

Biology Articulation Committee

DRAFT Meeting Minutes BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL on ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFERS (BCCAT) University of Victoria, May 2/3, 2024

Present:

Committee Member Name	Institution Name	Email/contact
Mitra Panahi	Alexander College (ALEX)	m.panahi@alexandercollege.ca
Ryan Suleman	Camosun College (CAMO)	suleman@camosun.bc.ca
Eugene Chu	Capilano University (CAPU)	eugenechu@capilanou.ca
Catharine White	Coast Mountain College (CMTN)	cwhite@coastmountaincollege.ca
Jessica Card	College of New Caledonia (CNC)	cardj@cnc.bc.ca
Andrena Heigh	College of the Rockies (COTR)	aheigh@cotr.bc.ca
Sarah Goomeshi Nobary	Columbia College (COLU)	sgoomeshinobary@columbiacollege.ca
Raymond Wang	Coquitlam College (COQU)	rwang@coquitlamcollege.com
Mike Silvergieter	Douglas College (DOUG)	silvergieterm@douglascollege.ca
Martin Lopez Cordova	Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU)	ma_cor_7@fdu.edu
Monica DeBoer	Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU)	monica.deboer@kpu.ca
Melisa Hamilton	Langara College (LANG)	mhamilton@langara.ca
Aisling Brady	North Island College (NIC)	aisling.brady@nic.bc.ca
Cindy Broberg	Northern Lights College (NLC)	cbroberg@nlc.bc.ca
Morgan Martin	Okanagan College (OKAN)	mmartin@okanagan.bc.ca
Stephen Seaborn	Selkirk College (SC)	sseaborn@selkirk.ca
Erin Barley	Simon Fraser University (SFU)	ebarley@sfu.ca
Emelia Kirkwood		ekirkwoo@sfu.ca
Natasha Ramroop Singh	Thompson Rivers University (TRU)	nramroopsingh@tru.ca
Elizabeth Zwamborn	Trinity Western University (TWU)	Elizabeth.Zwanborn@twu.ca
Matt Nelson	UBC-Okanagan (UBC-O)	matthew.nelson@ubc.ca
Sunita G. Chowrira	UBC-Vancouver (UBC-V)	chowrira@mail.ubc.ca
Zahra Moradi	University Canada West (UCW)	Zahra.moradi@ucanwest.ca
Justin Lee	University of the Fraser Valley (UFV)	Justin.Lee@ufv.ca
Dezene Huber	University of Northern BC (UNBC)	Dezene.Huber@unbc.ca
Jenia Blair		Jenia.Blair@unbc.ca
Barbara Ehltling	University of Victoria (UVIC)	behltling@uvic.ca
Maria Morlin	Vancouver Community College (VCC)	mmorlin@vcc.ca
Joslynn Affleck	Vancouver Island University	Joslyn.Affleck@viu.ca
Kate Chatfield-Reed	Yukon University (YUKO)	kchatfieldreed@yukonu.ca
Guest Name	Institution	Email/contact
Annabella Chun	BCCAT	achun@bccat.ca
Barbara Moon	Provincial BC Deans of Arts and Sciences	Barbara.Moon@alexandercollege.ca

Recorder: Maria Morlin – Vancouver Community College

- BAC Meeting Called to Order at 9:00 a.m., May 2 2023**
Chair – Aisling Brady (NIC), Associate Chair – Maria Morlin (VCC)
- Introductions/welcome**
 - Aisling Brady – BAC chair (NIC) called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the group, both in person individuals and those joining online.

Barbara Ehltling (UVIC): We acknowledge and respect the Lək̓ʷəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

- **Approval of Agenda and Any Additional Items**

Motion: to adopt the agenda without additions

Moved: Ryan Suleman (CAMO) Seconded: Andrena Heigh (COTR) (Carried unanimously)

- **Approval of minutes of the Articulation Committee meeting of May9/10 2023**

- No amendments

Motion: to accept the Minutes as presented/with amendments as noted:

Moved: Erin Bradley (SFU) Seconded: Andrena Heigh (COTR) Carried unanimously

- Round table introductions from all members present.

