

Joint Earth Science/Geography BC Articulation Meeting 2022

Geography Articulation Meeting

Monday May 30th, 2022 1pm-3pm via Zoom

Draft minutes

Chair: Shannon Fargey

Note Taker: Wendy Hales

Attendees:

Institution	Representative	Email
Alexander College	Samantha May Craig Meadows	s.may@alexandercollege.ca c.meadows@alexandercollege.ca
Camosun College	Trisha Jarrett	jarrett@camosun.ca
Capilano University	Heather Chappells	heatherchappells@capilanou.ca
Coast Mountain College	Gord Weary	gweary@coastmountaincollege.ca
College of the Rockies	Katie Burles	kburles@cotr.bc.ca
Columbia College	Brendan Hunt	bhunt@columbiacollege.ca
Corpus Christian College	David Brownstein	dbrownstein@corpuschristi.ca
Douglas College	Wendy Hales	halesw@douglascollege.ca
Fraser International College	Sharla Stolhandske	stos@learning.fraseric.ca
Kwantlen Polytechnic University	Parthiphan (Parthi) Krishnan	Parthiphan.Krishnan@kpu.ca
Langara College	Katrina Erdos	kerdos@langara.ca
Okanagan College	Terrence Day	tday@okanagan.bc.ca
Secondary School Representative	Glen Thielmann	gthielmann@sd57.bc.ca
Selkirk College	Gary Parkstrom	gparkstrom@selkirk.ca
Simon Fraser University	Lance Lesack	llesack@sfu.ca
Thompson Rivers University	Crystal Huscroft	chuscroft@tru.ca,
UBC-Okanagan	Michael Pidwirny	michael.pidwirny@ubc.ca
University of the Fraser Valley	J Hughes	Jonathan.Hughes@ufv.ca

University of Victoria	Shannon Fargey Cam Owens Duncan Johnnassen Gillian Krezoski	fargey@uvic.ca geogadvising@uvic.ca duncanj@uvic.ca gkrezoski@uvic.ca
Vancouver Island University	Michele Patterson	michele.patterson@viu.ca
Yukon University	Mary Samolczyk	msamolczyk@yukonu.ca
System Liaison Person (UBC Okanagan)	Bernard Momer	bernard.momer@ubc.ca
Yorkville University	Sunny Mangant	smangant@yorkvilleu.ca

1. **Land Acknowledgement** was made by sharing the complexity of Indigenous lands via native-land.ca. Participants followed suit by acknowledging the nations on whose land they were located via the chat.
2. **Agenda:**
 - Shannon described how the meeting would proceed, and what material would be discussed in greater depth on Tuesday at the joint Earth Science/Geography meeting.
 - Acknowledged the many retirements and the loss of two members during the past year.
3. **Minutes from the 2021** Geography Articulation meeting were approved by Tricia and Crystal. No changes were made.
4. **Institutional Reports:**
Due to time the reports were brief and restricted to highlights only. Full reports were submitted to the Geography Articulation Group and circulated via email.

UVic, Shannon Fargey:

- The department is growing with new hires related to indigenous and climate geographies
- Great support during Covid-19 by staff and sessional instructors
- Enrolment is remaining steady

UBCO, Michael Pidwirny:

- Geography is being absorbed by other disciplines and disappearing as an entity
- Physical Geography within department with Earth, Environmental and Geographic Sciences.
 - With only 3 geographers, worry about complete loss of geography as retirement positions are not being replaced
- Human Geography is within a department called Community, Culture and Global Studies
 - They did get some new hires
 - Loss of geography
 - Focus on social theory
- Not sure if geography should exist anymore as a discipline, or if it is an outdated colonial concept

Columbia College, Brendan Hunt:

- Has 4 geography courses (one physical, 3 human)
- Got approved for an Associate Arts degree with concentration in Environment Studies
- Approved for a second year GIS course to start in Sept. Requires a human geog course as a prerequisite.

Thompson Rivers University, Crystal Huscroft:

- Joining with Anthropology, Sociology, Archeology and Criminology to become the Department of Environment, Society and Culture
- New hire and Retirement.
- Concerned about offering a major with such a small faculty (only 5.5 faculty) especially as faculty are taking on more administration roles.

