

ESL Articulation Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

May 21 – 22, 2009
North Island College
Courtenay, BC

Present

Chairs: Charlotte Sheldrake, University of Victoria
Elizabeth West, Camosun College

Minute-taker: Catherine Ostler, Capilano University
Maria Bos-Chan, University of the Fraser Valley
Erica Winter, Columbia College
Karen Jane Hills, Vancouver Community College
Karen Cohen, Vancouver Community College
Sharon Richardson, College of the Rockies
Janet Zlotnik, Vancouver Community College
Tori Laye, Alexander College
Joan Silvey, Selkirk College
Susan Peake, Capilano University
Vicki Vogel, Langara College
Melissa Swanink, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Wendy Royal, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Robin Russell, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Harkit Dhillon, Langara College
Jacquie Harrison, Vancouver Community College
Cheryl Howrigan, Vancouver Community College
Laurie O'Dowd, Camosun College
Kate Gilchrist, Okanagan College
Guy Phillips, University of Northern BC
Paul Pan, University of Northern BC
Tanis Sawkins, Vancouver Community College
Jennifer Allin, Vancouver Island University
Brian Bouthillier, Thompson Rivers University
Norman Bendle, North Island College
Lisa Robertson, Camosun College
Judith Dale, Douglas College

Finola Finlay, BCCAT
Barbara Binczyk, Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market
Development (ALMD)

Regrets: John Boraas, System Liaison
University Canada West representative
Coquitlam College representative

- I. Approval of the Agenda: Approved unanimously.

II. Approval of the Minutes of May 22 – 23, 2008

Maria Bos-Chan/Robin Russell. Carried unanimously.

III. Welcome, introductions, roundtable to briefly summarize new initiatives at institutions. Several institutions have a large Saudi scholarship student population, and have re-opened beginning level classes to accommodate these students. Several institutions have new presidents or deans. Several institutions also report on the increasing use of IELTS and challenges around the use of IELTS scores that may be set too low by Admissions.

IV. Report from BCCAT. Finola Finlay presented some useful information on Student Transitions and Mobility in the BC Post-Secondary System (Finola has sent the presentation to the ESL Articulation listserv). Finola also provided the BCCAT Articulation Committee Update April 2009; she noted that public reports are available at www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions/.

UBC has a controversial new requirement for Arts students: ASTU 150: Writing for the disciplines. ESL Articulation members briefly discussed this development.

V. Ministry update: Barbara Binczyk

Barb described the many activities of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, Labour Market and Immigration Division. Some of these are described in the handout she provided, entitled "Welcome BC Overview" (see www.WelcomeBC.ca). Barb also handed out a 2-page document detailing the names of relevant Ministry officers and an organization chart of the Ministry Divisions and Branches. She noted that policy and budget cannot be discussed until the new cabinet is formed.

Barb asked us for suggestions to make the ESL system in BC (involving domestic students) more cohesive and with better communication. She gave the example of training allowances (as in AB), and tuition-free programs for domestic ESL students. She also welcomes feedback on volunteer programs in the Community Adult Literacy Program.

Other initiatives mentioned include

- Regional Literacy Coordinators (RLCs) in place: to support and initiate
- Outreach Literacy Coordinators (OLCs)
- Pilot ESL/ABE Outcomes survey
- Crosswalk: under Adult Op Action Plan. To develop a framework to list outcomes in reading and writing across sectors
- Community adult literacy benchmarks
- Attempts to align CLBs and IALS (international adult literacy survey) and other outcomes, all in one document. Probably will release the document in the fall for all to take a look
- CCL has been working on the Echo (?) literacy assessment tool.

- Provincial and territorial ministries/departments that fund ESL are working on a Pan Canadian chart for the Deputy Ministers who oversee publicly funded ESL delivery for domestic students.

VI. Report on Work and Access Committee Project

Lisa Robertson, Chair of English for Access and English for Work groups, presented an update on the project to realign English Access and Work outcomes to the CLB descriptors. She circulated a summary report that showed the project to be on track. At this year's meeting, ten institutions are submitting courses to be articulated with the new descriptors. For any questions about the project, please contact Lisa at robertsonL@camosun.bc.ca.

VII. Elizabeth West and Charlotte Sheldrake presented an update on the project to Benchmark First-Year English. The final report was completed by June 30, 2008, and approved by the Transfer and Articulation Committee in October, 2008. It is available on the BCCAT website (www.bccat.bc.ca). The research has been presented at TEAL conferences (October 2008 and March 2009) and to Deans and Directors.

VIII. Elizabeth & Charlotte circulated a summary of the initial thinking of the working group on Phase 3 of the CLB Project—Assessment. The steering committee contributed some ideas and comments. Some issues for consideration by the working group include

- IELTS
- Performance conditions
- Grading systems
- Exit exams

ESL Articulation Committee members are hereby given advance notice of a questionnaire, and requested to give it their careful consideration when it arrives in the email inbox. There was general consensus that it will be helpful to know what institutions are doing in terms of assessments.

Friday May 22

Working Group Chairs ensured all articulations were in consistent format, made revisions in pen on the current Articulation Guide pages, and signed off on articulations and changes.

Access and Work Working group reported back

- Four institutions articulated 21 courses
- More supporting documentation is needed for some of the courses brought forward. There are another 20 courses or so still to articulate. Another 2 institutions will also undertake this work.

- Possibly there will be a mid-year meeting to complete the articulations in progress.
 - The working group also discussed “honing the process.” The Access chair will document an efficient process to use in future.
 - Lisa noted that some courses may need to be articulated in two or even three areas (i.e., EAP & Work, or Access & Work, or all three)
 - Overall, the Access re-articulation process has been a satisfying experience. Lisa acknowledged all the hard work done by the articulation reps.
- **EAP Working group reported back**
 - Two courses were articulated by Douglas at the EAP IV level: EASL 0810 and EASL 0820.
 - UNBC brought courses to articulate at EAP I, II, III, and IV. It was felt that more supporting documentation is needed to complete the articulation of these courses.
 - UNBC will work on their EAP IV submission and it will be completed by email with the EAP working group members present today.
 - Today’s process resulted in some revisions being made to the Course description form: a question on grading and a statement on the need for supporting documentation will be added, as well as some model articulations.
 - The Chair will send out guidelines for re-articulation of courses.
 - There was a brief discussion of transfer agreements between non-members of the BC post-secondary transfer system and other institutions.
 - There was discussion of the news that the English 12 provincial exam no longer necessarily forms a portion of the English 12 grade.

Wendy Royal & Robin Russell (Kwantlen) requested the endorsement of the ESL Articulation Committee for a proposal to BCCAT for Transfer Innovations funding to investigate the implications and process of awarding university-level credit for articulated EAP courses in the BC post-secondary transfer system. The ESL Articulation Steering Committee endorsed this proposal unanimously.

Elections

- Charlotte Sheldrake is stepping down as Co-Chair, and the committee thanked her for her hard work.
- Catherine Ostler was acclaimed as incoming Co-Chair for a two-year term. Elizabeth West continues as Co-Chair to 2010.
- Lisa Robertson continues as Chair of the burgeoning Access and Work Committee; all are grateful.
- Norman Bendle was thanked for the hospitality shown by North Island College
- The University of Northern BC offered to host the 2010 Articulation Committee Meeting, which will be held May 20-21, 2010.

Adjournment

