

Biology Articulation Committee

Meeting Minutes

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL on ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFERS (BCCAT)

Meeting Date(s): **2, 3 May, 2022**

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

Present:

Committee Member Name	Institution Name	Email/contact
Mitra Panahi	Alexander College (ALEX)	m.panahi@alexandercollege.ca
Kate Pettem	Camosun College (CAMO)	pettemk@camosun.bc.ca
Eugene Chu	Capilano University (CAPU)	eugenechu@capilanou.ca
Jessica Card	College of New Caledonia (CNC)	cardj@cnc.bc.ca
Andrena Heigh	College of the Rockies (COTR)	aheigh@cotr.bc.ca
Vinicius Azevedo	Columbia College (COLU)	vazevedo@columbiacollege.ca
Shelley Weisser	Douglas College (DOUG)	weissers@douglascollege.ca
Monica DeBoer	Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU)	monica.deboer@kpu.ca
Melissa Hamilton	Langara College (LANG)	mhamilton@langara.ca
Aisling Brady	North Island College (NIC)	aisling.brady@nic.bc.ca
Kathryn Bockhold	Okanagan College (OKAN)	kbockhold@okanagan.bc.ca
Andrea Kooznetsoff	Selkirk College	akooznetsoff@selkirk.ca
Stephen Seaborn		sseaborn@selkirk.ca
Emelia Kirkwood	Simon Fraser University (SFU)	ekirkwoo@sfu.ca
Natasha Ramroop Singh	Thompson Rivers University (TRU)	nramroopsingh@tru.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 University (YUKO)	tstehelin@yukonu.ca
Carol Pollock	Emerita	pollock@zoology.ubc.ca
Guest Name	Institution	Email/contact
Fiona Macquarrie	BCCAT	fmcquarrie@bccat.ca

Regrets: Raymond Wang – Coquitlam College (RWang@coquitlamcollege.com)

Kirk Hart – Coast Mountain College (khart@coastmountaincollege.ca)

Cindy Broberg – Northern Lights College (cbrogberg@nlc.bc.ca)

Marina Turlakis – Quest University (marina.turlakis@questu.ca)

Dennis Venema – Trinity Western University (Dennis.Venema@twu.ca)

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 09:00, the morning of May 2nd 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: Andrena Heigh (COTR); **Seconded:** Maria Morlin (VCC); **Carried:** Unanimously
3. **Approval of minutes** of the Biology Articulation Committee meeting of 10,11 May 2021 online
Motion: to accept minutes as presented
Moved: Andrena Heigh (COTR) **Seconded:** Jessica Card (CNC) **Carried:** Unanimously
4. **Notes/updates**
 - Reminder to update contact lists – Google Sheet
 - No BC Bio Meeting this year – volunteers to form a committee for next year: Tara Stehelin (YUKO), Sunita Chowrira (UBC-V), Jessica Card (CNC), Mitra Panahi (ALEX).
5. **Presentation of Institutional Reports**
 - Tara Stehelin – Yukon University – returning to F2F slowly, botany course returning
 - Caroline Josefsson – Vancouver Island University – 3 upcoming retirements, replacing with 1.5 positions, investigating splitting first year biology lectures and labs
 - Maria Morlin – Vancouver Community College – only 1 biologist, considering hybrid and online offerings of courses
 - Greg Beaulieu – University of Victoria – lots of student support needed for success, no requirement for medical notes going forward, difficulty finding enough TAs; UVic is hosting the ABLÉ conference at the end of June (about biology labs): <https://10times.com/e136-zsps-5hd1>
 - Gregory Schmaltz – University of the Fraser Valley – looking at hiring normally rather than lab instructor positions, reagent costs are high so investigating adding lab fees
 - Dezene Huber – University of Northern BC – shuffling of colleges within university, program review in biochemistry, upcoming retirements and changes in faculty members
 - Sunita Chowrira – University of BC Vancouver – unsure of delivery methods for upcoming year, new microbiology course, presentation on new first year biology course that is driven by current research (BIOL 180 replaces BIOL 140), open to all science students
 - Matt Nelson – University of BC Okanagan – decline in grades and preparedness, some new hires following 2 retirements, searching for new department head, 4 new upper level courses
 - Mitra Panahi – University of Canada West – increase in student numbers, changes in staffing at higher administration level, focus on using open education resources with funding available
 - Natasha Ramroop Singh – Thompson Rivers University – steady enrolments but low attendance rates, promoting zero textbook cost, reducing number of credits for a minor (18 → 12)
 - Emelia Kirkwood – Simon Fraser University – new delivery method blended with online and in person looking for implementation in biology, new molecular and cellular bio 2nd year lab, new infection and immunity concentration with the major
 - Andrea Kooznetsoff – Selkirk College – more accommodations relating to mental health, no sub-list for covering sick colleagues, Principles of Ecology course starting up again
 - Kathryn Bockhold – Okanagan College – MOU completed with Brock University for viticulture and oenology program (2 years at OC, then Brock), some hyflex and online course delivery
 - Aisling Brady – North Island College – multiple delivery methods, shortened semester difficult for science, no support for invigilated exams with online sections, new funding for residence
 - Melissa Hamilton – Langara College – focusing on study and life skills, many students on waitlists, low uptake for new Bioinformatics program (Covid?), 10 faculty research grants
 - Monica DeBoer – Kwantlen Polytechnic University – faculty have flexibility in course delivery method, undergoing program review, have biology and health science degrees in biology
 - Shelley Weisser – Douglas College – biology enrolments are lower, lab supervisor very effective at managing flexible schedules when needed, a couple retirements

