

The Biology Articulation Committee of British Columbia

Minutes of 2006 Meeting

Location: Selkirk College, Castlegar

Dates: May 9th and 10th, 2006

Chair: David Blundon, Camosun College

Secretary: Bonnie Horswill, Selkirk College

1. Welcome from Selkirk College
 - a. Marilyn Luscombe, President and CEO of Selkirk College welcomed representatives to the College and the Kootenays and wished them 'great deliberations' over the next two days.
2. Introductions.
 - a. Representatives introduced themselves and the institutions they represent.
3. Housekeeping
 - a. Paula Vaananen asked that representatives sign up before lunch for one of the two tours planned for tomorrow morning. Teck Cominco or Celgar Pulp.
4. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Add: Fixing the list serve.
5. Approval of the Minutes of 2005 Meeting (NIC, Courtenay)
 - a. Send any corrections to David Blundon
 - b. Minutes were approved.
 - c. Business arising from the minutes
 - i. On line Labs
 1. UBC offers Applied Geo Physics Lab and North Island College offers a Deep Astronomy lab
 2. BCIT is developing a virtual (Biol 100) lab. This is a 1st year lab, non-major, one semester course, close to completion.
 3. there are 55 applications for online development
 4. College of the Rockies currently has over 140 BC Campus courses.
 5. David Blundon to investigate transfer credits **Action**
 - a. UBC and SFU will not grant transfer credits if a lab is not 'hands on'.

6. Report from Chair: meeting of Articulation Committee Chairs (Feb. 3, 2006)
 - a. Held at BCIT with 150 attending.
 - b. Hand out contained feedback from question: 'What were the best and worst practices at these types of meetings?'
 - i. There were 21 responses. Results: Best – PD, and Round table, Worst – lack of focus.
 1. For best practice we could gather representative reports before hand to send in a package with the agenda well before our meeting
 2. We could use a standard form for information sharing (classes, Faculty, what's new, etc.) **Action**
7. Systems Liaison Retirement and Replacement (David Blundon)
 - a. Our System Liaison Person has retired (Bill Gibson) and we need a replacement.
 - b. SLP is an exempt staff member that provides advice and guidance on prodigals, funding, administrative point of view, etc.
 - c. Bill to be called for a suggested replacement **Action**
8. Health Educator's Transfer Grid (David Blundon)
 - a. Has been approved by all Health educators
 - b. Now goes to BCCAT for approval. This is a great achievement!
 - c. Transfer Grid (Carol Pollock - **UBC**)
 - i. Thank you for your updates. Updates happen twice a year, please check your information and forward your corrections/updates to (**UBC**) by June 1, and Dec. 1 every year.
 - ii. Transfer Credits for new courses have to be approved through the registrar's office of both institutions.
 - iii. The easiest way to check credits is using BCCAT.
9. Field Course Articulation (Brent Murray)
 - a. Harder for smaller institutions to put together and fund
 - b. Ontario and Atlantic Provinces has a field course consortium. Students apply at their own institutions but go on course with students from others. Ontario's is a 3rd year course and has set up guidelines.
 - c. In BC: Bamfield has this but we could develop something a little broader
 - i. Selkirk has a diploma course in 1st year.
 - ii. (**Eric**) has 2 field courses offered on alternate years: Bamfield and Wells Gray
 - d. There is a transfer credit concern of students taking these courses at College level in 2nd year when UBC offers these courses in 3rd year.
 - i. What makes it a 3rd year course? It depends on the transfer credits a course receives from the registrar. SFU doesn't follow UBC for field course credits. UBC: 3rd year courses are only offered in 3rd year – 2nd year course offered elsewhere won't receive UBC 3rd year credits.

