

ECONOMICS ARTICULATION MEETING

BUSINESS MEETING

LANGARA COLLEGE

April 29, 2024

Attendees

1. Alexander College	Laurel Xiao
2. Acsenda School of Management	Catherine Kang and Andy Basi
3. Athabasca University *	Hussein Al-Zyoud
4. BCCAT	Anna Tikina
5. Camosun College	Ocean Lu and Narine Grigoryan
6. Capilano University	Chieko Tanimura
7. College of the Rockies	James Wishart
8. Columbia College	Stephane Deseau
9. Coquitlam College	Sonya Plater
10. Corpus Christi College	Joshua F. Boitnott
11. Douglas College	Kevin Richter
12. Fairleigh Dickinson University	Lu Wang
13. Kwantlen Polytechnic University *	Shauna McAuley-Bax
14. Langara College	Bryan Breguet *Current Chair
15. North Island College	Othman Bennis
16. Northern Lights College	Issoufou Soumaila
17. Okanagan College	Lozelle Reed
18. Selkirk College *	Jonathan Buttle
19. Simon Fraser University	Fernando Aragon
20. Thompson Rivers University	Peter Tsigaris
21. Trinity Western University	Sung Min Yoo
22. University of British Columbia/VSE	Jonathan Graves and Michal Szkup
23. University of British Columbia Okanagan	Khan Jahirul Islam
24. University Canada West	Mokhtar Tabari
25. University of Northern British Columbia	Karima Fredj
26. University of the Fraser Valley	Bosu Seo and Vlad Dvoracek *SLP
27. University of Victoria	Brooklynn Cornish-Trimble
28. Vancouver Island University	William Troost
29. Western Community College	Syed Assad
30. Yorkville University	Iqtidar Shah
31. Yukon University *	Ninad Dhawle and Mikhael Missakabo

* denotes institutions who were new to the articulation (based on the last two years). Welcome (back)!

Regrets

- Coast Mountain College
- College of New Caledonia
- College LaSalle

Didn't respond

- BCIT
- Fraser International College
- Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
- Royal Roads University
- Vancouver Community College

Proceedings Prior to the Business Meeting:

B. Breguet acknowledged that this meeting was taking place on the traditional and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

Everyone in attendance was welcomed by B. Breguet.

E. Barbeau, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and Community Programs welcomed everyone and acknowledge that Economics was the first articulation meeting, made a statement of gratitude for being on the land and wished everyone a great meeting.

B. Breguet initiated an introduction of everyone around the room, where those in attendance introduced themselves.

B. Breguet turned things over the Kevin Milligan for a presentation titled *The Time of Your Life: The Mortality and Longevity of Canadians*

First Block the Business Meeting:

1. Call to Order. B. Breguet called the meeting to order.

2. Introduction/Welcome

3. Approval of Agenda and additional items

Motion: to approve the agenda as circulated (moved by J. Boitnott (Corpus Christi) and seconded by S. Deseau (Columbia)) – Motion Carried.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes from May 1, 2023 in Cranbrook

Motion: to approve the minutes (moved by O. Lu (Camosun) and seconded by B. Seo (UFV)) – Typos were identified in the minutes. Sonya also identified the sentence “lonely voice” and suggested replacing it by “lone voice”. Typos and this sentence will be corrected and uploaded on the Moodle page – Motion Carried.

5. Report by the System Liaison Person, Vladimir Dvoracek, was given. There was a presentation on student demographics was made by. Highlights included large increases in the projections by BC Stats in 2024 (some up to 60% higher than 2023). A discussion based on the presentation ensued with a focus on the changes to international student application rules, the fairness of retroactively applying rules, differences between population estimates by different agencies and general enrollment trends and drivers. An update on the impact of the changes to International Student rules would be welcomed at next years meeting.

6. Report from BCCAT, given by Anna Tikina (Director of Research and Admissions at BCCAT) was given. Highlights included the development of a recognized institutional framework, an overview of BCCAT and BC Transfer Guide, a recognition of the 35th anniversary of BCCAT, 15th anniversary of JAM, 10th anniversary of awards program, a review of the 2023 JAM (a hybrid format), updated resources from BCCAT, BCCAT research areas and current calls for proposals, BCCAT technologies, growth in international student numbers by institution

and program type as well as academic performance, speed of graduation and student mobility. A question and answer section followed.

Lunch break was taken.

Second Block

Bryan Breguet (Langara College) as the current chair called the meeting back to order at 13:00.

7. Presentation of Institutional Reports

Bryan thanked everyone for attending, referred to and briefed on a pre-distributed list of topics (as follows) to be optionally reported on and discussed by the attendees, along with other institutional reports:

- Recent experienced trends and projections in enrollment and the impacts
- Lasting impacts from COVID
- Offered modes of teaching (in-person vs online)
- Challenges regarding the math and literacy skills of students
- Modes of exam assessment (in-person vs online)

Northern Lights College highlighted the absence of a formal Economics Department at the college and plans to offer two fulltime principle economics courses (ECON101, ECON102) under Business and Management Program.

