

MINUTES

BCCAT's English Articulation Committee meeting, May 6, 2022

The BCCAT English Articulation Committee met **online synchronously** via Zoom on Friday, May 6, 2022, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Attendees are listed on the attachment.

PRESENT: *See Appendix: Attendees*

ABSENT: *UBC-O, Capilano University, Athabasca University, Okanagan College, North Island College, Coast Mountain College*

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order.** The EAC Chair, Linda Harwood (Selkirk College), welcomed everyone to the committee's first ever online *synchronous* meeting.
2. **Approval of Agenda and Any Additional Items.** Approved unanimously.
3. **Approval of Previous Minutes of the online, asynchronous annual meeting of May 2021.** Approved unanimously.
4. **Introductions and institutional report summaries (Round Robin).** Written reports were posted on the Moodle site and summarized verbally in the meeting.
5. **BUSINESS ARISING from previous minutes (Discussion items):**
 - a. **The committee shared their reflections upon online teaching and learning since the Great Pivot of March 2020:**
 - i. **Best practices for teaching online English classes.** The committee suggested using interactive Google Docs or shared OneDrive files for collective class notes, and recommended the use of the *BigBlueButton* plug-in inside Moodle. They also discussed using the whiteboard function on Zoom, breakout rooms, chat forums, and Wacom and stylus for Zoom whiteboard. For assessing low-stakes writing, the committee recommended using labour-based grading or contract grading, and suggested using discussion forums with a simple rubric. Lastly, they discussed the use of Microsoft app for whiteboard and the latest Zotero update for annotation, along with privacy concerns regarding Google Docs.
 - ii. **Deadlines.** Lenient and scaffolded assignments (helps with academic integrity, too) characterized the past approach to deadlines during the Covid-19 pandemic. Some noted the added struggle to balance accommodation and accountability along with their usual workload but also the benefit in reducing student anxiety. It was suggested that

clear policies be set for dealing with students' extended deadline requests during extraordinary times.

- iii. **Exam format, invigilation, and time limits.** Members raised concerns over student stressors during in-person exams and some colleges have already reverted to in-person exams for online courses due to cheating concerns. Take-home exams are being considered for first-year literature courses, but academic integrity remains a concern. Proctoring for online exams continues to be a challenge and some institutions use Zoom invigilation. One member favored viva exams for accuracy and compassion, while another suggested low stakes, in-person midterms to address integrity issues earlier.
 - iv. **Blended Learning.** The committee briefly discussed portfolios as an effective final assessment for developing meta-cognition and program/course assessment and that they are suitable for all learning modes.
 - v. **Transfer Impact of online synchronous delivery of previously face-to-face courses.** When assessing files, the UBC-V representative noted that they focus on learning outcomes, the quality of the reading list, and the effectiveness of assessments to enable an instructor to evaluate the course's stated learning outcomes. The presence of exams and in-class writing are not as important in determining transfer. In other words, there was no impact on transfer of courses between institutions because of mode of delivery.
 - vi. **Plans for any continued online and hybrid course offerings.** Now that synchronous and hybrid delivery modes have been tried and found to be pedagogically effective, the desire to keep them as course offering option was expressed by several representatives. VCC plans to continue synchronous online classes with an in-person option, and although COTR will return to mostly face-to-face course, they hoped to continue to offer some online courses as well. FDU will continue to offer both hybrid and fully online courses but with a heightened focus on accessibility. YU plans to balance in-person and online courses, particularly for 100/101 levels. CC and SC advocate for flexible options to meet student demand for synchronous and hybrid delivery of courses, while DC will continue to offer hybrid and online options but is uncertain about the approved ratio between delivery modes. TWU will offer synchronous and asynchronous options, with some experimentation. UVic will establish definitions for delivery modes and a process for proposing alternative course delivery.
- b. **Trends in Composition Studies and WRDS 150 and equivalent courses.** One of the discussed trends was the emphasis on scaffolding in writing courses, particularly in first-year ENGL university writing and research courses. The restructuring of the course towards genre-based teaching of academic writing was also mentioned, where scholarly research papers structured around a topic can be the only texts used in the course. Other trends discussed included decolonization, labour-based/contract grading, course redesign to meet institutional and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's decolonization

- requirements, anti-racist pedagogy, as well as exploring new ways of imagining writing instruction, particularly in terms of scaffolding a term project and best assessment practices.
6. **BCCAT Report (Rob Fleming, Executive Director & Co-Chair).** Report is attached on our Moodle page and can also be found here: [BCCAT Report May 2022](#)
 7. **Presentation.** Dr. Erin Kelly from UVic provided several useful documents regarding the new BC K-12 curriculum, guidelines for first-year courses from various professional organizations, contexts for teaching and learning, as well as DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) issues. These can be found on our Moodle site. Dr. Kelly overviewed the workshop's context.
 - a. **Workshop to discuss guiding questions about the First-Year Aims document.** In break-out groups, committee members responded to some guiding questions about the current Aims document in relation to NCTE and CCCC principles and the need to update the document based on the latest BC K-12 curriculum.
 - b. **Follow-up collaboration session to revise the First-Year Aims document.** Each group shared their responses to the guiding questions and additional questions, issues, and concerns they discovered through discussion. **ACTION:** Dr. Kelley would follow up with reporting the results.
 8. **Election/Re-Election of Chair and/or SLP (if required).** Steve Roe agreed to stay on as the committee's SLP (Systems Liaison Person), and Linda Harwood agreed to stay on as the committee's Chair.
 9. **Adjournment.** 3:30 pm

Next meeting: *Friday, May 5, 2023. Our tradition, since 2009, has been to meet on the first Friday of each May.*

APPENDIX: Attendees

| INSTITUTION | REPRESENTATIVE | PRESENT/ABSENT |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Selkirk College | Linda Harwood, Chair | Present |
| BCIT | Marian Gracias | Present |
| FDU | James Gifford | Present |
| KPU | Heather Cyr | Present |
| SFU | David K. Coley, Undergraduate / Associate Chair | Present (may need to leave a bit early, with apologies) |
| UBC-V | Rick Gooding | Present |
| UCW | Noosha Mehdian | Present for morning |
| UFV | John Pitcher | Present |
| UNBC | Kevin Hutchngs | Present |
| UVic | Erin Ellerbeck, Undergraduate Literature Advisor Erin E. Kelly, Academic and Technical Writing Program Sara Humphreys | present Present Present |
| Trinity Western University | Lydia Forssander-Song | Present |
| VIU | Toni Smith | Present (may need to duck in an out, with apologies) |
| Yorkville University | Lok Pokhrel | Present (sorry that I'll need to leave at 2:30 pm) |
| Yukon University | Drew Lyness, English faculty member | Present |
| Alexander College | Steve Roe, Derek Soles | Present |
| Acsenda School of Management | Ray Rahimi | Present |
| Camosun College | Kristine Kerins | Present |
| College of New Caledonia | Graham Pearce | Present |
| Columbia College | Zeef Cabrita | Present |
| Coquitlam College | Bruce Lord | Present |
| Corpus Christi College | Judith Scholes, English faculty | Present (will need to leave at 2:50, with apologies) |
| COTR | Caley Ehnes | Present |
| Douglas College | David Wright | Present |
| Langara College | Kina Cavicchioli | Present |
| LaSalle College Vancouver | Zafar Syed | Present post-lunch |
| Northern Lights College | Emily Leach | Present |
| VCC | Larry Perras, Jolene Loveday | Present |
| BCCAT | Rob Fleming (joining at 1 pm) | Present |