- ii. We need more information
 - e. A consortium model would be much better/easier for small institutions and students. **If you are interested in getting involved contact Brent.**
 - f. Brent to coordinate field course interest and questions and produce a document for next meeting. **Action**
10. Recommendations for non-majors texts and course content (Ann Rice)
- a. Non-major 'Autosect' has more biochem content but sometimes too much detail and not enough of the big picture.
 - b. 'Dale' starts with the big picture and 2nd part of the text is good.
 - c. 'Line & Miller' was a recommended text
 - d. **TWU** Baby Campbell is the worst text except for the others.
 - e. 'Freeman' includes not only the facts but how we get there. (for major and non-major courses)
 - f. There are instructors that don't use textbooks. 'Current issues' in Biology has no textbook. This course includes topics cloning, etc. Some instructors use high school texts.
 - g. Is topic content important for transfer? SFU – yes., UBC would give general credit in Biol.
 - h. UBC-O: 1st yr is non-major – step program for education program. We're using Baby Campbell - not great.
 - i. BC College of Teachers demands a wet lab.
 - j. Camosun: 1½ hr labs (non-Major) are going to 3 hr labs because they don't like the text.
 - k. Douglas: Courses are so imbedded in 'Campbell' that we can't switch.
 - l. Admin is pushing for non-major classes to fill seats
 - m. Could we send a grid around again for major and non-major courses?
Very helpful
 - n. Ann to continue discussion informally at lunch.
11. Types of writing assignments used in other institutes (Ann Rice)
- a. UBC: 3rd year writing courses. We focused on courses that already writing intensive courses and we're catching more and more plagiarism.
 - b. Currently used suggested formats:
 - i. Some require 4 written assignments, 3 are smaller (1st one marked by TA, 2 marked by peers under strict instructions for what to look for) the last assignment (final) is large
 - ii. In a 1st course students are provided a template, allowed to bring in 3 copies of annotated bibliographies.
 - iii. The student has 2 hours to produce a paper, can bring 3 references then leave them with the instructor, not allowed to bring an outline anymore. – Hand written.
 - c. Plagiarism is becoming a problem for all instructors. UBC subscribes to 'Turnitin.com' where any plagiarism is identified for the instructor. Also used as a learning for students to check their own work. Student papers

can be saved and 'turnitin.com' uses those to detect plagiarism as well. Trinity also uses this.

- d. Engaging ideas: the professor's guide to integrating writing, critical thinking, and active learning in the classroom by John Bean gives advice, how to give feed back, etc. - great for reducing your marking load.
 - e. Most institutions have writing assignments in the 1st year.
12. Fixing the List Serve
- a. North Island (Christine Hodgson) is the keeper of the list serve.
 - b. A spreadsheet with names and addresses was circulated. If there are any corrections pls get them to Christine.
 - c. A monthly email will go out. If you don't receive one contact Christine to make corrections.
 - d. Thank you Christine!
13. Institutional Presentations
- a. UBC, Carol Pollock
 - i. No basic changes in 1st year courses this year but changes could happen in the near future.
 - ii. Change to Biol 112 – less Biological and more student support topics ie: 1st term - how not to flunk out and survive, 2nd term – more course centered.
 - iii. BC BIO: Guest speaker Scott Freeman. Everyone is welcome. Spread the word! No registration fee and lunch is provided (cosponsored with publisher). The morning will include all UBC faculty and guests the afternoon is set aside for the smaller group. If you can come let Carol know by **May 23rd**.
 - iv. Reminder to be sent via the list serve – first test **Action**
 - v. Students wanting to major in Biology have to apply for admission. They can do so before the beginning of 2nd or 3rd year. Requirements after 1st year: 2nd year standing with at least BIOL 12/121/140 (or 7 transfer credits of 1st year boil) and Chem 121/123 or equivalent. Entrance will be adjudicated based on sessional average. Students can apply for admission to: Biochemistry, Biology, Microbiology, Pharmacology or Physiology (students get three choices). Numbers in these programs are limited and anyone who doesn't get into one of their choices will be placed in General Science, concentration in Life Sciences. The application form will be available on the website in June and students are encouraged to apply early to ensure placement before their registration date. Applications will also be accepted in August for students taking required course in the summer. If students take required during their 2nd year, they will have to apply for admission as 3rd year students.