- Vinicius Azevedo – Columbia College – enrolment increased slightly, goal to be fully F2F
- Andrena Heigh – College of the Rockies – loss of enrolments, faculty mentorship has helped retain 2nd year students, new residence complex has increased student life activity on campus
- Jessica Card – College of New Caledonia – lower enrolments with many attributed to impacts of Covid, program streams to encourage student retention
- Eugene Chu – Capilano University – recently launched BSc general with 3 concentrations: biomedical sciences, environmental sciences, computational sciences
- Kate Pettem – Camosun College – steady enrolments overall, 2nd year genetics was canceled due to low enrolment, 3 retirements and head senior lab technologist will retire
- Mitra Panahi – Alexander College - interested in following student grades and success, looking at diversifying applicants to college, main campus is now in Burnaby

Other themes discussed throughout institutional reports:

- **Student preparedness** – students noticeably not doing well academically, struggling with mental health issues, and needing help in basic school skills like note taking, test writing, study skills
 - **Fatigue** – faculty are overall very burnt out and not wanting to take on extra tasks
 - **Lab fees** – noticeable increase in lab reagent and supply costs; struggling with not being able to rise lab fee prices. Would like to see provincial change on this.
 - **Decoupling of lectures + labs and credits** – majority of institutions are not decoupling labs from lectures, UNBC model is that if students fail a lab, they can just retake the lab, also allows for some students who are just needing a science theory class to take it, if decoupling need to consider number of credits for lecture and lab (e.g. lecture 3 credit, lab 1 credit)
 - **Grades for passing lectures and labs** – some institutions have a minimum grade requirement to avoid repeating the lab if need to retake the course
 - **Substitute lists** – very few institutions have substitute lists for instructors, but the need is growing, especially with changes in policies regarding sick time and isolation
 - **Lab instructors** – lots of variation in who teaches labs: lab coordinators hired on staff side, separate staff in a different union (non-faculty union), profs (PhD) and faculty (PhD & MSc) teaching labs, some institutions want to see lower qualified individuals teaching labs at lower pay scales – unlikely to happen with strong faculty unions
 - **Summer exams and schedules** – many institutions release exam schedule mid-semester, even during summer, students are expected to be available for whole exam time
6. **SLP Report** – Barbara Moon, full report available on Moodle. Highlights: course transfer should be based on comparable learning outcomes rather than modes of assessment, encouraged to use open education resources, contract cheating and the complexities associated with it, micro-credentials
7. **JAM Report** – Available on Moodle
8. **Discussion: Open vs. Closed-Book Assessment and Articulation**
- no real difference in achieving learning outcomes with closed-book vs. open-book assessment
 - well-built open-book assessments are often more difficult due to application of concepts
 - when examining open-book assessment, valuable to consider difference of open-book during an online exam vs. during an in-person exam and what students have available to them, as well as opportunities for academic misconduct (e.g. collusion, contract cheating etc.), also what does the timing look like for an open-book assessment (rigid time vs. take-home overnight etc.)
 - some considerations with assessment include how much is individual vs. group, what is the purpose of the assessment, does the assessment match the learning outcomes for the course
 - there is so much variation in assessment styles even within one department, that it does not make sense to consider assessment style from an articulation perspective
 - some institutions may want to see overall breakdown of course assessment (e.g. exams, labs, assignments) when assessing articulation requests for full picture of course
 - receiving institutions typically do not have specific requirements for transferability, there is trust that instructors are using rigorous assessment that captures students' learning over the semester

