

2021 Adventure Articulation Minutes

May 27, 2021 9AM – 2 PM

Location: Online

Chair(s): David Pinel & Michael Neville

Attending:

David Pinel - North Island College
Graham Vaughan – Capilano University
John Telford - Camosun College
Jamie Boulding – SPL
Chris Dyck – Columbia Bible College
Darcy Mullen – NOLS Pacific Northwest
Julia Tashiro - SPL COLT Director
Anabella Chun – BC Council on Admissions & Transfer
Dave Wan - College of the Rockies
Terry Palechuck - Thompson Rivers University
Sam Yates - Westcoast Adventure College
Gregg Cormie – Vancouver Island University

Regrets: Matt Kellow (VIU), Brian Bell (MAST, COTR)

1. Welcomes
 - a. Brief introduction of participants – Name/Affiliation
 - b. Review/adjust/accept agenda -
 - c. Clarify any procedures or decision processes/items

2. Review/adjust/accept last year's minutes – please ensure you've looked at the attached in advance so efficient, thank you.

3. Updates from BCCAT – Anabella Chun, Committee & Technology Support Coordinator, BC Council on Admissions & Transfer
 - New online BC Transfer Guide – 7 institutions
 - Spring update
 1. Joint annual meeting
 2. Can look at past sessions online
 3. Registration in September
 - Research projects
<https://www.bccat.ca/Media/NEWBCCAT/pubs/Resources/ACUpdate202104.pdf>
 - New BCCAT Publications

- Past years accessible online
<https://www.bccat.ca/articulation/committees/adventure>
 - Diane Naugler (NIC) or other could fill the System Liaison position which is currently vacant if BC Adventure Articulation would like?
4. Check-ins/reports for 2020/21 (one person from each institution/org to provide a program report for this recent year, including enrolment, successes, issues, changes, updates, trends, risk management, etc.)

College of the Rockies Golden Campus – ATBO - Dave Wan

- Lowest enrollment since diploma program
- Students didn't enjoy studying online
- 65% of first year students returned for 2nd year of diploma
- Low numbers were a blessing as they were still able to use classes and vans and could be seen as a benefit
- September numbers are good and waitlisted but that is dependent on international
- Needed to send one student home and the work we did last year was helpful
- Brian Bell is retiring

COTR – MAST

- Everything shut down in March
- Students told they could continue this year
- March/April/May working with current students while doing last year for field
- Very challenging to get everyone through the pinch

Thompson Rivers University Adventure Guide Program -Terry Palechuk

- Full enrollment
- Stayed away from the Island
- Student mental health
 - students not willing to disclose
 - doing Mental Health Wilderness First Aid for Faculty and students
 - people feeling isolated
- Ran without a budget
- Cert/diploma field program went well
- Online adjustments for all and pandemic forced change and opportunity
- No COVID outbreaks but sent students home for testing due to symptoms – one student did test positive
- Cautious planning and things worked out well

- Developing partnership in Beijing, China – things are on hold but still progressing with interest
- Mustang Power Catskiing – offering scholarships for Indigenous students and TRU is also looking for more opportunities with this new partner

Columbia Bible College Emergency Rescue Technician Program - Chris Dyck

- Average/normal enrollment – great initiative from a new recruiter
- Good return of first year students into 2nd year
- 4 years in and seeing people being placed into their job of choice

Capilano University Outdoor Recreation Program - Graham Vaughan

- 32 students of 36 available seats
- Attrition due to stress, online,
- Fall numbers are on track with 41 applicants and 26 admitted
- New program profile – move from 18month to 24 months
- Since Wilderness Leadership Program was discontinued the new Outdoor Rec program has filled in the gaps that were lost
- Program review of Capilano – self study and external
 - Developed 5-year action plan
- 25% outdoor with all online courses
- Collective protocols from adventure articulation committee was helpful to present to the administration to support leaning outside