- **Presentation of Institutional Reports**

- Mitra Panahi – Alexander College – Stable enrolment. New course – introduction to health science. All second year courses have labs (except genetics and introduction to biochemistry). Following SFU model for health sciences.
- Ryan Suleman – Camosun College – Upgrading courses moved to school of access. Environmental tech program being reviewed.
- Eugene Chu – Capilano University – First BSc graduates this year. Bachelor of Environment and Society scheduled to run in September. Lab sizes reduced from 24 to 18 students. Non-regular faculty now paid for PD.
- Catharine White – Coast Mountain College – Have associate degree – geoscience path – students go into conservation. Ten-year articulation coming up. New northern pre-med program. New lab equipment.
- Jessica Card – College of New Caledonia – Offer UT courses to health sciences – no content changes. Labs in all courses except A&P for practical nursing. Offering dual credit for biology and A&P courses.
- Sarah Goomeshi Nobary – Columbia College – Plant and animal physiology added (no lab). Second-year courses no labs. Moving toward open-course texts to alleviate costs for students.
- Raymond Wang – Coquitlam College – Relocated to new campus in Vancouver with newly constructed labs. No change in course offerings, labs, or prerequisite requirements.
- Andrena Heigh – College of the Rockies – Course enrolment stable. Associate of science in computer science suggested by program review. Started a coop program which is going well.
- Michael Silvergieter – Douglas College – Enrolments down first year biology. Student housing planned for 2026 (368). Working on Costa Rica trip next year. Working on block transfer to Langara bioinformatics.
- Monica De Boer – Kwantlen Polytechnic University – Faculty of Science credits now 132. Coop option starting in the fall. Indigenous Perspectives in Biology course will be offered (no lab).
- Melisa Hamilton – Langara College – No major changes. First term course prerequisites changed to prep course (no lab) International student enrolment may be affected by Ontario ‘chilling effect.’ Considering Bamfield field course.
- LaSalle College – 2800 students (double from last year). Biology courses with 200 students. Adding new positions.
- Aisling Brady – North Island College – Enrolment lower since covid. Online classes causing reduced course offerings on some campuses. Instructors no longer allowed to live stream F2F classes. New residence being built in Comox Valley.
- Morgan Martin – Okanagan College – New residences for three campuses. Science enrolment stable. Faculty is running labs (no lab staff). Labs and lecture should be given equally well-paying positions due to the workload.
- Stephen Seaborn – Selkirk College – Adult Basic Education is offered (different union). Second year ecology running due to donation by retired faculty member. Many faculty part-time.
- Erin Barley and Emilia Kirkwood – Simon Fraser University – Enrolment is up as recruiters were hired. Only requiring one first year math and physics for student flexibility. New first year one-credit course – welcome to biology. Will have medical school likely Sept 2026. Admin is being reduced (hiring freeze). No freeze for faculty.
- Natasha Ramroop Singh – Thompson Rivers University – Have a three-co-chair structure – division of labour works well. Due to recommendation of recent external program review, 2nd year content is under consideration for reduction – cell bio labs may be removed (contentious). Moving toward concentrations instead of majors.
- Elizabeth Zwamborn – Trinity Western University. Ran a directed non-lab marine mammal course (hands-on). Held workshops on grant applications. Held Planetary Health Conference – human health linked to environmental health).
- Sunita Chowrira – University of British Columbia (Vancouver) – No large curriculum changes. Two new broad interest courses year three – Green Planet, and Biology of Cannabis. No prerequisites. Lecture-based, highly interactive. Students in first year need more hands-on experience.
- Matt Nelson – University of British Columbia (Okanagan) – Enrolment down for sciences. Mobile biology outreach program for elementary and high schools in B.C. Transitioning to ‘WorkDay.’ Biostats disparity between institutions, students may be choosing easier courses.
- Zahra Moradi – University Canada West – Enrolments plateauing at around 14000 for the university. Four science courses offering – biology, ecology, geology, and physics. Now opening a new lab for science courses.

- Justin Lee – University of the Fraser Valley – Enrolment expected to increase due to affordable housing. New student housing and new cafeteria. First-year student competencies low.
- Dezene Huber – University of Northern British Columbia – Restructured to five faculties. A few degrees rely on biology courses. Adjusting prerequisites for pedagogical rationale.
- Barbara Ehling – University of Victoria – Domestic enrolment stable. International enrolment lower. Challenge: increase in students with accommodations and less support for instructors (80-100 students).
- Maria Morlin – Vancouver Community College – VCC building a Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation. First-year biology enrolment stable. Environmental Science course running.
- Joslynn Affleck – Vancouver Island University – First-year courses offered as separate lecture and lab courses now.
- Kate Chatfield-Reed – Yukon University – Learning objectives have changed – will re-articulate. Rearrangement of topics to align more closely with SFU and UVic. Introducing a Northern pre-med program.
- **BCCAT Report** – Annabella Chun (see report on Moodle)
 - 35th anniversary for BCCAT.
 - Many resources available on the BCCAT site, including BCCAT spring update, and list of publications.
 - JAM will be November 7&8, 2024.
 - Call for proposals deadline May 13.
 - Rebuilding transfer system platform for sharing data between provinces.
- **SLP Report** – Barbara Moon (full report available on Moodle)
 - B.C. suffering from Ottawa ‘chilling’ effect. International students were unable to apply to any institution in Canada during the early part of this year which had a dampening effect on enrollments for 2024. Students are going to different countries due to government announcements on further restrictions.
 - B.C. Campus open education resources now live. Updated open textbooks – excellent source.
 - Digital literacy as a learning outcome being considered. Research links in SLP report on moodle.
 - Will put accommodation issues on agenda at next meeting.
- **JAM Report** – Aisling Brady (full report on Moodle), including:
 - History of B.C. Transfer system very interesting particularly for new articulators.
 - Most common reason for denying articulation requests – no outline, incorrect level, course not comparable.
 - Student success higher with face-to-face classes.
 - United States direct admission experiment where colleges default taking high school students into post-secondary admittance. Students can accept or not. Designed to make admissions more equitable.
 - ChatGPT update, micro credentials update – watch excellent YouTube videos for JAM.
- **DISCUSSION: Micro credentials**
 - Some micro credentials at NIC in continuing ed, CWU has micro credentials in business, UNBC has micro credentials.
 - Micro credentials can be used by students toward programs or job opportunities (electrofishing, micro pipetting).
 - BC Campus has a lot of resources on micro credentials.
- **DISCUSSION: labs**

