

The Biology Articulation Committee of British Columbia

Minutes of 2004 Meeting

Location: Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C.

Dates: May 13th and 14th, 2004

Chair: Brian Thair, College of New Caledonia

Recording Secretary: Trevor Chandler, BC Open University

Dr. Norbert Haunderland, Associate Chair of Biological Sciences at SFU welcomed the participants, pointing out that no other province has such a highly co-ordinated process for the transfer of post secondary students.

Approval of Minutes of 2003 meeting:

Approved

Report of Chair:

Brian handed out the 4th edition Articulation Handbooks and reported on the meeting of articulation chairs:

- Common course outline template
- Now 57,000 articulations into and between 14 public degree granting institutions.
- Transfer innovation projects:
 - First Year Calculus: Common core curriculum plus 5 of 9 optional topics
 - Earth Science and Geography: Common first year outcomes
- Because of university admission quotas, there is no longer a guaranteed block transfer
- Frank Gelin is working with other provinces to try to set up a national articulation process

BC Campus Report by David Porter:

BC Campus expected to come live by Fall 2004.

Well marketed portal for learners. To be student-centred and institutionally neutral with real time interaction with post secondary institutions.

Educator services portal to be available at no cost to community of educators.

(<http://community.bccampus.ca/bccampus>)

Promote re-use and re-engineering of learning resources by being a content repository.

On-line Development Fund – funded virtual biology labs being developed by BCIT. Check the website (BCcampus.ca) for more info.

SFU Undergrad Curriculum Report by KC Bell:

New requirements were just approved for university wide graduating requirements. Full discussion papers are available at sfu.ca/ugcr/.

- Entrance requirements in English and Math will be rigorous. Students with less than 86% in English 12 will be required to take supplementary (non-credit) foundational courses.
- W – writing courses are pedagogy-based and will require re-articulation. It is estimated that they will require about 33% additional instructional support.
- W includes ‘writing in the discipline’ courses at the upper level – where at least 50% of the grade is based on writing for which the student gets feedback.
- Q – quantitative courses and B – breadth courses will probably not require re-articulation
- Have to figure out how to track W, Q, and B courses.
- Biology is not expected to be impacted as much as some other disciplines.

Health Educator’s Group Report by Neysa Weins

2004 meeting was hosted by Malaspina University College at The Haven, Gabriola Island. Minutes of HEG will be submitted as an appendix to the BC Biology Articulation Committee (of which it is a sub-group).

Data collection is underway for a Health Services course grid. Project headed by Joan Mitchell. Draft due by October. Future meetings will address core topics and time allotted to them.

Rosmarie Ganassin and Eric Demers of Malaspina are developing 4 on-line courses (2 lecture and 2 lab) in Anatomy and Physiology funded by BC Campus. They will be available to any BC institution.

BCBIO report by Carol Pollock

This one day get together of biology instructors was extremely useful and included discussion of a survey of first year student attitudes, Mark Winston’s (SFU) dialogue course (15 credits) and a round of teaching tips.

Institutional Reports:

- Yukon: No changes
- VCC: Peter Ballin (pballin@vcc.ca)

New to UT courses to support technical programs: Biol 1100 and 1200 – use interactive adult ed model

- UVic: Barbara Hawkins (bhawkins@uvic.ca)
No changes 100 & 200 level. New courses BIOL 362 – techniques in Molecular Biol, BIOL 448 – Neuroethology, BIOL 490 – International Field School Malaysia
- UNBC: Darwyn Coxson (darwyn@unbc.ca)
Student demand for biology related majors remains stable. Biology budget under major pressure.
New pre-req for BIOL 101 and 102 is BIOL 11 or 12.
Biology majors required to take CHEM 201 & 203 (non-lab organic chem.). Lab based version would be elective for students who need them for professional programs.
New course: BIOL 423 Molecular Evolution and Ecology
- UBC: Carol Pollock (pollock@zoology.ubc.ca)
Beginning Sept 04 BIOL 140 will be a 2 credit course. No changes in other first year courses. BIOL 240 Experimental Design (1 credit second year cell bio lab course) still optional.
Transfer students will be awarded 8 credits of first year biology if they have completed a pair of transfer courses with labs. This will allow students to enter any 2nd year BIOL course as long as they have at least 3 credits of organic chem.
There will be a shortage of 3rd and 4th year seats.
Cell biology image database is available free for students at www.biomedica.cellbiology.ubc.ca
- UCFV: Barbara Moon (barbara.moon@ucfv.ca)
Of the 35 UCFV students receiving BSc in June, 27 have a biology major or minor. First year courses stable but retention increased.
- UCC: Val Collins (vcollins@cariboo.bc.ca) to be replaced Jan-Aug 05 by Ron Smith (ronsmith@cariboo.bc.ca)
UCC and BCOU will be combined by 1 April to make a new special purpose university.
Implemented two new majors: Cellular, Molecular and Microbial Biology and Chemical Biology. Both filled.
Capacity of first year majors courses increased to 360.
44 graduates in biology this year.
No major changes in courses. BIOL 425 Biochemical Techniques offered as intensive 2 1/2 week lab course in May.
- TWU: Marieke Groombridge (marieke.groombridge@twu.ca) Regular articulation contact is Richard Paulton (Paulton@twu.ca)

New courses: BIOL103 & 104 Introduction to Biology (non-majors) BIOL 105 Advanced Introduction to Biology (to bring students to majors equivalent)
There is a plan to develop new biology and multidisciplinary majors in 2005.

