

Biology Articulation Committee

Meeting Minutes

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL on ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFERS (BCCAT)

Meeting Date(s): **10, 11 May, 2021**

Institution/Campus Location: **Online (Zoom)**

Present:

Committee Member Name	Institution Name	Email/contact
Mitra Panahi	Alexander College (ALEX)	m.panahi@alexandercollege.ca
Larry Anthony Kate Pettem	Camosun College (CAMO)	anthonyl@camosun.bc.ca
Eugene Chu	Capilano University (CAPU)	eugenechu@capilanou.ca
Kirk Hart Catharine White	Coast Mountain College (CMTN)	khart@coastmountaincollege.ca
Jessica Card	College of New Caledonia (CNC)	cardj@cnc.bc.ca
Andrena Heigh	College of the Rockies (COTR)	aheigh@cotr.bc.ca
Rachel Moens Jaimmie Que	Columbia College (COLU)	rmoens@columbiacollege.ca
Weissy Lee	Douglas College (DOUG)	leew@douglascollege.ca
Sherry Wilson	Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU)	Sherry.Wilson@kpu.ca
Chris Conway	Langara College (LANG)	cconway@langara.ca
Aisling Brady	North Island College (NIC)	aisling.brady@nic.bc.ca
Cindy Broberg	Northern Lights College (NLC)	cbroberg@nlc.bc.ca
Stacey Sakakibara	Okanagan College (OKAN)	ssakakibara@okanagan.bc.ca
Marina Tourlakis	Quest University (QUES)	marina.tourlakis@questu.ca
Stephen Seaborn	Selkirk College	sseaborn@selkirk.ca
Emelia Kirkwood, Julian Christians & Evon Khor	Simon Fraser University (SFU)	ekirkwoo@sfu.ca
Nancy Flood	Thompson Rivers University (TRU)	nflood@tru.ca
Dennis Venema	Trinity Western University (TWU)	Dennis.Venema@twu.ca
Matt Nelson	UBC-Okanagan	matthew.nelson@ubc.ca
Sunita Chowrira	UBC-Vancouver	chowrira@mail.ubc.ca
Mitra Panahi	University Canada West (UCW)	mitra.panahi@myucwest.ca
Gregory Schmaltz	University of the Fraser Valley (UFV)	biology.departmenthead@ufv.ca
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
Carol Pollock	Emerita	
Guest Name	Institution	Email/contact
Mike Winsemann	BCCAT	

Regrets: Raymond Wang – Coquitlam College

Recorder: Aisling Brady – North Island College

Welcome: Andrena Heigh, BAC chair (COTR) welcomed members of the group – thanked the Ktunaxa People, upon whose unceded ancestral lands the College of the Rockies resides. She acknowledged and valued the opportunity to learn, share and grow on the traditional territory, and asked that the members acknowledge the traditional territory that they are currently on.

1. **Meeting Called to Order** at 08:35, the morning of May 10th the Biology articulation meeting
Chair – Andrena Heigh (COTR), **Associate Chair** – Aisling Brady (NIC)
2. **Approval of agenda**
 - No additions to the agendaMotion: to accept agenda as presented
Moved: Caroline Josefsson (VIU); **Seconded:** Andrena Heigh (COTR); **Carried:** Unanimously
3. **Approval of minutes** of the Biology Articulation Committee meeting of 14,15 May 2020 online
Motion: to accept minutes as presented
Moved: Dezene Huber (UNBC) **Seconded:** Maria Morlin (VCC) **Carried:** Unanimously
4. **Notes/updates**
 - Reminder to update contact lists
 - BC Bio now being hosted outside of the Articulation Committee, but will be aligned with the articulation meeting
5. **Presentation of Institutional Reports**
 - Mitra Panahi – Alexander College – new campus in Burnaby, most classes moving
 - Fall delivery – anticipating F2F
 - Larry Anthony – Camosun College – Larry retiring, Kate Pettem to be new chair and BAC rep
 - Fall delivery – mostly F2F, with a little blended teaching
 - Eugene Chu – Capilano University – 3 degrees underway in Sciences
 - Fall delivery – anticipating F2F at fully capacity
 - Kirk Hart – Coast Mountain College – most of community vaccinated already
 - Fall delivery – 30% of courses F2F, remainder digital for international students
 - Jessica Card – College of New Caledonia – maintained enrolments, labs were F2F
 - Fall delivery – preparing to go back F2F, biology will be fully F2F
 - Andrena Heigh – College of the Rockies
 - Fall delivery – planning to go fully F2F
 - Jaimmie Que – Columbia College – push towards open access texts
 - Fall delivery – unsure yet, some hybrid classes
 - Weissy Lee – Douglas College – high enrolments in health science courses due to online
 - Fall delivery – F2F, but one section to be online for international students if possible
 - Sherry Wilson – KPU – academic career pre merged with faculties, large attrition rate this year
 - Fall delivery – F2F fully, need special permission for online, multiple sections may have online section
 - Chris Conway – Langara College – BSc in Bioinformatics started; research becoming part of department
 - Fall delivery – entirely F2F, 2 non-majors biology courses online
 - Aisling Brady – North Island College – pathobiology moved out of biology to nursing
 - Fall delivery – F2F, some multi-section courses will have online sections, labs blended
 - Marina Turlakis – Quest University – pulled out of CCA, very few STEM faculty left, hoping to engage in first round of bargaining to develop a collective agreement
 - Fall Delivery – progressive F2F – maybe one block online, next F2F
 - Cindy Broberg – Northern Lights College
 - Fall delivery – F2F
 - Stacey Sakakibara – Okanagan College – transfer agreement for oenology + viticulture program to Brock University in Ontario, adding another hour to first year bio labs
 - Fall delivery – full return to F2F