Corpus Christi College briefed on a change of name and attending the next round of meeting under a new name.

Vancouver Island University briefed on a severe budget deficit and attempts to deal with the ramifications of that, involving a third-party review of revenues and expenses to cut budget. Also, reported on unfortunate suspension of two students.

Selkirk College briefed on concerns regarding enrollment trends and quality of international trends given the 90+% share of international students in their enrollment. Also, reported on somewhat positive experience with a new math bootcamp for international students.

Simon Fraser University briefed on concerns about the drop in enrollments across the board, budget cuts, no reduction in courses despite the budget cuts, freezing of new hires, research funds remaining at same levels despite the budget cuts, and the news that the Economics Department undergrad chair changing prior to the next round of meetings.

College of the Rockies had no briefings or news to share.

North Island College briefed on establishing a new Department of Business, offering four courses in economics (Micro, Macro, Environmental, and Money & Banking) online and in-person, audit of learning outcomes, and a shift away from Blackboard to Brightspace.

Athabasca University briefed on opportunities and challenges of advances in artificial intelligence.

Alexander College briefed on the Economics Department once being the largest department of the college is now the smallest with enrollment being at the lowest ever, low averages in classes and the

introduction of a math class by the college as pre-requisite as a remedy which has had further negative impact on enrollments, new department level offering of pre-principle courses for principle econ courses with the intention of helping with enrollment and averages in principle courses with some positive results, switching back to about 75% in-person classes after covid with the remainder a mix of fully or partially async online classes, and making all exams in-person.

Acsenda School of Management briefed on offering two degrees under Business and Management and expressed their interest on being included in future meetings given that they are run by the same rules and experience the same as public institutions.

University of British Columbia Okanagan briefed on two new tenure-track hires and introducing principles of micro and macro as requirements for their Bachelor degree.

Trinity Western University briefed on enrollment being on the rise and having 100% of classes in person.

Thompson Rivers University briefed on econ majors being on the rise and the move towards removing courses on calculus and statistics.

Columbia College had nothing to report and indicated steady trends.

Yorkville University briefed on offering new programs, review of business courses, recruitment of new fulltime faculty, sign of enrollment improvement after covid, and introducing a new Student Information System.

Western Community College briefed on maintaining to keep fulltime and parttime faculty, upcoming review of third-year courses, and opening of a new school in Abbotsford.

Douglas College briefed on predominantly offering in-person courses, experimenting with hybrid intermediate macro offering with received positive feedback, increasing request of on-line course from students, building a new campus in New Westminster including residence, strong enrollments particularly this Summer and with Money & Banking and International Economics and no new hirings or firings.

University of Victoria briefed on administrative structure changes and predominantly in-person offerings. Expressed interest in knowing about the teaching mode of courses for transferring students. Reported on experiencing a gap in female enrollment relative to males despite still-strong female enrollments.

Camosun College briefed on no major changes, stable enrollment, experiencing huge deficit last year but starting to run surpluses this year, switching to more in-person courses, addition of new courses and programs, no new hires and retirements, and continued interest in sessional lecturers.

University of British Columbia briefed on administrative changes and moving to a co-chaired system in undergrad, offering of new courses (including Global Development), and starting a long-term review of the curriculum to be reported on during next year meeting.

Okanagan College had no news to share.

University of the Fraser Valley briefed on new department head, external review of their programs, and offering a new Econometrics course and establishing new Economics Computer Lab for research courses.

Capilano University briefed on a strike at the university and the econ faculty joining, administrative changes at the university level (president and a VP), running a budget surplus, new construction at the northern campus, opening the new Squamish campus, quite a few international students, adding new sections, projection of full capacity enrollment, two new hires, progress in development of a new transferable econ course (ECON110), concerns about different students providing exact same doctor's note, challenges with AI and deciding to have all exams in-person for online courses, and offering 3 online offerings out of 18.

University Canada West briefed on new university president, move to Brightspace at university level, promoting more research, concerns about AI and having formed a new office to provide university-wide guidelines, enrollment starting to stabilize after increases in the past (around total 14,000-15,000 students), new fulltime and sessional hires, every course having an online offering in the online program, and having offerings as late as 10:30 PM and on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Kwantlen Polytechnic University briefed on no major issues during COVID and increase in hires after, but increasing concern recently as low enrollments are the trend now.

Yukon University highlighted that this was the first time attending the meetings and briefed on concerns about AI, constructing new sciences building, ongoing renovations, and hiring new faculty.

University of Northern British Columbia briefed on new strategic plan focusing on sustainability, having moved from Social Sciences branch to Faculty of Business, the college pushing for new courses, two faculty retiring with one replaced by a new hire and another hire expected, having a difficult year offering basic courses due to retirements, ongoing curriculum reviews at undergrad and graduate levels involving addition of pre-requisites math courses, increased grade requirement for the pre-requisites, addition of a new course-based, 3-year MA degree granted by the department, plans to setup pre-entry refresher classes for international students for the MA degree, a composition of 15% international and 12% indigenous students in the undergrad program, and concerns about recent change in federal policy re work permit for international student dampening enrollment.

