

## BCFRM Articulation 2023 NIC Minutes

June 7, 2023

Attendance: Coleen MacLean (NIC, host), Tom Willms (NVIT), Roy Rea (UNBC), Stacy Cuzzocrea (VIU), Mandy Capp (Selkirk College), Troy Lee (FPBC), Steve Finn (BCIT), Andres Enrich (VIU), Laurie S (BCIT), Jason Pon (BCIT), Matt Neuwirth (NIC).

Online: John Karakatsoulis (TRU), Casey Macaulay (FPBC), Chi C (FPBC), Conrad Malilay (FPBC), Anna Tikina (BCCAT), Cameron Dexter (CAB)

### AGENDA Forestry & Sustainable Resources Management Articulation June 7-8, 2023

Host: NIC, Campbell River

Date/Time	Item	Who
<b>June 7</b>		
8:00	Gathering at NIC – CR Campus, C231	
8:30	Welcome & Introductions Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting	Andrea Erwin / Coleen MacLean
9:00	School Reports (8 reports @ <b>10min each</b> )	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Coffee</b>	
11:00	BCCAT Report	Anna Tikina
11:30	ABC FP Report	Casey Macaulay / Chi Cejalvo
<b>12:00</b>	<b>Catered Lunch – NIC Culinary Department</b>	
1:00	Provincial Silviculture Updates.	Taisa Brown
2:00	School Reports (4 reports)	
<b>2:45</b>	<b>Coffee</b>	
3:00	College of Applied Biology (CAB) update	Cameron Dexter (online)
3:30	Discussion:  Silviculture news  B.C. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework <a href="https://www.wcel.org/media-release/ubcm-passes-resolutions-advocating-bc-law-ecosystem-health">https://www.wcel.org/media-release/ubcm-passes-resolutions-advocating-bc-law-ecosystem-health</a>  Land restoration (i.e. Blueberry River)	Andrea Erwin / Coleen MacLean

4:00	Adjournment for the day	
5:30	Dinner in the NIC Bistro, Campbell River Campus.	
<b>June 8</b>		
8:00 – 1:00	Field Trip – Quadra Island TFL & Woodlot Stops	Host committee/ Rick Monchak

ONLINE Bluejeans LINK:

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Meeting ID: 734 222 635 ; Participant Passcode: 2013

8:30am Introductions.

8:45: Welcome: June (elder) could not be here, trapped in Port Alberni from fire so Coleen gave us a welcome to campus and territory!

Stacy motion to approve minutes, Andres (2<sup>nd</sup>), minutes approved.

8:52: School Reports (available on Moodle)

Steve Finn (BCIT)

- Renewable Resources department with multiple programs
- Full 35 accepted for September, small waitlist (more last year)
- 3 seats set aside for international students
- Last year was tough for attrition – mental health issues/stress/family health issues
- Graduated 26 students this year (started with 35)
- Returned to full time but using hybrid where appropriate – students seem to like it where appropriate (not too much) – helps save money on parking (\$9/day!)
- Suggest promoting good side of the industry to Minister of Forests (Rolstrom) they toured around
- Program reviews with new curriculum for Fish and wildlife program
- Major changes to make courses more common between programs
- MSc Eco Restoration has suspended intake for a year
- Faculty changes/issues – hard to attract qualified instructors (have to already live in lower mainland or have lots of money to move there!)
- Jonathan Smith 35+ years in program – working towards retirement
- Lots of changes at BCIT in upper ranks
- TAC accreditation submission July 3, site visit in September – has issues with online portal – save frequently!

- Job fair organized by Laurie instead of employers coming in one by one

Laurie S (BCIT) – major curriculum changes for Fish and Wildlife – joint field trips with forestry students, common first year. 129 credits to 112. Two field schools in second year (terrestrial in fall, aquatic in April)

9:08: Andres (VIU)

- 16 graduates, lots of students opting for 3 year program instead of 2 (1/3 of students – largely mental health and life issues). Poses scheduling conflict but because small can work it out.
- Working to get students into AGMs for free (ABC FP... let students come free!)
- Work with CIF – Van Island section – mentorship program, pair first year with forest professional, CIF supports events (ring ceremony)
- Developing coastal field trip (Bamfield) – 4 days, Interior field trip – 5 days (visited NVIT and had a great BBQ!) – great collaboration opportunity to allow students to meet and see what others are doing, games played and VIU won 😊
- Faculty changes – 4 of 5 instructors retired in last 3 years, technician left too – working on getting a full time technician (instructors do a lot of the tech work themselves) – many new hires to complete the team.
- International program – very connected in many places – 3 year effort supporting agriculture in Belize (?) – international work has been a challenge post covid
- Full cohort for fall, 7 on waitlist, fair number of incomplete applications
- Mental health/Equity Diversity Inclusivity – try to do a session one day session each semester – seems students are not receptive to it but when removed they noticed a difference
- Talk around inclusivity, microaggression, work on mental health (movies for mental health – give students time to attend)

9:20 – 9:30: general discussion on funding field trips (fundraising, student fees, etc.), challenging to increase lab fees (Andres) but Laurie mentioned because major changes with a measurable benefit to students increase ability to get increase approved. Transportation – drivers, vehicle availability etc.