Camosun College Post Degree Diploma John Telford

- Post-degree Diploma is 13-months and historically delivered online so had less impact than many other institutions
- Lots of support from the Dean to keep the program going
- Could have had a larger cohort than they did which feels good and might give some room to build the Faculty
- Demographic are lots of teachers as they get a salary bump
- Trying to mix and mingle with _____? so that the ethos surrounding Indigenous knowledge and looking at New Zealand for this partnership

Vancouver Island University Outdoor Recreation – Gregg Cormie

- Running at 25% of capacity
- Re: mental health – the program is one that helps mental health and we are ramping up our program so that we can offer the non-credit outdoor recreation programs
- Land access is becoming a major issue for river access for the rafting program

North Island College Adventure Guiding Programs - Dave Pinel / Mike Neville

- 1 and 2-year program was rejigged 3 years ago adding more field skill electives to add more courses in the 2nd year

- SCUBA was offered through TGA 131 course code and from initial 4 student interest had 2 sections of 8 students
 - Offered in Nov & Dec when weather was poor and 2nd wave was intense but very successful
- Full enrollment from re-jig of program and traction – but blended allowed for a much larger catchment area.
- Will likely keep some online/blended and not go 100% back to F2F pre-COVID
 - Limited space
- 32 students through AOG
- Planned on program review however it is on hold for now
 - Cost recovery so more flexible
- Partnership with all appreciated
- 6th delivery of Indigenous Ecotourism Training Program with VIU, Heiltsuk Tribal Council will wrap up by June
- With low numbers in THM we had several courses delivery through BUS dept.

Canadian Outdoor Leadership Training / Strathcona Park Lodge Jamie Boulding / Julia

- Good enrollment and staying with 100% F2F and cohort model
- Local students either from Van Isle or Lower Mainland
- Wider age range than in the past
- Fall semester last year was a huge success
- Currently have 18 students in 2 cohorts with 2 Indigenous students
- Depression, anxiety, group conflict has made things challenging with all the other logistics
- Added some online pre-study for AOG and Wilderness First Aid

Westcoast Adventure College – Sam Yates

- Full enrollment at 24 students
- Looking positive for the Fall with some international hoping to get a study Visa
- Mental health is a continuing challenge with so many changes

NOLS – Darcy Mullen

- Not able to run any courses in the Pacific Northwest
- 250 students in coming season and waitlisted
- Need land managers to open the territory
- No COVID outbreaks

4. Any items arising from check-in reports? (Add to agenda or position a follow-up strategy with who/when/how, etc.)
 - a. Mental Health Wilderness First Aid
 1. Delivery model?
 1. Daye currently expending team.

2. NIC delivered at a stressful time of year and Daye over delivers and that further maxed students and were full intense days.
3. Hybrid delivery is working
2. Chris w/ Columbia – gone with the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing route
3. Using Ken Wilie’s course in tandem with Daye’s
- b. Land and river access issues
 1. Matt Kellow working with Mosiac and the company selling off forestry land to private ‘free hold’ residential property
 1. Working with the VIWPS and a letter to maintain property
 2. Many summer users are not able to access the are (swimming holes etc)
 3. Matt to forward a letter for us to send off
 1. Is this better from adventure articulation or each institution?
 4. WTA BOARD – chat with Jamie
 5. Indigenous groups and First Nations (CapU)
 1. Matt Kellow suggests it’s a conversation/relationship with each different Nation
 2. Dave Pinel (NIC) also suggests that a macro approach might not work
 3. Jamie (COLT) echoes that the relationship that Jamie (SPL) has made are the key
5. COVID-19 onward updates (one person from each institution/org to report/update how things are taking shape for 2021/22 programming and onwards – from an institutional/org and program perspective)
 - a. COTR – ATBO
 1. Currently on hold what BC restart plan means
 2. Going back into the classroom
 3. Normal numbers and traditional delivery of the program
 4. Docs for reference, Adventure Articulation best practices document, BC restart plan, Return-to-Campus Primer, different association recommendations (ACMG, BCROA, SKGABC, RCABC. Etc)
 5. If we can stay local we will stay local – will likely stick with this unless there are specific advantages
 - b. COTR – MAST
 1. Will likely not go int the US even if border opens
 - c. TRU
 1. Revisit expectations, daily checks, departmental plan, and specific course-by-course COVID-19 plan
 2. Kept within health regions as much as possible – modified, postponed and canceled trips
 3. Ran HEPA filters in vehicles