Corpus Christi College, David Browstein:

- Catholic liberal arts college on UBC campus
- They were unable to maintain human geography courses through the pandemic, maintained physical offerings. Human geography courses are being reintroduced.
- Lower enrollments than in the past
- Fairly moderate geography offering

Selkirk College, Gary Parkstrom:

- Uncertainty around pedagogical challenges, teaching online, hybrid etc.
- Domestic enrollment a bit lower
- Missing international enrollment

Coast Mnt College, Gordon Weary:

- Back to face to face learning, which was good for students
- Don't have a building at present because of delays in construction of their building
- Developing a 1 year certificate program based on an outdoor experience and place based learning

Capilano U, Heather Chappells:

- Enrollment has been sustained through pandemic
- 80% in person, 20% online in fall
- Still a demand for online, however Capilano's policy is to be in person
- 75% international students which raises issues
- A new program, Bachelor of Environment and Society, is going through stage 2 proposal this summer
- New courses are being developed to support the new degree (i.e. GIS course, urban ecology)

University of Fraser Valley, Jay Hughes:

- Geography is now in the School of Land Use and Environmental Change
- Became a program, as opposed to a department
- Have a number of degrees associated with it (eg. BA Geography, BSc Physical Geography, Environmental Studies, GIS certificate, Indigenous certificate)
- Working on indigenization and UN sustainability goals
- Understaffed in terms of faculty.... Two positions posted right now
- A number of retirements coming up, but not sure if they will be replaced

- Enrollment down during Covid, mainly due to loss of international students
- Although course enrollments are strong, numbers are down in declared Geography majors, as students are choosing to major in Environmental Studies.
- Concerned that Geography will loose more in the future, and wondered about how to revitalize Geography and excite high school students about the subject.

College of the Rockies, Katie Burles:

- Recently began Associate of Science in Environmental Sciences
- Along with this got three new 2nd year courses, an advanced GIS, a Qualitative Geography and a Climatology/Hydrology
- Had a first cohort of 16 students go through this program

Langara, Katrina Erdos:

- Low enrollment in in-person and hybrid courses, still high demand for online courses
- Threats of class cancellation and combining classes from the administration
- International enrolment still very robust, while domestic enrolment is low.
- Challenge with the discrepancy between the UBC model of two first year physical geography courses, and the SFU model of one condensed first year course. This causes problems for students transferring between institutions.
- At Langara it is the Department of Geography and Geology, and there is potential to expand 1st and 2nd year geology courses.

Comosun College, Patricia Jared:

- Declining enrolments over many years, and retirements are not being replaced.
- The Env. Tech. program was suspended last year due to budgetary constraints.
- Feeling that they are not recognized within the college, and that there is a lack of administration interest in geography and environmental studies. Although there may be some new interest in climate issues.

Vancouver Island University, Michele Patterson:

- Have just had a new hire in human geography
- Having an Urban and Social Geography stream is a very good idea for making geography applicable
- Their other stream is Sustainable Resource Management
- New Canada Research Chair in Human Dimensions of Sustainability and Resilience has been appointed. As a geographer from Australia, he is located in the Geography Department
- Geog. And Earth Science Departments played a big role in getting VIU to take a role in climate action and sustainability, both inward and outward looking
 - Students involved,
 - Making geography very visible
- In addition they have a proposal for a Certificate in Climate Change Competency to enable students of other specialties to get some environmental knowledge

SFU, Lance Lesack:

- Increasing enrollments in courses, but dropping numbers of declared majors

- Moved into the Faculty of the Environment.
 - Has moved to stream line courses toward recognized accreditation and certification
 - Moving out of resources and toward social justice/urban environments to clearly focus on Human geography
 - Hired 5 people and added 4 new courses (Climate Crisis, Queer Geographies, Geographies of Conquest and Liberation, and Geography of Wine)
- Understands the issues with Geography identity

Kwantlen Polytechnique, Parthi Krishnan:

- Currently going through program review
- Enrollment issues, courses fill up quickly, but lower number of majors
- Online courses are in demand
- Identity of geography is also an issue
- Push for new ways to deliver courses: i.e. micro credentials, certificates

Yukon University, Mary Samolczyk:

- There is no geography program, but geography courses are offered. First year physical geography courses and a second year GIS course are currently offered. Other courses are on the books.
- The drop in international enrollment, was offset by Earth Science requiring Geog. Courses.

