

AGENDA
Forestry & Sustainable Resources Management Articulation
May 31 – June 1, 2022

Host: NVIT, Merritt

Date/Time	Item	Who
May 30 7 pm	Meet and greet. An informal get together will take place at a local watering hole (Game-On Pub).	Host committee
May 31		
8:00	Gathering at NVIT boardroom	
8:30	Welcome & Introductions Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting	Andrea Erwin / Tom Willms
9:00	School Reports (8 reports @ 10min each)	
10:30	Coffee	
11:00	BCCAT Report	Anna Tikina
11:30	ABCFP Report	Casey Macaulay / Chi Cejalvo
12:00	Catered Lunch – NVIT Culinary Department	
1:00	First Nations Forestry Council – workforce initiatives and programs	Karen Sorensen and Casey Macaulay
2:00	School Reports (4 reports)	
2:45	Coffee	
3:00	College of Applied Biology (CAB) update	Shona Lawson
3:30	TAC Accreditation and Micro-credentials – open discussions	Andrea Erwin / Tom Willms
4:00	Adjournment for the day	
5:30	Dinner at The Grand Pub (totally acceptable if you want to wear your cowboy hat).	
June 1		
8:00 – 1:00	Field Trip – Beaver Dam Analogues to improve watershed health.	Host committee

ONLINE TEAMS LINKS: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MTE3YWM0MzUtZTc3MS00NTg0LTljZjltMzVjNmI0ZjQyOGRk%40thread.v2/0?content=%7b%22id%22%3a%22a523be08-4b10-4cd2-b05d-bc7ffe5213a4%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22ce165944-5e6c-4130-9edb-76d762e3a2ed%22%7d

Meeting Called to Order: 8:30 Introduction from John Chenoweth – NVIT AVP

Introductions

Attendees: Andrea Erwin (CNC, Chair), Tom Willms (NVIT, host), Roy Rea (UNBC), Casey McCaulay (ABCFP), Chi Cejalvo (ABCFP), Coleen MacLean (NIC), Matthew Neuwirth (NIC), John Karakatsoulis (TRU), Stacy Cuzzocrea (VIU), Caroline Depatie (BCIT)

Online Attendees: Dr. Dominik Roeser (UBC), Anna Tikina (BCCAT), Marc Mayhew (NAIT), Steve Finn (BCIT), Ed Czerwinski (UNB)

Approval of meeting minutes. Motion to accept (Roy Rea). Seconded (Tom Willms).

8:50 – School Reports (reports can be found on the BCCAT Moodle site)

Roy Rea – School Report from UNBC

- John K. question on chemistry course requirements.
- Numerous faculty retiring with some new hiring. Great new talent with lots of publications.
- Community outreaching ramping back up following COVID.

John K. – School report from TRU

- Recently went through program review.
- Gave history of how program originated. Strong focus on what was needed in industry.
- Accreditations – BCIA; Some changes to program required for CAB – upper level evolution courses.
- Two new faculty – Dr. Mike Flannigan and Dr. Jillian Harvey.
- Looking to hire new Indigenous scholar into a full time faculty position.
- John spoke to the difficulties TRU has faced recently with improper conduct of top administrators.

Steve Finn – School report from BCIT

- Steve spoke to question on micro-credentials. Non-credit micro-credential or non-transferable credits. Strong enrolment. Mostly a PD-type of opportunity.
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Colleen MacLean – NIC school report

- John K. confirmed courses are credit-based.

Tom Willms – NVIT school report

M. Flannagan – Selkirk school report

- John noted that the majority of transfer students to TRU come from Selkirk.
- Tom noted that Selkirk and NVIT have teamed up on grasslands field trips in the past and it would be great to continue that.

Stacy – VIU school report

- John K comment on Michel Vallee's passing and all of the work he did at VIU.
- Andres comment on preparing students for transfer to Universities – numerous students move on to Uni.
- Andres commented on TAC – biggest learning was becoming more acquainted with their own institution, being connected with registration.
- Casey commented on students that embrace the standards/competencies in accreditation really appreciate it. Many just see as hurdles.

Dominik Roeser – UBC school report

- Strong undergraduate program enrolment but dropping in FRM and forestry-related programs. Increasing numbers and interest in conservation and urban forestry. Lots of concern about old-growth negatively affecting forestry enrolment.
- Lots of demand from industry to get more students through the program. Many students having to come back to school to take required courses for registration with ABCFP.
- Still working on Indigenous Forest Land Stewardship program in Okanagan.
- Lots of interest in micro-credentials (“micro-certificates”) – mostly at the master's level.
- New Dean – Rob Kozak
- Hired two Indigenous scholars.
- Forest Operations program students can take an extra year and become RPF and P.Eng.
- Noted overall increase in mental health problems in students (and faculty).