9:30 Mandy Cappel (Selkirk)

- Integrated first year program for the 3 programs
- After exams in first year they go into field school (credit course for second year) (treeplanting, safety, basic forestry skills, drone course certificate preliminary through research department – techs will have access to micro drones so intention is to give students some hands on experience with drones)
- Lots of mental health issues post pandemic, lots of injuries as well. Students transferred to 3 year program option
- Highlights: Arrow Lakes Caribou society – caribou pen near Nakusp – help build pen, been involved in lichen collection
- Fuel management/modification in fall
- Coastal field trip: UBC research forest and other site visits
- Work integrated learning projects – micro projects – exposure to timber cruising, prescription writing etc.

- Curriculum: TAC finished, doing internal learning outcome review with teaching and learning, working on course indigenization, hired an indigenous instructor to teach one course offered to all 3 programs, created traditional land use site
- International education – a few international students in recent years
- Recruitment: new media division incorporating social media etc into recruitment strategies. Career day, Together for Success education plan at Selkirk.

#### 9:38 Roy Rea (UNBC)

- Outlined programs and student numbers
- Forest Ecology and Mgmt students have to take a minor (13 to choose from) – highly taken are Biology and Conservation minor and Planning and Operations (fewest number of courses).
- Retirements: advertising for new soils and wildfire positions, hope to advertise botany in fall next year
- CTAB accreditation for 6 years
- \$500 travel awards (to attend conferences etc) given out
- New advisor and registrar looking to create specific pathways for students coming to UNBC from various colleges. Approved articulated pathways. Want it mapped out clearly. (Tamara Sweet and \_\_\_\_). Roy will email contact information.

#### 9:49 Tom Willms (NVIT)

- Program overview, no major changes
- Full program review in next year or two – last major revision was 2011 – need to update learning outcomes to reflect what they do in terms of indigenous mandate
- Enrolment is low, 13 first year, 9 second year (up to 30 in the past but rare)
- Faculty overview
- TAC accreditation – 1 year extension to get site visit done (TAC couldn't get it on time)
- Good employment for students – strong labor market (some discussion on pay being low!)
- Troy – can you track employment? Nothing formal – small cohort so easy to check in
- Highlights: Manning Park, coastal, grasslands field trips. Purchased a 4 wheel drive 28 passenger bus – getting good use from many programs (previously students would drive themselves – lots of liability) – some discussion around transportation and moving away from faculty/student drivers
- Session with Nancy Turner!
- Beaver dam analogues – beavers have been trapped and relocated to them
- Discussion around designation when completed the program and type of work students are doing when graduated. Two year program is accredited. First year is a certificate program.

#### 10:03 John Karakatsoulis (TRU)

- Program overview
- Highlights: graduating 49 students (record, normally around 32 – doesn't know why – maybe some from students who paused during covid).
- Program review completed. Major recommendations: hire an indigenous scholar (has been difficult to find someone qualified – offer has been made) – competition for these folks with MSc

and PhD is very high. Their role will be to help indigenize the program and other Faculty of Science programs (teaching, research, and indigenization workload)

- 2 new courses included: intro to climate change science (elective, now required in first year), and ecosystem reclamation (elective, now required) – needed to remove 2 courses (2<sup>nd</sup> English course and chemistry (now only take one instead of 2)).
- Fixed program, no minors/majors, 3 electives, students **strongly** encouraged to pursue RPBio, RPF, RPAG – modifying a course to add “evolution” to course title to satisfy RPBio requirements. Students need to go down allied science route for RPF.
- Belize field school – tried to run last year but university pulled plug at last minute – ran this year (8 students and 2 faculty) – was successful
- Mental health issues – in the same boat with students struggling with many issues – counseling services can not deal with it (2 week wait period) – been difficult on faculty trying to deal with it.
- TRU open learning (distance courses) – been working with ABCFP – 3 courses developed for students who need them for RPF (pathology, entomology, silviculture)
- Transfer in: been doing individual assessments and becoming problematic – looking at articulated transfer down the road – 50% of applicants are out of high school, other 50% are students from other programs. Get a lot of students that already have degrees. Lots of transfers within TRU. Hard to keep track of where students are coming from but more and more and transferring in from other institutions.
- John is preparing to retire in 3 years! Over next 5 years, 3 faculty will retire.
- Had a department retreat and created a timeline spreadsheet of retirements to allow for successional planning (budgets!) – want to make sure money is there to replace retiring faculty to prevent their position being cut.
- Field trips: transportation – rent 7 passenger mini vans but rental companies are no longer bringing in mini vans because they are too expensive. Cheaper to bring in SUVs that are much more expensive to rent. Becoming a problem. Get students to drive themselves – have worked with lawyers on liability – it is ok, can do it. Seems to work out. Bus available to rent but expensive.
- Doing well. Supportive deans!
- Mandy curious about open learning courses: NRSC 4031 only one on the books right now. Others coming online soon.
- Online courses allow students to accelerate their program or have an online option (supports program students)