Fraser International College, Sharla Stolhandske:

- Is a feeder institution for SFU which relies entirely on international students
- Enrollment really bad, students want to take online courses

Alexandra College, Samantha May:

- Only one geography course, but multiple sections (intro to human)
- 9 sections in the spring (about 300 students)
- Enrollment steady, 99% international

Yorkville University, Sunny:

- One human geog. Course, offered as hybrid
- Enrollment stable although it dipped last term.

Okanagan College, Terence Day

- Lots of administration changes in the college with a new president and a new strategic plan.
- College wide program review, geography in the process of aligning courses with the strategic plan
- Lots of uncertainty

Douglas College: Wendy Hales,

- Decline in enrolments, although the summer semester is full.
- Biggest change in the future is a new building with 2 designated geography classrooms, an large Geography Open Lab space, shared computer/GIS room and access to rooftop garden.
- Douglas feels that geography still has an important role to play bridging the divide between humanities and sciences.

5. Profile of Secondary Student Graduates: Strengths and Challenges: Glen Theilmann (Geography high school representative from Prince George)

Profile of secondary students

- Impact of the pandemic: Mental health, anxieties, anxieties about learning face to face, a lot of them have retreated into themselves, this is reflected in the high desire for online learning, severe anxiety around team work
- Different expectations:
 - Expect attendance is optional, students expect that teachers will help students get caught up
 - Students are pushed through grade 8-9 without achieving basic requirements
 - Lack of social engagement with their peers
- Change in assessment is needed: currently open ended inquiry based, without the directed instruction
- Very hard to do directed instruction when absenteeism is high (30-40% of students missing on any particular day, grades 8-12).
- Much more attempt to build social connections and community with students, But very hard when a large portion of the class is missing

(These are adaptations to the attendance issue but also due to the new BC curriculum.)

Reciprocity and Recruitment

If we expect high school teachers to give us good students we should help them.

- Could post secondary instructors provide review and feedback to highschool teachers?
- Needed by teachers:
 - Learning resources to match with age levels. A lot of teachers are building their own resources. Online media first choice, hard copy next, bottom were digital packages.
 - Short case studies around a theme would be well used.
 - Place based learning – high school teachers have no idea how to do it, could use some help from us
 - Help with field-based experiences.
- New Indigenous course requirement starting year 2023/24.... All students must take an indigenous content course, the indigenous English 12 does not count.
- Summary: students have changed, trauma is closer to the surface, a lot of students are dealing with serious mental health issues.

Question to Glen from Michele Patterson:

What are one or two things that would help us meet first year students where they are?

Answer: Erase content from first day, discuss what university learning will be like, owning their own learning, how to learn in a university context, Open heartfelt discussion (time management, attendance, how to approach instructors, how to catch up, what to do if you miss a class), make community.

Step by step inquiry and assessment will be important - no just giving assignments

6. Enrollment and Recruiting:

- Large majority saw a slight decline in the past year.
- Plan to look at 10 year trends of enrollment
 - Course enrollments
 - Major declarations
 - Trends with domestic students vs international students
- Larger institutions saw an increase in numbers, smaller institutions saw a decline

Recruitment: Ideas for engaging with high schools

- share field trips with high school students,
- share case study information with high school teachers.
- Work with school councilors to show that there are marketable skills to be learnt in Geography

7. Specific questions to the group:

- Which GIS programs are being used:
 - QGIS least, ESRI Products (ArcGIS) Majority, some did a combination
- Would QGIS be enough to get transfer credit? Yes
- Field Courses during pandemic
 - 44% said that virtual field courses still got field credit
 - 11% said virtual field courses got a different credit
- Do institutions have Lab courses worth more credit: 50/50 yes and no
- Work load, and support by Lab techs:
 - The majority responded that the instructors did the work.

8. Motion to allow co-chairs (Shannon Fargey and Gord Weary) to hold their positions for an additional year (2022/2023) to enable continuity and to keep the work

Tricia passes the motion, Crystal seconds it.

9. Update on 2023 Joint Meeting in Cranbrook By Katie Burles

- Any ideas of how we could have a meaningful joint meeting, to have guest speakers, field trips etc. should be forwarded to Katie
- Please complete all polls to aid in the planning