Anna Tikina (BCCAT) Report

<https://www.bccat.ca/Media/NEWBCCAT/pubs/Resources/ACUpdate202204.pdf>

- Update from BCCAT. Noted upcoming Joint Annual Meeting – will be hybrid online/in-person.
- BC Transfer Guide update and technology update.
- Many new publications available (e.g micro-credentials, impacts of COVID-19 on students, etc.)
- Question on what happens to transfers received/approved by receiving institutions – they are entered into the BCCAT system, sometimes with an expiry for reassessment.
- Question regarding numbering system of courses in BCCAT – Anna noted that it's only a minor change, not a content change.
- <https://www.bccat.ca/spotlight/2022TransferAwards>
- <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022AEST0010-000461>
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ABCFP Report – Casey Macauley

- Overview of registrant stats – number of RPFs, RFTs, and diversity within the profession.
- Major uptick in registration starting in 2018 with increases in lumber prices, slowing (somewhat) with decreases in AAC.
- 50/50 split between FIT and ASFIT applicants for RPF. 76% of applicants for RFT are from accredited programs.
- Question from Colleen: Do students from non-accredited programs have to be assessed individually? Casey noted that the assessors end up knowing the programs well but each applicant is different. ASFITs are assessed as a national program. ABCFP wants to get to a user-pay system for reviews.

- Gave summary of number of trainees by institute and program.
- Broad overview of National Technology Standard – contemplating how these are grouped – currently being reviewed/refined nationally.
- New standards will be sent to TAC and CFAB for implementation in accreditation reviews.
- Question to group: do we want to pull accreditation from TAC and pushed to CFAB?
- Indigenous Pathways in Natural Resources – trying to increase accessibility, particularly in more remote locations.
- Spoke to the Professional Governance Act – 22 months into its adoption and through first round on audits. Lots of work to determine which practices fall under which professional designations.
- ABCFP is partnering with UBC to create a bank of question for ASFIT registrants. Individual exams would be generated for applicants that appeal their evaluation re. knowledge/competency gaps.
- Looking to create online course that can be taken by applicants that need to fill education gaps – can be take asynchronously for applicants that are working.
- Next year is the 75th anniversary of the ABCFP – conference will be in PG.

Lunch Break – 12:10

First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC) – Karen Sorensen – workforce initiatives and programs

- DRIPA-based actions
- Spoke to “Theme 3” Ending Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination
- Placing students or entering students in groups so they have support. FNFC provides care for students – following up with schools to ensure students are supported.
- Theme 4 – Social, cultural and economic well-being.
- Workforce Strategy developed out of the FNFC Forest Strategy.
- Call to action of filling 2000 forestry jobs by First Nations people by 2031
- Forestry Connect initiative implements the Workforce Strategy.
 - o Connecting job seekers with employment opportunities.
- Indigenous Forestry Scholarship Program – includes education costs and provides paid summer internships in the forest sector.
- There is a waiting list for the scholarship program. More demands than FNFC has funding for.
- Indigenous mentoring has to be two-way learning.
- Questions about how people can join focus groups – come to the conference or reach out to Karen to be added to emailing list.
- Location for career fair to be determined.
- Questions related to Indigenous self-declaration. Who does the funding apply to.
- NVIT offers early-entrance scholarship to Indigenous high-school grads across BC (free tuition for one year). Could this scholarship be adopted by other institutions as well.
- A lot of government funding is attached to Indigenous initiatives resulting in disconnection between education, industry, etc. FNFC is trying to bring these things together. Making connections.
- Casey noted that we need to get all parties in the same room and talking, making connections and bringing things together.
- Need make more certifications for education already completed or training received on site.
- Mentorship framework is still being worked on and can being distributed when ready.

- According to labour market data a lot of jobs are in machine operations and that's where there are challenges in finding opportunities (small companies can't afford a full sponsorship or lost machine time).

Andrea Erwin – CNC School Report

- Accreditation with TAC complete, plus two annual update reports.
- Research Forest Society – looking for the board to fund a seat from the FNFC for a student.
 - o Awesome for support for the program. Brings funding of about \$30K
 - o Summer student employment opportunities.
 - o Used for the majority student capstone projects. Faculty get six hours per week release time for the research forest.
- Study abroad program has been on hold due to COVID. Should be getting started again soon.
- Looking to fill an Instructor position in Fire course.
- Lots of creation of online content from hybrid learning.
- John K. asked where the classroom cap comes from (set at 22). Set in Collective Agreement.

Open Discussion

- M. Flanagan asked what other programs are doing for applied research.
- Andrea noted that students at CNC are assigned a project.
- Stacy noted that VIU students can pick their own research project.
- Tom discussed some concerns with doing “research” at the technology level.
- Casey noted that we need to get a better economy of scale with accreditation processes.
- Colleen notes NIC schedules the applied research course over the entire second year.
- Everyone confirmed that there is a presentation component to student research projects.
- NIC has students complete group research projects.

Shona Lawson – College of Applied Biologists Report

- Name change to College of Applied “Biologists” (from “Biology”)
- CAB has no national body – Just CAB and ASPB
- CAB has developed multiple new streams (RPBio, RBTech, ABT, Applied Biologist – limited license).
- Lots of educational diversity, especially in less-rigorous categories. Example of applicants with graduate degrees preferring technician category vs. professional category due to responsibilities.
- Described College’s Accreditation process.
- Described application and review process.
- Discussion around Biologist’s right to practice coming down the pike (September 2022). Lots of applications coming in as people scramble to become designated.
- Casey described laddering effect from one level of education to the next.
- Comments on building confidence in smaller certificate types of programs.
- NIC articulated their weekly modules – building on knowledge each week with applied workplace learning.

- Lots of capacity building needs in communities. Pressure to have quick certifications to get people working.

Next Year's Meeting – Decided on NIC for June 2023

Meeting Adjourned.