

## Geography Articulation Committee (BCCAT)

Friday May 14, 2021, 9am – 4pm via Zoom

### DRAFT MINUTES

#### Attendees

Institution	Representative	Email
<b>Camosun College</b>	Trisha Jarrett	jarrett@camosun.ca
<b>Capilano University</b>	Heather Chappells	heatherchappells@capilanou.ca
<b>Coast Mountain College</b>	Gord Weary Ken Shaw	<a href="mailto:gweary@coastmountaincollege.ca">gweary@coastmountaincollege.ca</a> <a href="mailto:kshaw@coastmountaincollege.ca">kshaw@coastmountaincollege.ca</a>
<b>College of the Rockies</b>	Katie Burles	kburles@cotr.bc.ca
<b>Columbia College</b>	Victoria Hodson	vhodson@columbiacollege.ca
<b>Coquitlam College</b>	Mark Cernigoj	mcernigoj@coquitlamcollege.com
<b>Douglas College</b>	Susan Smythe	<a href="mailto:smythes@douglascollege.ca">smythes@douglascollege.ca</a>
<b>Fraser International College</b>	Sharla Stolhandske	stos@learning.fraseric.ca
<b>Kwantlen Polytechnic University</b>	Parthiphan (Parthi) Krishnan	Parthiphan.Krishnan@kpu.ca
<b>Langara College</b>	Katrina Erdos Jenny Francis (just observing : )	<a href="mailto:kerdos@langara.ca">kerdos@langara.ca</a> jfrancis@langara.ca
<b>Okanagan College</b>	Terrence Day	tday@okanagan.bc.ca
<b>Selkirk College</b>	Gary Parkstrom	gparkstrom@selkirk.ca
<b>Simon Fraser University</b>	Lance Lesack	llesack@sfu.ca
<b>Thompson Rivers University</b>	Crystal Huscroft & Tom Waldichuk (shared)	chuscroft@tru.ca, twaldichuk@tru.ca
<b>Trinity Western University</b>	Maxwell Ofosuhene	maxwell.ofosuhene@twu.ca
<b>UBC-Okanagan</b>	Michael Pidwirny	michael.pidwirny@ubc.ca
<b>UBC-Vancouver</b>	Loch Brown	Loch.brown@geog.ubc.ca
<b>University Canada West</b>	Mostafa Javanmehri	mostafa.javanmehri@myucwest.ca

<b>University of the Fraser Valley</b>	Steven Marsh	steven.marsh@ufv.ca
<b>University of Northern BC</b>	Neil Hanlon	neil.hanlon@unbc.ca
<b>University of Victoria</b>	Cam Owens	geogadvising@uvic.ca
<b>Vancouver Island University</b>	Michele Patterson	michele.patterson@viu.ca
<b>Yukon University</b>	Mary Samolczyk	msamolczyk@yukonu.ca
<b>System Liaison Person (UBC Okanagan)</b>	Bernard Momer	bernard.momer@ubc.ca
<b>BCCAT</b>	Anna Tikina (BCCAT)	atikina@bccat.ca
<b>Yorkville University</b>	Shahid Hassan	shassan@yorkvilleu.ca

### **1. Land Acknowledgement**

Loch led a land acknowledgement and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made to new members. A description of the role of articulation committees was also conveyed for the benefit of new members.

### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

Loch walked through the agenda. One item was added to the agenda – a K-12 update from Glen Thielmann. The agenda was then approved by acclamation.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the last articulation meeting were approved by acclamation with no changes.

### **4. Institutional Reports**

Each member present gave a five-minute summary of key highlights from their institution. Full reports can be found on the Geography Articulation google group page. Michele made a few notations below about how physical geography/lab courses were being dealt with in various institutions who mentioned it– as this would be an item for discussion later in the day.

Camosun - lab courses required to have F2F labs (issue possible pushed over from S&T courses by Administration)

Capilano - in person

Coast Mtn College – face to face labs, but everything else online due to campus renovations

COTR – full f2f but trialing a first year blended phys geog – online synchronous lab course

Coquitlam College – 100% back in the fall, all courses

Douglas College – face to face in future

Langara – didn't do any labs in person/nor geology. Including a fair number of asynchronous online. Fall upcoming – majority of classes back on campus. More than 50%

TRU – kept lab component but cut offerings down for phys geog – so no lab assistants. So instructors made modules that mixed theory and activities – to replace the labs.  
Trinity Western – some creative ways used  
UBC –no concern with face to face vs online labs. Instructors happy either way  
University Canada West -  
UFV – max 30 percent online – and some high flex.  
UNBC – some hybrid labs as they were outdoors, but all virtual environments  
VIU - Learning objectives being met was the key thing. Doing some online and blended going forward. Issues of concern related to learning how to use specific tools (eg: stereoscopes)  
Yukon – required or elective courses for some other program. Lectures and labs back face to face mostly