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

- vi. You can't be called a Biochem major until you've been accepted by the Biochem dept. Spaces in the Labs are limited to the Biochem majors.
 - vii. You have to have a Physio course to be a Biology major – otherwise you would be a general science grad.
 - viii. Students are advised to complete their first two years before transferring to UBC, especially if they do not have an organic chemistry course in first year. For questions about transfer courses in chemistry, contact Gordon Bates: flip@chem.ubc.ca
 - ix. If a student gets marks below 55% in the 1st year they go on probation. In the 2nd year they would have to take a year out.
- b. SFU, Emelia Kirkwood
- i. Every 7 years depts. Have to go through a review. The results for this year are: Recommended that the undergraduate curriculum be revised. Things to consider: - less chemistry, math and physics and more statistics. – reduction in the upper division lab requirements. Our current program requires five lab courses to be completed before graduation. – moving away from open labs? Biol 101 needs to be an open lab as lab space is limited.
 - ii. We have direct admissions into majors from high schools.
 - iii. Retention in 1st year isn't good – we lose 25% after 1st year.
 - iv. Students with a GPA below 2.0 goes on probation in 1st year. In 2nd year they would be out.
- c. Thompson Rivers University, Eric Littlely
- i. University status: On April 1, 2005 UCC and the BC Open University were merged to form Thompson Rivers University.
 - ii. We are in the process on establishing several graduate programs, including a Masters in Environmental Science that we hope will enroll the first student sin Sept. 2007
 - iii. New staff: Dr. Lyn Baldwin is a plant ecologist who replaces David Williams who has retired.
 - iv. We are suffering a decrease in 1st year enrollment and high school numbers are not encouraging. We are working to attract outside the area.
 - v. Our Bio Chem courses don't have labs.
- d. Malaspina. Allan Gibson
- i. Retention is also a concern
 - ii. Every Biol student must do a research proposal and give a presentation – thesis like in some ways but they don't defend, they present. There are many advantages: this works as a retention tool, many go on to graduate school, and there are many skills learned/developed. Instructors get one hour release time for each student assigned to them.

- iii. Concerns in hiring staff: when funding is limited we tend to be forced to hire according to the Nursing Dept. needs.
- e. UNBC, Brent Murray
 - i. Enrollment numbers are stable
 - ii. Biol 101 and 102 are in high demand. Current enrollment is 280 with lecture offered in two sections.
 - iii. Introductory Biology is being offered at a remote campus and via the web during the spring and summer semesters with a concentrated 1 week where they have to come to the College for the labs.
- f. UBC-O, Blythe Nilson
 - i. There are changes in the wind with a new chancellor and president
 - ii. We have 250 – 300 Biol students
 - iii. Just finished our first year
 - iv. Faculty has reduced in numbers and major hiring is in the works
 - v. It's been a year of turmoil but we've survived.
- g. Trinity Western, Dennis Venema
 - i. New Bio Tech program for this fall
 - ii. We have a new president – 3rd ever!
 - iii. We use Campbell's text for now
 - iv. Every Biol course (100-400) has labs (both major and non-major)
 - v. Liberal arts core – every student must take Biol.
 - vi. 20% of students come from the US, 50% of Business program is Asian.
 - vii. Tuition is \$14,500/yr – no external funding. There are many students on scholarships
 - viii. Residence stay is required for the first 2 years (or living with a close family member)
- h. UCFV, Barbara Moon
 - i. Enrollment is slightly up in upper levels
 - ii. Summer courses being run as a full semester this year.
 - iii. Student survey has resulted in a new course for the 'Pre Med' hopefuls. (Medical Genetics – case based)
 - iv. \$30,000 contract rental money has allowed us to buy new equipment for research.
 - v. Clickers are used by some first year instructors. A multiple choice question will be flashed on the screen and students would answer using a hand held 'clicker' that they are required to purchase.
 - vi. High School outreach has increased by allowing HSs to use our labs. Student Career nights are well attended.
 - vii. Residence has started construction.