4. 1st yr students were better positioned than second year as they did not have expectations that needed to be changed
 5. We feel we are prepared for everything - 4,500-5,000 successful student field days
 6. Message to students to stay responsible
- d. Columbia
1. Fortunate to have small class sizes and went fairly well
 2. Small outbreak that was contained with minor symptoms
 3. Benefit of small class size is that they should be able to continue in the Fall without any major changes
- e. CapU
1. Increased person hours for management and faculty mental health
 2. Kept things to smaller ratios
 3. Staggered groups so that there was less visual footprint
 4. Individual meals/cooking groups
 5. Finding that with COVID-19 – local park and wilderness areas are getting more popular with use by general public and harder to operate in – so expanding to other Crown land areas
- f. Camosun
1. Moving ahead – recognition that what we have been doing (risk management) around COVID has been successful and they have recognized that it was done well
 2. RM is what we do and hopefully
 3. Local boost in getting outside and the benefits of the outdoors will be notice and appreciated
 4. While there are many benefits of F2F there are also benefits of online and will be highlight those benefits and keep them
- g. VIU
1. Waiting for mid-August to see how things are going to shake out
 2. Planning more day trips
 3. Hopefully higher capacity limit for the VIU 15-passenger as currently limited to 4 passengers – this has been terribly challenging
 4. Interesting to figure out how vaccine rollout will look in the Fall
 5. Hoping for minimum of 50% of capacity with using our van more
- h. NIC
1. Kept local and will continue to stay local
 2. Parked in places that were out of the public eye
 3. How do we continue to manage students and when do we say we've done as much as we can do?
- i. COLT/SPL
1. Establishing cohort for 14 days before getting into field activities
 2. Pre-course contact has been beneficial, and we will keep that going
 3. Less traffic at the lodge has been helpful since we had unlimited space to spread the students out

4. A lot of traffic in wilderness areas and can we go to these areas? Are they local or are they from other areas?
5. Noticed increase in lower risk tolerance for students – based on healthcare system or other?
6. How can we keep things flexible and creative with a limited staff
7. Barrier in larger van – instructors are the issue as the cohort is formed
8. Increased hygiene especially around food preparation
9. Jamie – can we take people into the field into the field who aren't vaccinated? (move to point 6)
- j. WAC
 1. Challenge with specialized instructors – worked at duplication so that we have more flexibility with instructors
 2. Though distanced and outdoors – had a public perception issue and moved to masks on outside
- k. NOLS
 1. Want to ramp up but plan on staying local as much as possible and will then look to expand in 2022
6. Any items arising from 'COVID-19 onward' updates? Add to agenda or position a follow-up strategy with who/when/how, etc.
 1. Refresh best practices document?
 1. During the year review – TRU will discuss and keep the committee informed
 2. Do we need to mandate COVID vaccine in the wilderness?
 1. Challenging to mandate – personal choice
 2. Possible litigation – side effect from vaccine but mandated to take it
 - 3.
7. Standardization of certifications required for/from field instructors (Graham V., CapU)
8. Digitizing waivers (Graham V., CapU)
 1. VIU using something for ...?
9. ?Updating shared docs and tools re. C-19 protocols, RM, government communications, etc.?
 1. Sam to deliver
10. ?Updating Adventure core curriculum doc?
 - 1.
11. Confirm ongoing Co-Chair term
 1. Possible someone to help with taking notes next year?

Other new business

Date of next meeting

Late May / early June 2022

Dave proposing ZOOM/Bluejeans call next year