camosun College (CAMO), Anthony Stea - University of the Fraser Valley (UFV)

Recorder: Giselle Duarte and Helen Trung – Langara College

Welcome: Official welcome from Gerda Krause, Dean Faculty of Science, Langara College. She acknowledged that Langara is located on unceded Musqueam land, and that Langara was named by the Musqueam as House of Teaching.

1. **Meeting Called to Order** at 0900, the morning of May 9th was a joint Biology and Chemistry articulation meeting
2. **Guests**
 - a. Doug Oworm, Degree Quality Assurance Board (DQAB) process – explained the structure and processes of the board, changes and expansions.
 - b. Elmas Attabay - Ministry of Education representative, on K-12 curriculum changes – joined remotely. There was a technical difficulty with sound and she had to evacuate her building so it had to be terminated early, but her slides were provided.
 - c. Robert Adamoski – BCCAT updates, research results on completed and ongoing projects see <https://www.bccat.ca/pubs/>, FPM study and report overview

Biology only portion of meeting:

Chair – Tara Stehelin (YUKO), **Associate Chair** – Andrena Heigh (COTR)

3. **Approval of agenda**
 - two additions to open discussion items if time allows
4. **Approval of minutes** of the Biology Articulation Committee meeting of 10,11 May 2018 at TRU
Motion: to accept minutes as presented
Moved: Tara Stehelin Seconded: Ji Yong Yang (LANG) Carried: Unanimously
5. **Introductions/Welcome**
 - New members/guests
 - Welcome of seven new members
6. **Presentation of Institutional Reports**
 - a. Mitra Panahi – Alexander College
 - b. Larry Anthony – Camosun College – Regrets, Chair went through the report
 - c. Eugene Chu – Capilano University
 - BIOL 203 (Microbiology) new course offered in place of BIOL 222, could influence the biology Flexible Pre-Major
 - d. Kirk Hart – Coast Mountain College
 - e. Andrew Taylor – College of New Caledonia
 - f. Andrena Heigh – College of the Rockies
 - g. Rachel Moens – Columbia College
 - h. Raymond Wang – Coquitlam College
 - i. Shamsa Jessa - Douglas College
 - j. Sherry Wilson - Kwantlen Polytechnic University
 - reviewing new biology textbook, so far have eliminated the OpenStax (free open/online) option
 - k. Greg Beaulieu – University of Victoria
 - going through an indigenization process and efforts to attract indigenous students
 - l. Ji Yong Yang – Langara College
 - BSc Bioinformatics program will be available Fall 2020. – interest college-wide in more research and supporting the faculty members who are interested

- m. Georgie Harrison – Northern Island College
- n. Stacey Sakakibara – Okanagan College
- o. Molly Welsh – Quest University
- p. Stephen Seaborn – Selkirk College

7. Discussion topics

- **Entrance exams** for biology - Molly Welsh - KPU is pushing for a provincial effort on this. Genetics courses - students' numeracy skills required have dropped over the years
- **Preparedness and pre-requisites** for 1st-years and the impact of the new BC curriculum
Several institutions highlighted the need to rethink prerequisites because the new curriculum is more process based than fact-based (from *content to competencies* with a diverse range of learning opportunities and various ways to implement them). Students need to master some concepts to be able to succeed in university-level courses.

8. BCCAT Report and detailed FPM discussion – Fiona McQuarrie

- Study completed by BCCAT and indicates that FPMs are under-utilized and not visible, several options discussed to increase use and utility
- BCCAT made three recommendations – action needed from articulation committees

Motion: requirement that all institutions participating in the FPM to publicize the information in their website.

Moved: Tara Stehelin **Seconded:** Andrena Heigh **Carried:** unanimously

The information could be on the biology department's website with a link to the BCCAT transfer guide

Motion: to form a subcommittee regarding the FPM to work on the FPM issue and report to BCCAT by November 1st, 2019.

Moved: Tara Stehelin **Seconded:** Dennis Venema **Carried:** unanimously

The Chair asked for volunteers to sit in the FPM subcommittee. Volunteers: Sarah Goomeshi-Nobary, Maria Morlin, Dezene Huber, Tara Stehelin, Andrena Heigh, others TBA.

9. SLP report (Barbara Moon)

Reported on academic integrity, language proficiency, and students' mental health. All are increasing problems.

10. Presentation of Institutional Reports – cont.

- a. Emelia Kirkwood – Simon Fraser University
- b. Susan Purdy – Thompson Rivers University
 - Is having a specialized biology major useful? Discussion generated on this, sometimes too many specialties can be unwieldy, students indicated it can help in the job market
- c. Dennis Venema - Trinity Western University
- d. Matt Nelson – UBC – Okanagan
- e. Kathy Nomme – UBC-Vancouver
 - UBC hosted BC Bio conference this year, May 8th, with great success
- f. Tong Min Pil – University Canada West
- g. Anthony Stea – University of Fraser Valley – Regrets, no report
- h. Dezene Huber – University of Northern BC
- i. Maria Morlin – Vancouver Community College
- j. Caroline Josefsson – Vancouver Island University
- k. Tara Stehelin – Yukon College, transition to Yukon University May of 2020

Too many individual items to summarize, but overall themes from institutions included

- **International students** – demand is large (overwhelming for some institutions) and increasing at almost every institution. Academic preparedness is a common issue.
- **Academic Integrity** issues are widespread and creative – e.g. online resources available for students to cheat on all course aspects, such as *speedupEDU* and many others. Dishonesty during exams is common and seems to be increasing.
- **Online/Open Free resources such as textbooks:** Many instructors switching to open resources in place of textbooks because of student pressure – students don't buy them because of costs and other reasons – questions about quality of open resources, wide variety across disciplines. Most switches were for *non-majors biology* (~9 out of 27 institutions), but in some cases for majors and for some second-year courses (e.g. Microbiology)

11. Discussion

- a) **Initiation of project on antibiotic resistance** – Barbara Moon
Proposal for Biology students to contribute to the issue of antibiotic resistance – public perception has not changed, despite much public information
- b) **Student surveys/questionnaires** – Dezene Huber - Are student evaluations helpful/useful? Results can be very biased based on gender, first language, background of instructor and conditions during surveys; e.g. dedicated class time, time of day, whether any snacks were provided
- c) **Biology Field Course Coordination Project, phase II** – Maria Morlin
Overview about the Ontario system, model a BC system on this
 - Have 10 institutions to commit to developing a BC model: volunteer today or through email (mmorlin@vcc.ca). Tara to put slides on Moodle, committee members can bring it back to their institutions
 - Future direction: Gain future funding

12. Business arising from previous meetings

- a) **Emeritus Policy** for the Biology Articulation Committee
This policy allows those no longer on committee to still contribute, as they have relevant, historical knowledge

Action: The Draft of the Emeritus Policy will be on Moodle, please review, think about it and ensure that it makes sense

13. JAM report (Joint Annual Meeting for all articulation committees) – available on Moodle

14. New business

- a) Mail list coordinator 2019/2020 – Rachel Clearwater was not present so this was completed by email. Rachel has agreed to continue to be mail list coordinator
- b) Election of chair and associate chair

Motion: to elect the same chair and associate chair for next articulation meeting

Tara Stehelin and Andrena Heigh accepted the nominations

Moved: Dezene Huber **Seconded:** Caroline Josefsson **Carried:** unanimously

- c) **Next Meeting**

Location: Kelowna at UBC-O

Date: TBA

Meeting Adjourned at 2:10 pm

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