### **Transfer and Articulation**

#### 1. BCCAT update (Anna Tikina)

Anna provided a spring circular from BCCAT and walked through the BCCAT website for new members to articulation. She referenced the BCCAT Jam from last year and said all the sessions are now available to review. Registration was wide open – not just for representatives and the virtual meeting attendance doubled – to about 350 people. All sessions can be found on the BCCAT Youtube Channel. The next one is in November 2021 and will also be online. BCCAT website also has a Covid update. She discussed that some articulation groups are welcome to start a Moodle site if they would like more of a home for materials.

There is an initiative underway to try to update old articulations (more than 10 years). 35% of articulations have never been reviewed. However, this is a big job for each school so BCCAT is working on some technical solutions first – including tools which enable more regular updating. If you do have any big changes with articulations– please send to the BCCAT contact at your institution so they can be dealt with. BC Transfer guide is also starting to include international institutions equivalencies. They are also starting to include Adult Basic Education courses.

Finally, there is funding available for proposals to do articulation related work. Information on the website.

#### Discussion:

**What does BCCAT have to say about articulating lab courses – including during Covid.** BCCAT's approach is to articulate wherever possible.

**Can we improve search capability (by name of Chair perhaps) in BCCAT so we can see which transfer requests have come through and make sure they have been done?** Anna would take this back for discussion.

#### **Secondary School update (item added to agenda)**

Glen discussed the need to develop more connections between K-12 and university. He provided a great document listing which high school courses are teaching geography and some ideas for connecting with universities. This doc can be found on the BC Geography articulation google group page.

*Lunch break 1220 to 1250*

### **Phys Geog Lab Articulation Issue – Discussion Questions Sent Ahead of Time**

1. Can BC Geography departments decide to move courses between online and F2F offerings (and vice versa) in the future without jeopardizing articulation agreements with us?
2. If so, are there any exceptions to this in our current offerings (physical geography and/or methods courses)?
3. Do we code courses as lecture and lab? If so, how does that influence future articulation of online courses where a 'lab' section is required?

### **Discussion**

-No flexibility at Camosun– if there is a lab it has to be face to face. No standard practice from previous minutes about this. OK to leave institution by institution – and would evaluate by learning outcomes? Or are there some courses like remote sensing that are more difficult to have autonomy

SFU – depends on particular circumstances. Everything has to fit into overarching program level learning objectives – to meet accreditation / transfer to US. Some labs might transfer ok, but others that we might have concerns about. Including if switching back and forth between online and F2F. How could field schools be an online experience anyway?

COTR – back in 2015 a lot of hesitation to offer physical courses online. A lot has changed since then.

UBCO – in terms of transfer to UBC Okanagan, some courses have to have final exams invigilated. If they had an essay – if UBC finds out – then that course won't be allowed to transfer.

SFU – Another complication during pandemic – courses have been pass/Fair or CR. Further issues there.

Kwantlen – from colleagues – comparing learning objectives / field course that doesn't quite translate due to online / people worried agreements will be jeopardized if lab components get more and more online and become diluted / workload issues – microcredentials policy – raises issues about how we classify courses. All lectures will be standardized in terms of class size.

Maximum is 35 per class. However, online classes can increase. Admin pushing for as many online as possible.

Okanagan College – some field courses have been offered online with some success...in the US

UBCO – field courses – instructor creates a safety plan. How to do that when you have 20 students going to 20 different sites ?

SFU – perspective from biology as well. Science is collaborative – how can you do that without a group component. Creating liabilities.

Kwantlen – Mastery – competency are the main things

Coast Mtn College – almost any individual course could be done online? How many is ok?

VIU – My main thought is: what might come my way in terms of an articulation request that I would say no to? We look at textbook, outline of topics, learning objectives.

### **Ideas for next steps on this topic?**

- Send topic to BCCAT Jam in November
- Start a working group or committee on the issue?
- Wait and see how it goes in the fall. Things may change.
- Check out BCCAT guidance on their website (pre pandemic). (They say mode of delivery doesn't matter).
- Find out what earth sciences articulation issues are for lab courses

### **Discussion: University in a time of global disruption (Loch)**

How to teach safely – get fully vaccinated. ?

A lot of things are going to change

We need to just focus on other things right now – too early, fall is far away.

Lots of universities not getting a lot of detailed info

Should we push back on the Administrators and then also on the Ministry?