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

- viii. "Genome BC" offered forensic molecular biology labs at UCFV – geared to the high school students and they will bring equipment with them if needed. They are looking for more post-secondary sites in BC.

- i. Kwantlen, Pam McDonald
 - i. Enrollment in 1st year dropped in the spring so for the first time one section of 1st year Biol was cancelled. Second year enrollment remains strong
 - ii. There have been 4 ground breaking ceremonies in Cloverdale.
 - iii. Adding a section of Cell Biology in the spring on the Surrey Campus
 - iv. New section of A&P will be offered as part of new Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing
 - v. A second year Microbiology will be introduced in the Richmond Campus this fall
 - vi. All lab science courses have been changed from 5 to 4 credits – this will reduce the cost to students. There will be no change in transferability or contact hours.

- j. Camosun College, David Blundon
 - i. 60 sections – currently
 - ii. 1500 students per term are pouring through the labs
 - iii. most will go to U of Vic
 - iv. Nursing is increasing again
 - v. There is a 7 year waiting list for Dental Hygiene
 - vi. Our environment program is Nationally accredited.
 - vii. Nursing and the new fitness and wellness require A&P – boon to the Biology Dept.

- k. Capilano College, Marja de Jong Westman
 - i. 1st year enrollments have dropped – nothing cancelled.
 - ii. 2nd year enrollments have maintained.
 - iii. Summer school enrollments have dropped – nothing cancelled.
 - iv. We are considering reducing sections
 - v. Assoc Degrees seem to be successful for us – they have to have Biology.
 - vi. Post Graduate Environment Degree was cancelled.

- l. Douglas College, Rob McGregor
 - i. Summer Institute – 3 courses are linked and students have to take all three.
 - ii. Many curriculum changes have happened in the last year mostly associated with applied degree development

- iii. New Degree course: Bachelor of Physical Education and Coaching.
 - iv. Tenure of chair is over in Sept. – new Chair next year.
 - v. New Bachelor of Science programs: Nursing and Physiatriic Nursing.
 - vi. \$40 Million to build a health sciences building – 2008 we hope!
 - vii. All new courses need to be approved. New 3rd year courses would be offered for the first time.
 - viii. Assoc. of Science Degree have been revamped but students are interested
- m. Capital ?????
- i. Post grad program in Environmental Science is being repackaged as an Associate Degree Program. We've stopped offering it for one year to revamp it. There are problems with admissions telling people that it was cancelled for ever!
- n. New Caledonia, John Newman
- i. No new courses/programs
 - ii. Some repackaging happening
 - iii. Demographics have affected enrollment.
 - iv. Some areas have suffered lay offs but not Biol or nursing
 - v. Looking to purchase new microscopes and wondered if other institutions were interested and putting together one big order – could save money! Contact: John Newman
- o. College of the Rockies Ann Rice
- i. New academic building has started
 - ii. Small enrollment in Cell Biol.
 - iii. 1st year enrollment is declining – demographics
 - iv. Biol courses include 3 hr labs a week
 - v. 1st year U of Vic Nursing is complete (1st yr this was offered)
 - vi. going to 27 to 32 seats for Nursing
 - vii. Students who apply for second year (come back) are eligible for reimbursement of next fall's tuition if the maintain a specific GPA next fall.
 - viii. Biol 101 labs were upgraded in the fall the changes to Biol 102 labs will happen in the next academic year.
 - ix. Hkin course instruction is being shared between Biology and Hkin faculty.
 - x. Assoc. Degrees don't seem to work as a marketing/drawing tool.
- p. Columbia College, Todd Harper
- i. Regrets from Keng Graal
 - ii. No change in Biol – 110 and 120 is still being offered
 - iii. Biol 12 is offered
 - iv. Text Campbell and Reese is used

- v. We are the first private college in BC to be granted permission to award Associate Degrees – 2 were awarded in Arts in March.