9. Discussion: Micro-credentials

- many institutions are doing these in more technical aspects or continuing studies, not very many are doing anything in biology
- workload issue for some – if receive external funding for it, that helps
- trying to tease out skills for ‘badges’ from a course is difficult because a course has a more sequential process associated with it

10. BCCAT Report – Fiona McQuarrie (see report on Moodle)

- JAM in November was successful, all sessions on YouTube, <400 registrants
- upcoming JAM Nov 3 and 4, 2022, hybrid (one day online, one day in person)
- micro-credential publication
- reverse transfer publication – students transfer a credit back to a sending institution to receive degree, despite having already transferred to a receiving institution
- cost for attending articulation meetings is to be covered by your institution and is base funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education
- looking at definition of course eligibility to be included in the transfer guide

11. Discussion: Indigenization of Curriculum in Biology

- many institutions are continuing their journey of indigenizing the curriculum and understanding decolonization
- integrating Indigenous knowledge in some biology areas is easier than others (e.g. botany, pharmacology, ecology) as it ties in easily with the land
- the journey of indigenization has been helpful with exploring pedagogy, how to teach in the classroom, how students see themselves in the material and make personal connections, allow for students to feel a sense of belonging
- students should be encouraged to critically think about social justice issues
- some institutions have many supports available to help faculty understand Indigenous culture, ways of knowing, and how to approach education under this lens

12. New Curriculum BC with Curriculum Coordinator Ana Ver Waddington – report on Moodle

- there is an elevated role of literacy and numeracy across all curriculum and not subject-specific
- assessment is shifting towards mega-cognitive thinking and process
- reporting is moving away from grades and using proficiency scale, but will still see use of letter/percent scales in higher grades (e.g. grade 10, 11, 12)
- please share report with colleagues, and observe changes due to changes in curriculum
- discussion afterwards: knowledge is still the basis for thinking critically, important to distinguish the scientific method and Indigenous knowledge, importance of teacher training

13. Pending articulation requests – outstanding requests have been mailed out, please review.**14. Business from previous meetings**

- Field course project – field school repository is being created for BC allowing students to take field schools at participating institutions, still working on the more practical steps for creating field school coordination aspects and credit acquisition by students, committee to meet again

15. New Business – Moodle is now hosted by BCCAT, please login to review materials**16. Mail List coordinator 2022/2023 – Andrena Heigh****17. Election of Chair and Associate Chair: Chair: Aisling Brady (NIC), appointed Maria Morlin (VCC) as Associate Chair****18. Next Meeting**

Location: UBC Okanagan In Person (to be confirmed closer to date)

Date: TBA – first or second week of May

Meeting Adjourned at 2:15 pm, Seconded: Tara Stehelin

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