- SFU: Emelia Kirkwood (ekirkwoo@sfu.ca) and Joan Sharp (jsharp@sfu.ca)
New course: BISC 411-3 Behavioural Ecology Lab, BISC 440 Biodiversity, BISC 441 Evolution of Health and Disease, BISC 110 Evolution and Diversity of Life on Earth (Breadth course)
Deleted courses: BISC 004-3, BISC 356-3, BISC 453-3
Separate report on new curriculum and entrance requirements.
- Selkirk: Will Hunter (whunter@selkirk.ca)
Major structural changes. Now School of University Arts and Sciences.
Drop in first year enrolments. Seven 2nd year courses.
- OUC: Mary Forrest (meforrest@ouc.bc.ca)
Will become campus of UBC in Sept 2005. Effects on programs unknown.
No course changes.
- NWCC: John Krisinger (jkrisinger@telus.net)
No major course changes. Nursing related courses not being offered until UNBC collaboration worked out.
Anticipated move to new Prince Rupert Campus in Dec 04
- Northern Lights: Don Cameron (dcameron@nlc.bc.ca)
No changes current or anticipated.
- North Island: Christine Hodgson (Christine.hodgson@nic.bc.ca)
No changes
- Malaspina: Jane Watson (watsonj@mala.bc.ca)
Starting Sept all 1st year science courses with lab will be 4 credits. BSc will require 126 credits.
Anatomy and Physiology will have WebCT versions. Lab components will be in traditional lab format.
- Langara: Frank Williams (fwilliams@langara.bc.ca)
No changes to courses. Now 12 sections of 1st year biology.
First year courses re-credited to 4 credits each.
Field school in Thailand this summer. Africa program transferred to McGill.
- Kwantlen: Pam McDonald (pam.mcdonald@kwantlen.ca)
No changes in biology offerings. Many students turned away from Cell Biology and Genetics (2nd year). Kwantlen developing BA General Studies.
- Douglas: Rob McGregor (mgregorr@douglas.bc.ca)

Classroom contact hours increased from 2 to 4 hrs/wk. for BIOL 1110 & 1210 (5 credits each with lab).

- Coquitlam: Bruce Millen (bmillen@coquitlamcollege.com)
No changes.
- Columbia: Keng Graal (kgraal@columbiacollege.ca)
No changes. Plan to develop non-majors course.
Applied for permission to grant Associate Degrees in Arts and Science.
- COTR: Ann Rice (rice@cotr.bc.ca)
New credentials next year: Diploma in Environmental Studies (trans to UVic), Diploma in Environmental Science (trans to Royal Roads), Diploma in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (trans to UNBC)
No changes in courses.
- CNC: Brian Thair (thair@cnc.bc.ca)
No changes in courses.
Downturn in enrolments in Biology 1st year majors, upturn in A&P.
- Capilano: Jane Richardson – Paul McMillan is rep (pmcmilla@capcollege.bc.ca)
No course changes.
Expecting increases at Squamish and Sechelt campuses.
- Camosun: David Blundon (blundond@camosun.bc.ca)
Locked in to UVic transfer. BIOL 102 lab hours returned to 3 hrs/wk.
BIOL 100 being streamlined for the nursing program. Human A&P for nurses (BIOL 152 & 153) have reduced class sizes improve success.
- BCOU: Trevor Chandler (trevorc@openet.bcou.bc.ca)
BISC 230 has been re-instated. BOTA 399 Plants and People will be added this year (WebCT)
BISC 030, 100, 120, 121, 220, 350, & 360 will all be available as either correspondence or WebCT offerings at the choice of the student).
BCOU will become part of the ‘New U’ in Kamloops as of April 2005.
- BCIT: Keith Turner (Keith_Turner@bcit.ca)
BCIT/UBC Biotechnology Degree has been below intake predictions for 3 years.
New program in Environmental Management being developed. Will share courses with Fish Wildlife and Recreation and Forestry in 1st year. Zoology course will be replaced with two biology courses: Environmental Science and Environmental Biology.
School of Academic Studies is developing core science courses for incoming students (to start fall 2005) to be articulated with other post secondary institutions.

Next Meeting: **North Island College – Courtenay Campus 10 & 11 May 2005**
To be preceded by BCBio on the 9th and followed by the Health
Educators Group on 12 & 13.
Selkirk College, Castlegar in 2006.

New Chair: **David Blundon, Camosun College**

New Recording Secretary: John Krisinger, NWCC

Transfer Grid Updates: Carol Pollock, UBC (continuing)

The Biology Descriptive Pathways Project grid is on the BCCAT website. Let Carol know of any changes by June 15 and Dec 15 (two update deadlines per year) Email pollock@zoology.ubc.ca

High School Biology 12 Discussion:

Concern was expressed regarding the lack of lab contents in Biology 12 .
Some pointed out that they always assumed a lack of lab experience because some high schools prepare students well, but others don't. There is no provincial lab exam.
All we really need of students is an ability to work in groups and follow instructions, anyway.

That's all folks.