Statement from last meeting re: in-person labs: “The biology articulation committee has discussed at length the benefits of in person labs in first- and second-year level courses. Beyond emergency measures, the Biology Articulation Committee expects biology lab courses to be in person and hands on for transferability purposes.”

 - Q. Is there a minimum number of labs for receiving institutions? A. No minimum but most are at least 8-9 labs.
 - OC – no TAs for labs, faculty is overworked prepping labs.
 - Some BA degrees don’t require lab science course.
 - Associate arts degrees do require lab science course.
 - In some institutions lab technicians prep, and faculty teach labs. Faculty should be paid for prep time.
 - In some lab demonstrators do prep and teaching.
 - SFU had a ‘kitchen lab’ course but it did not work well in lieu of class labs.
 - Almost all institutions have labs in second year (SFU does not)
- **DISCUSSION: Bamfield**
 - Bamfield is working on its model, organization, and financing. Bamfield course costs up 40% - it is an expensive station.
 - SFU is subsidizing students for Bamfield courses.
 - Douglas made the course student-paid and optional.
 - NIC skipped Bamfield and went to Ucluelet – used NIC campus and aquarium and paid for student accommodations.
 - Langara – field school is part of program and scholarship – important that it runs.

- Douglas has funding to send students out of country, but no funding for Bamfield.
 - **DISCUSSION: accommodations**
 - UVic – numbers increased enormously (80-100). Not enough staff to accommodate, so instructors must handle. Students have legal rights to accommodations.
 - Accommodation department expanding at some institutions.
 - Students must still complete outcomes of courses.
 - Unions should become involved with the workload situation.
 - Provost and Dean should ensure resources are available for accommodations.
 - Instructors should request extra time.
 - UBC admin is supportive.
 - Accommodation at level of institution (not instructor)
 - Barbara Moon will put accommodation support on next Dean's meeting agenda. Changes in legislation and drop in funding exacerbating the problem.
 - **DISCUSSION – academic integrity, AI, and exams**
 - Many institutions have higher weight on exams, and less on take-home assignments.
 - Controlling for AI is difficult.
 - Concept maps for assessment work well and are almost AI-proof.
 - Scientific writing courses in some institutions.
 - Paid ChatGPT much better than the free version.
 - Institutions have no policies on students using translators.
 - Suggestion to embrace and make use of AI.
 - Cannot be reliant on technology alone (it may not always be available)
 - SFU has a form students fill out for make-up exams. In the experimental stage.
 - Shifting weight to the final exam only recommended if it is comprehensive.
 - Camosun – assigned a research proposal and students studied for exam inadvertently through the project.
 - **DISCUSSION: evaluation of K-12 curriculum and preparedness – letter to ministry**
 - There is agreement that students are ill-prepared for university courses, particularly labs.
 - There was too much discussion to include in these minutes. Maria will send out a separate summary along with a draft letter on google docs.
 - **DISCUSSION: Field course project**
 - ACTION ITEM: articulators to inquire about visiting student policies at their own institutions.
 - Students need more practice in notetaking, exam taking, focusing on single tasks, time management, and ability to retain information.
 - ACTION ITEM: the committee will draft a letter to the Ministry of Education stressing the noticeable decline in student preparation and success of first year students in university level biology.
 - Mail list coordinator 2024/2025 – Andrena Heigh
 - Election of chair and associate chair: Aisling Brady (NIC) will continue as chair: Moved - Erin Barley Seconded Andrena Heigh (carried unanimously) and Sarah Goomeshi Nobary will be associate chair next meeting: Nominated by Natasha Ramroop Singh, Seconded Mike Silvergieter Motion carried unanimously.
 - **Next meeting:**
 - Location: Thomson Rivers University
 - Date: April 28/29 for articulation
 - BC Bio April 30 2025. Health educators meeting May 1&2
- Meeting adjourned at 12:00.