

DRAFT MINUTES

First Peoples ABE (FPABE) Working Group Committee

Annual Articulation Meeting 2023

March 2nd and 3rd, 2023

Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Richmond Campus, Richmond, BC

Chair: Michael (Mike) Calvert (Vancouver Island University)

Vice-Chair: Dennis Contois (Native Education College)

Attendees: Wilma Gus (North Island College), Kate Nott (Selkirk College), Karen Simon (Thompson Rivers University), Melinda Worfolk (College of New Caledonia).
Thursday only: Michael (Mike) Calvert—Chair (Vancouver Island University), Steve Colbourne (Selkirk College), Dennis Contois—Vice-Chair (Native Education College),

Regrets: Kāshā [Julie Morris] (Coast Mountain College), Shelly Umlah (Northern Lights College).

Recorder of Minutes: Melinda Worfolk (CNC)

Thursday, Mar. 2nd, 2023

1. Call to Order, Territorial Acknowledgment, and Introductions

2. Items for Adoption: 2022 Minutes and 2023 Agenda

1. MOTION: The FPABE Working Committee Articulation Group moves to approve the Spring 2022 minutes.

MOVED SECONDED CARRIED (1 abstention—member was absent last year)

2. MOTION: The FPABE Working Committee Articulation Group moves to approve the 2023 Agenda with amendments: adding a meeting with the English ABE Working Group and a Plain Language presentation to Friday's agenda.

MOVED SECONDED CARRIED unanimously

3. Business Items:

- a. Indigenous Courses as stand-alone curriculum within the First Peoples grid (discussion)
 - Issue: Many First Peoples ABE courses are cross-listed with other disciplines. For example, Provincial English First Peoples is cross-listed with English ABE. Therefore, these courses must be articulated by both the First Peoples ABE Working Group and the other discipline's working group.
 - However, some courses do not fit neatly into other disciplines and therefore get held up in limbo while the other discipline says it can't articulate the course and it needs to be changed and brought back the following year.
 - Most recent case: Vancouver Island University's Thuy'shenum: Preparing Oneself for the Future (TPOF 068 and 069) course is a land-based learning course, designed with the needs of learners in mind, developed by elders. Mike Calvert took it to the Education and Career Planning (EDCP) Working Group, but they would not approve it because it doesn't fit into the EDCP box of either Educational or Career Planning.
 - Equity argument: We have several courses (Fine Arts, Language, First Peoples) that live only within the First Peoples ABE grid. We submit that TPOF 068 and 069 should also live just with First Peoples ABE and not have to be approved by another ABE Working Group.
 - ACTION: Mike and Dennis will attend Steering in April 2023 and will bring courses that don't fit with other working groups to be stand-alone courses to live in the First Peoples ABE grid.
 - Question: Should we have a rep from the First Peoples ABE Working Group to each of the other subject areas? (With recognition that there are only so many members of the group and everyone has a lot on their plate.)
- b. K-12 Curriculum—required Indigenous course(s) (discussion)
 - In the K-12 system, there are now required Indigenous courses. ABE Steering wants to know: should ABE follow suit? Should we petition the Ministry of Advanced Ed to have a requirement for an Indigenous course for the Adult Graduation Diploma?
 - Pros: this is an important part of decolonization and answers one of the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
 - Cons: mandatory courses can result in students who push back, which can be traumatic for Indigenous students who are there. If enacted, mandatory Indigenous courses would need a multi-pillar approach.
 - Some considerations to combat the above issue:

- instructors need to receive more professional development and training so they're supported
 - institutions should Indigenize the faculty and staff and hire more Indigenous people
 - there need to be advisory committees from local area
 - there must be support from post-secondary administrations including infrastructure support.
 - In sum: our recommendation needs to come with other recommendations—we need the proper people in place, mentorship of instructors, and support from administration to actualize this. Wrap-around services are a big part of how we operate as Adult Basic Education (ABE).
 - There needs to be a budget to accommodate this request; the Ministry also needs to acknowledge that outside the Lower Mainland things are different and may require more budget.
 - ACTION: Mike will send out a Google Doc where FPABE members will provide Michael with their ideas about how to bring this idea to Steering (by mid-April)
- c. Review of the transfer grid, institution by institution
- i. We ensured that all the courses are correct
 - ii. We flagged the courses that have not been brought to the committee in a long time—they need to be rearticulated or taken off the grid
 - ACTION: Mike will attempt to contact reps from institutions that haven't been to First Peoples ABE articulation lately. He will forward to Steering Committee which institutions have courses that need rearticulation and haven't been attending.