- Stephen Seaborn – Selkirk College
 - Fall delivery – F2F, if instructor uncomfortable can teach online
- Emelia Kirkwood & Evon Khor – Simon Fraser University – increased enrolments
 - Fall delivery – staged return to F2F, focus on upper level courses being F2F
- Nancy Flood – Thompson Rivers University
 - Fall delivery – likely F2F, multi-section courses may have one section online
- Dennis Venema – Trinity Western University – engaging in institutional prioritization program
 - Fall delivery – back F2F, but sensitive that it may change
- Mitra Panahi – University of Canada West – increasing enrolments in biology
 - Fall delivery – ready for F2F
- Matt Nelson – University of British Columbia – Okanagan – removed lab from non-majors biology courses
 - Fall delivery – F2F with some online – still TBA for large classes
- Gregory Schmaltz – University of Fraser Valley – new biochem major, new bioinformatics certificate
 - Fall delivery – F2F
- 6. **SLP Report** – Barbara Moon, full report available on Moodle. Highlights include support for open education resources, sharing best practices for academic integrity, cooperation among institutions and colleagues has been silver lining of pandemic.
 - a. Significant social justice movements – systemic racism and poverty; statement issued about recognizing diversity
- 7. **JAM Report** – Available on Moodle
- 8. **Presentation of Institutional Reports – cont.**
 - Greg Beaulieu – University of Victoria – international students had different challenges, mental health challenges high for more students than normal, enrolments were up overall
 - Fall delivery – F2F, some online sections, some online labs for larger courses
 - Maria Morlin – Vancouver Community College – enrolment up for A&P, some online labs
 - Fall delivery – push for blended, but may be F2F for community building
 - Caroline Josefsson – Vancouver Island University – significant attrition; 4 retirements coming up
 - Fall delivery – will be F2F
 - Tara Stehelin - Yukon University – enrolments lower than normal, reliable internet a challenge
 - Fall delivery – push for F2F
 - Dezene Huber – University of Northern British Columbia – large changes in leadership, many interim
 - Fall delivery – likely F2F, some hybrid
 - Sunita Chowrira – University of British Columbia Vancouver – enrolments slightly higher, Bio140 labs were online, continuing with C.R.E.A.T.E model for 2021
 - Fall delivery – F2F, some multi-section courses may have online sessions

Other themes discussed throughout institutional reports:

- a. **Academic Integrity** – significant number of cases, many focused on creating assessments that minimized cheating. Some use of proctoring software, others used oral exams, open book assessments, higher Bloom’s taxonomy questions. Commitment to F2F final exams, even deferrals if students cannot write by end of December
 - **Number of Hours and Weeks in Terms** – wide range, but many labs are either 2 h or 3 h/week, number of weeks often 12 weeks per term, some 13 weeks, some 14 weeks.
 - **Open Stax Texts** - some institutions are pushing to increased used of open resources, many found texts are ok, but missing some of auxiliary sources (e.g. images, LMS’s etc.).
9. **Discussion Item – Return to F2F Labs**
- Space limitations and restructuring for social distancing may be necessary, will likely not be able to return to F2F labs right away. Committee will re-evaluate requirements for F2F labs

after the one year. Skills learned doing hands on activities during in person labs are not translated well online, historically it has been so important as a committee that in-person labs are required for transferability ; online labs were found to be not equivalent (discussions came about with NIC's NANSLO project and RWSL) – outcomes from a report showed that students did not show the same learning outcomes as in-person lab and any institutions directly assess in-person lab skills, this cannot be done online.

- As a group, a statement was created surrounding transferability of online labs:
 - *“The biology committee has discussed at length the benefits of in person labs in first and second year level courses, and while emergency measures are in place, and for the 2021/2022 academic year, delivery methods for lab courses will not impact transferability, with the exception of microbiology. Beyond emergency measures, the Biology Articulation Committee expects biology lab courses to be in person and hands on for transferability purposes. Online lab courses in the future would need to be re-articulated.”*
- **Motion to accept:** Caroline Josefsson, **Seconded:** Larry Anthony. **Carried:** Unanimously.

10. BCCAT Report – Mike Winsemann

- No changes to articulation based on online delivery method, except chemistry. Question asked about lab delivery method, BCCAT is there to support articulation, and respects the decisions made by committees re: transferability of courses and expectations
- New reports: Micro-Credentials and Who Decides Transfer
- BCCAT looking at having Moodle switched over to BCNet – should be seamless transfer.
- Expanding BC Transfer Guide to include institutions from outside of province/country.
- Articulation maintenance – 35% of all agreements are stale (>10 years old) – working on plan for how to handle this.
- JAM – will be online next year, dates TBA – within first week of November 2021.

11. Open Discussion on Assessment and Breadth of Coverage

- Importance of being able to write in Biology, and teaching students how to write.
- Alternative assessments include research proposals, independent research projects. Critical thinking in assessments encourage students to learn logical arguments (see Joan Sharp – Dmap). Data analysis and processing for connecting concepts and ideas. Positive experiences with collaborative learning, flipped classrooms, collaborative annotation (Perusall) as well as oral examinations
- Student peer review can help with accountability and grading. Grade only what's important. Highlight topic statements, thesis statements etc.
- BioCore Guide: Key concepts and competencies for Majors Biology (Moodle)
- Acknowledging test anxiety, may be around studying. Teach study and note-taking skills and how to be ok with failure and how to improve.

14. Pending articulation requests – continue working through outdated lists.

15. New business

- a) Mail list coordinator 2021/2022 – Tara Stehelin
- b) Continue term of chair (Andrena Heigh, COTR) and associate chair (Aisling Brady, NIC)
- c) **Next Meeting**
Location: TBA
Date: TBA

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 pm