- q. Langara, Gerda Krause
 - i. This is the first time a 2nd year course has been offered in the summer for a long time.
 - ii. We're hiring this summer
 - iii. 1st year enrollments are down
 - iv. 2nd year enrollments are up and with stronger students.

- r. North Island College, Christine Hodgson
 - i. Enrollments are down except in Nursing
 - ii. Nursing degree is offered

- s. Northern Lights college
 - i. No longer offers Biology

- t. Northwest Community College, John Krisinger
 - i. Enrollment has stabilized
 - ii. Offers 1st and 2nd year College courses for a couple of years
 - iii. Bachelor of Science – Nursing is comp

- u. Okanogan College, Ellen Pedersen
 - i. 1.2 Mill to rebuild the labs
 - ii. \$510,000.00 to equip the labs (there are no 'Labs are Us' stores!)
 - iii. we have a lot of term people because we found out late in the year who was going and who was staying
 - iv. 1st year numbers were good
 - v. 2nd year enrollments were low but should go up next year (year 2)
 - vi. Salmon Arm and Penticton have a very low enrollment.

- v. Selkirk College, Will Hunter
 - i. ABE is done on other campuses
 - ii. Enrollments are steady
 - iii. 2nd year enrollments spiked so some 2nd yr courses were re-instated.
 - iv. 4 core courses and 2 of 3 elective courses every year
 - v. retaining 2nd yr classes are a problem. Suggested solution: hold 2 classes with 2 instructors – 'modulize' the classroom.
 - vi. Demographics are a problem here as well.
 - 1. High schools don't get the message or are told that there are only 3 places to go after graduation and not the benefits of smaller classes and lower enrollment
 - 2. Generally: small town students want to get away to a bigger centre. Why don't students from the larger centers come to the smaller centres to get out of town?

- vii. SC has used the area to attract students as well as Assoc. Degrees are popular.
- w. Vancouver Centre College, Barbara Moon
 - i. Associate of Arts is waiting to be approved – June 1st
 - 1. includes a 1st year non-major Biol course
- x. Vancouver Community College, Peter Ballin
 - i. Enrollment is disappointing
 - ii. Biol 110 has 3 starts this year, Biol 1200 has 2 starts
 - iii. A&P courses are swelling
 - iv. Looking to expand 2nd yr Micro biol with the hopes that this will draw in the 1st yr student.
 - v. 2 new Nursing Programs: RN and Practical. There is construction at the King Edward Campus.
- y. Yukon College, Dave Mossop
 - i. Small College
 - ii. Maintained enrollment
 - iii. No Biol in programs
 - iv. Biol offered in 3 streams
 - v. New course in climate change
 - vi. Looking for a president with vision
 - vii. Canada Winter games to be held next year ... going to be hard to hold a semester.
 - viii. Biol 11 & 12 are offered.
- z. There were a show of hands for:
 - i. Who teaches 1st & 2nd year labs?
 - ii. Who sets up the labs?
 - iii. How many people have the policy that 'you have to pass the labs to pass the course'?
 - iv. Who has casual lab staff?

May 10th, 2006

- 14. Professional Development Activities: Celgar Pulp and Paper Mill and Tech Cominco Metals Ltd. (Paula Vaananen)
- 15. 2007 Meeting Yukon College and Venue planning for 2008 meeting.
 - a. Canada winter games to be held in March 07 – we may not be operating properly.
 - b. David to confirm the possibility to transfer out of Province **Action**

- c. UBC will host for 2007 - to be tied in with BC BIO May 15th and articulation May 16th and 17th . If you have a speaker preference let Carol know.
 - d. Yukon College to host in 2008
 - e. Trinity to host in 2009
16. Election of chair for BCCAT Bio-articulation
- a. David elected by acclamation
 - b. Pls send agenda items to David.
- Thanks to Selkirk College, Will Hunter for hosting us and Paula Vanaanan for our PD.
17. Adjournment. 1340