10:25 BREAK

11:03 Anna Tikina, BCCAT Update (available on Moodle)

- Overview of BCCAT
- PDF and links provided on Moodle
- Requests: nudge if you think no one has responded to your request, and if retiring, share the knowledge of articulation to incoming faculty.
- If interested in being on the YouTube channel, write to Anna and she will connect you

11:26 Casey Macaulay, Forest Professionals British Columbia (FPBC) Update (available on Moodle)

- Lots of changes and updates that might affect schools

- New website: fpbc.ca

12:10 LUNCH

1:05 Taisa Brown – OCF (Office of the Chief Forester) Silviculture Updates

- Initiatives outline
- Commercial thinning working group – contact Lee-ann Puhallo
- Find Interim Guidance for Commercial Thinning (Interior) by searching “stand tending”
- Innovative Silvicultural Systems – managing for multiple values – promote old growth attributes (contact Shannon Pearce)
- Drought Working Group
- Improving Survival of Planted Fdi in the Cariboo Natural Resource Region\*\*
- Free Growing Framework – Free Growing Working Group reviewing framework – redesign or improve policy (potentially)
- Case Study: 8 cutblocks, 300ha CWHvm1 – could reforest each with hemlock, or any of the acceptable species, could mix, could mix at stand level – all these decisions impact stand outcomes and risks. Scenario 1 – cheapest option – meet free growing only objective. Meet min stocking standards. No idea how fits into landscape picture. Timber supply monitors don’t use free growing SPH. Scenario 2 – may have one tiny unit not meeting free growing but effort and objectives way more involved – noncompliance despite effort
- **CCISS Climate Change Informed Species Selection Tool**
- Silviculture can be viewed as just a cost given our current appraisal system
- New Silviculture Surveys manual: YouTube: @BCSivicultureSurveys

2:00 Ana Curcin, UBC Forestry School Report (academic advisor replacing Dominique)

- Sept 2024 – one degree model – all the undergrad degrees will turn into a major (urban forestry will stay separate). VLIS Degree.
- Bioeconomy program – just graduated first class of 4
- Accreditation – urban greenspace management minor
- Personnel – a lot of change over
- Enrollment – undergraduate numbers increased and increase in graduates
- Mental health and wellbeing issues at the forefront – brought in an embedded counselor at student services to make it easier for students to access
- Rationale for one major (John K)? Optics. Smallest faculty with largest number of programs – been a push from above to think about it. Marketing. For students, they had to select a degree upon admission, one degree model will give them more common foundational courses in first year to get an idea of where to specialize (2<sup>nd</sup> year and onwards they choose a path)
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2:12 Coleen Maclean, NIC

- Enrolment up
- High attrition but those that stayed were very strong, tight team
- Applied to raise cap to 26 with hopes of having higher numbers after attrition

- Large part of numbers are employers sending students NIC's way – don't seem to be on the word of mouth map otherwise yet (too new of a program?)
- Found TAC experience very onerous – would be in favor of a modified process
- Graduated students apply as Allied Science with FPBC for now
- Field Schools – no dedicated multiday field school yet – spend as much time out throughout courses as they can
- Hoping to do something in stream restoration in spring after students have taken applicable courses
- Need funding options – may go to industry for help – no budget
- Would love to collaborate and join inland programs on field trips/international programs
- Buses – showing age but automotive program maintains it
- File ERP with college safety person for trips out of service, have 3 hand held programmed radios, carry an In-Reach with texting capabilities, TEAMS heli-medical unit membership – same safety as operational forestry systems – full PPE even if just on local trails – full tail gate meeting and ERP review for each outdoor lab
- CIF ring ceremony –
- Mental health issues here too
- Matt and Coleen took the 5 day advanced pilot training – have purchased 6 drones
- 4 mini drones students can touch

#### 2:33 Andrea Erwin, CNC Report

- Designated classroom loss
- Employer social event
- Not much new

#### 2:42 – BREAK

#### 3:00 – Cameron Dexter, CAB Update (see CAB website for more information)

- Name change – College of Applied Biologists (formerly Biology)
- Overview of organization
- New category: limited license
- Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, Indigenous Awareness Course, Legal Requirements Course

#### 3:30 – Discussion

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework – workshops held but not well advertised. Landscape Planning Pilot – waiting to inform the framework based on landscape planning pilots are doing but they are years away. Going to be years before things are implemented.

Depression and Anxiety – problems/impacts don't go away after school ends –

Basic math skills are poor for pandemic high school students – general discussion around math requirements for CAB, FPBC, and what they actually need for program/work afterwards. Coding – Tom planning to look into it during program review to add a component to program.

Jason (from school district) – moving to rubric type assessment – students are learning to read the rubrics, tick the boxes, then shutoff. Needs to be applied to learn real world application so they can understand why and see importance.

3:50 - Adjourn

5:30 – AMAZING 4 course meal at the NIC Bistro!!!

June 8, 2023

8:00 – departure for Quadra Island and tour of wood lot.