(This topic seemed to be one people weren't fully engaged on, and so perhaps another time instead).

### **Discussion: Creative Solutions in Remote Teaching and Learning (Katie)**

Groups went to break out rooms for discussion in small groups. No formal notes were taken.

### **Discussion: Microcredentials (Michele)**

Michele provided a document for review – which is the BC Ministry of Advanced Education proposed framework on microcredentials. They are still looking for input and information of how to provide that is in the document. This initiative has been going on for some time, maybe under other names like professional development and training. There are lots of resources out there about microcredentials – including at BC Campus.

### **Discussion**

KPU is working on a draft Micro-Credentials Policy and Procedure. They have provided info below on issues (the plan to use Badges). These were also reflected by others in the discussion.

1. Quality assurance mechanisms and dispute mechanisms, especially in an accelerated environment
2. Timely and adequate consultation with academic units – issue of transparency of the process, especially due to tight timelines for review and approvals of submissions.
3. Difference between completion-based and competency-based credentials.
4. The creation of a subcommittee to review submissions – Its mandate, composition, roles, responsibilities and authorities (powers).
5. Workload issues (which at KPU is a bargaining issue) for the subcommittee to serve as a gate-keeper between academic and non-academic (trades) offerings and the volume of work that would be required by the completion of annual reviews.
6. Crediting of these offerings, whether they can be stackable, how they might relate to current credentials, the requirement for registration in programs, and where these would be housed, who would manage, and who would have access to the database of these offerings.

Other people in the meeting mentioned things like:

-Issues that arise include how to award credentials for things like badges, transparency, tight timelines for approval and review.

-Transparency

-Tight timelines for approval and review

-Completion (Academic Integrity) or competency based (GIS) credentials

-Academic integrity

-Who are the gate keepers and what are their powers

- Crediting for this offering? 1 or 1.5 credits?
- How stackable are they?
- Can I substitute all my collected-up credits – and turn them into a degree.
- Registration – keeping track of this. Records, how to manage. Access to data base.

-UBC has a long history of different kinds of credentials. For eg: Sauder does all kinds of specializations but doesn't go through Senate.

-Seems administratively a big burden.

-How would they show up on a diploma/degree?

-TRU - Our Moodle support team uses badges for faculty and staff participation in Moodle-related pd sessions. After so many badges you get a certificate...faculty put it in their annual reports (the badges seem to motivate people to join these pd activities).

### **Presentation: Virtual and Augmented Reality (Loch)**

Postponed

### **Committee Business**

-The group agreed that formalizing the notetaker role into our usual rotation would work. People are first Host, then Chair, then Notetaker.

-Should we explore a Moodle space for online sharing? This idea was tabled for now

-There was interest in a standardized report template for institutional reports going forward. Loch offered to create one.

### **Next year's meeting - discussion**

-Who will be host? Will we be F2F or virtual? What kind of theme might we propose discussion around? COTR would Host this one. Who would Chair?

-COTR had proposed a joint meeting with Earth Science last year. If we can do that, should we hold the meeting in Cranbrook? Does everyone have funds to travel? If no, then the plan B would be that COTR would just host Geography

-Could be a hybrid meeting? Some f2f and online

-Could we attach the meeting to CAG or to WDCAG? CAG is in the summer, but WDCAG is during the semester.

-TRU hosted in 2001. But should be the next host. Can mention it to people in the department.

**Next Steps:**

1. Katie talks to Earth Science at their meeting this week about a potential joint meeting next year, and then potentially hosting in Cranbrook
2. Katie would Chair and TRU would host. Kwantlen would be the Plan B Chair.

**LIST OF PAST HOSTS**

2005 - Coquitlam College - Coquitlam

2006 - University of British Columbia Okanagan - Kelowna

2007 - Malaspina University-College -Nanaimo

2008 - College of the Rockies - Cranbrook

2009 - Kwantlen Polytechnic University - Surrey

2010 - Selkirk College - Castlegar

2011 - Camosun College - Victoria

2012 - Northern Lights College - Fort St John

2013 - Langara College - Vancouver

2014 - Northwest Community College - Terrace

2015 - University of the Fraser Valley - Abbotsford

2016 - Douglas College - New Westminster

2017 - College of New Caledonia - Prince George

2018 - University of Victoria - Victoria

2019 - VIU

2020 - College of the Rockies or UBC Okanagan (joint wth Earth Sciences)

**Meeting ended at 3:22 pm.**

-It was recommended that if we do a virtual meeting again, we do two half days rather than one full day to avoid Zoom exhaustion.

-Thanks to Loch and Katie and Michelle!

-See Chat recording for any other information from the meeting.