4. Super meeting with Math and English ABE Working Groups

BC Council for Articulation and Transfer (BCCAT): Mike Winseman

- ABE is the biggest articulation group.
- New BCCAT tools:
 - reciprocity tool (where institutions can create a reciprocal agreement with another institution);
 - BC Transfer Guide deployable widget that institutions/departments can add to their webpage;
 - International expansion tool that makes international transfer info directly available to students.
 - BCCAT is working on a block transfer tool.

- The English as an Additional Language (EAL) guide is now live. In future, BCCAT wants to incorporate both EAL and ABE courses into the main transfer guide (they're separate for now)
- Research:
 - BCCAT has been putting together reports about the collection and use of student data on race and ethnicity
 - There is now a dashboard on how COVID has affected students.
- Joint Articulation Meetings (JAM):
 - happened last November hybrid (face-to-face and online) and the recorded sessions are all available on YouTube.
 - JAM 2023 will be held hybrid again the first week of November and all articulation chairs will be funded by BCCAT to attend.
- ABE Guidebook:
 - The grid is not in PDF form anymore; it is online and dynamic.
 - The Ministry doesn't want to be responsible for the rest of the ABE Guidebook (with learning outcomes) anymore, so BCCAT will host it on their website. Steering chairs will update it.

ABE Steering Committee Update (Co-chair Shantel Ivits, Vancouver Community College)

- Ministry Update:
 - Barb Binczyk has been replaced by Heather Collins
 - There has been a change to the ABE/EAL funding model: now it is based on the Ministry setting combined ABE/EAL targets for each institution based on averages from 2018-2021. There are no clawbacks if institutions do not meet the targets, but also no additional funding if they exceed them.
 - The Ministry provided some pathways funding to connect ABE/EAL to high need employment areas
- Overall trends:
 - Community Adult Literacy Program (CALP): there are now smaller pots of money to be spread over more organizations
 - Adult Upgrading Grant (AUG): There is a new policy manual, but no plans to remove barriers noted by ABE faculty and institutions. Now the requirement is a notice of assessment and nothing else is accepted; this is a barrier. However, the \$500 tech grant is still available.
 - There is a \$5000 Irving K. Barber award for ABE students.
- Deans and Directors of Developmental Education (DDDE) update by liaison Jeannie Maltesen (Vancouver Island University)
 - There has been a lot of turnover in Deans and Directors, with many long time supporters of ABE gone now.
 - Jeannie thought the new funding model would be beneficial for ABE programs
 - Trends: COVID has had a negative impact on the ABE/literacy group of students
 - Students tend to have increased commitments: jobs, child/elder care.

- Funding for Articulation Travel: Mike Winseman said that the Ministry's view is that travel to articulation is included in base funding, and that institutions expected to send articulation reps to meetings in person. BCCAT requested that the Ministry send this statement in a letter to institutions but they did not, so BCCAT did. Mike Winseman will remind the deans and directors of this at the next meeting.

5. Adjournment 3:30 pm

Friday, Mar. 3rd, 2023

1. **Plain English Workshop**—Melinda Worfolk
2. **Meeting with English ABE Working Group**
 - Last year the English ABE Articulation Working Group requested input again on their revised Goal Statement, which they had attempted to Indigenize. The FPABE Working Group reviewed and discussed the English ABE Working Committee's draft revised goal statement that had been shared with us. Members had many concerns about the colonial language used in the statement.
 - The members of the First Peoples ABE Working Group who were present on Friday met with the English ABE Working Group to ask what it was they were trying to accomplish with the Goal Statement and to bring the general feedback that the statement was problematic. The English ABE Working Group members identified areas they felt were othering and colonial.
 - **ACTION:** The First Peoples ABE Working Group will form a subcommittee (2 members) willing to work on the goal statement with the English ABE working group before the next meeting. The English ABE working group will plan a working session during next year's meeting to revise.
3. **Adjournment: 11:40 am**