Fairleigh Dickinson University briefed on new administrative hires, not having an ECON major, running major deficits in US branches but surplus in the Vancouver branch, plans to join campuses, concerns about undergrad enrollment drops across the board and not just the Business school, and plans to add data analytics courses and an associate degree.

8. Roundtable Discussion: Student Success and Transfers

There was a question regarding the attendance list and the full list of institutions regardless of their attendance. Bryan Breguet as the current chair clarified that the list of institutions and attendance is available and will be distributed later.

The chair invited University of British Columbia to present the topic for the round table.

University of British Columbia (UBC) presented and made the case for discussing institutions on the receiving end of student transfers, like, UBC are interested in understating how the transferring

institutions view grades and if institutions on each end think the same of grades and assess them in the same way. The key points of the presentation were:

- UBC has been observing that grade averages for transferring students (BCCAT program) to UBC drop after joining UBC over all grade categories and within each letter-grade category.
- UBC receives transfer students in their third year of education.
- Grades are an indication of mastery of material as well as a means of communication within and between institutions if viewed in a similar way.
- During and after COVID, the information in grades seem to have been damaged and no longer viewed the same across different institutions.
- UBC is interested in understanding what might be causing this.
- UBC asked the attendees to share their views on the following two points:
 1. Are there internal standards for grades? What are they if there are? if not, how should the receiving institutions understand transferring grades?
 2. Can transferring institutions share grade distributions along with transcripts for students?

Bryan highlighted that the Economics department at Langara has worked on grading standards to make sure have similar standards across different faculty teaching the same course, have a similar distribution of grades as showed by UBC. He emphasized that some information will be inevitably lost going from numbers to averages and to letters grades. He then opened the forum for free discussion by attendees. The following views were shared:

- Transfer students may not be receiving certain support provided in the first two year to students at UBC, which might be relevant for better performance when they join UBC, naturally resulting in drops in their performance and grade averages.
- Transfer students receive considerable support provided to them while at transferring institutions, which might be non-existent after they join UBC, naturally resulting in drops in their performance and grade averages.
- Transferring institutions typically have smaller classes and can help students better than UBC, lack of which can result in worse performance at UBC.
- Simon Fraser University (SFU) highlighted they do not rely solely on grades from transferring institution and require all transfer students to take a single internal course generating grades that follow the internal standards of the institution.
- Possibility for sample exam exchange as a way of communicating info with receiving institutions.
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University highlighted they use the same textbook for offerings of their courses and attempts to compare averages and make them more similar.
- Modes of exams and grading (single exam vs. multiple exams vs. multiple exams plus paper vs. etc.) can make differences and inconsistencies even within institutions.
- How to exchange information and what kind of information?
- If the class average distributions are not as expected by receiving institutions, they should investigate via communicating with the transferring institution.
- Feedback from receiving institutions is also useful for transferring institutions.

- Maybe introducing uniformity in the formula behind grades (what is involved) between different faculty who teach the same course can help.
- Receiving institutions should be more sharing of resources such as course outlines.
- BCCAT can only invite the receiving and transferring institutions to communicate.
- If a course is on BC Transfer Guide, the transfer is guaranteed, and this is not a conversation about receiving institutions rejecting a transfer.
- University of Victoria imposed on Camosun College to have in-person exam on online courses.
- It is in the receiving institutions best interest to confirm an internal assessment of student, just like SFU, with an internal course.
- UBC, unlike SFU, cannot rely on internal assessment of transferring students since they join in their third year and spending a term on internal evaluation is costly, duration-wise, for students.
- Review of principles courses (each year one course) and including formal visual presentation.
- UBC and SFU to create a unified test for transferring courses with a minimum passing grade.
- Easier solution might be that the receiving institutions offer an internal course exclusively for the purpose of assessment of transferring students.
- Transferring institutions can provide more information like teaching modes.
- UBC suggested to continue this conversation in the future round of the meetings.

There were also some discussions on requiring both principle courses as requirement for second year courses:

- For a college where students stay for two years and move on, we ask students to have both principles as pre-requisite for second year courses. This is while some of the second-year courses do not necessarily require both. What if we stop doing that from the viewpoint of receiving institutions?
- UBC has dropped the policy of both principles as pre-requisite for the second-year courses.
- SFU does not require both principles for second year courses.
- Both SFU and UBC still follow require principle courses for all third year courses.
- University of Victoria reported that they have third-year course that only require one of the principles as a pre-req.
- Douglas college requires Micro for Micro Policy and Macro for Macro Policy.
- Coquitlam College requires both principles as pre-req for the second-year course.
- Capilano University requires both principles as pre-req for the second-year course.
- University of Northern BC expressed interest in knowing about what other institutions do and some concern about the time gap between the pre-requisites taken, in terms of students forgetting content.
- Corpus Christi College expressed concern re the drop in basic math skills of enrolling students.
- SFU expressed concerns about English writing along with math.
- Suggestions of bootcamps, pre-courses, TAs (with expressed concern that students will not attend).
- How does one find out which courses have a changed pre-req at UBC-v? It is on the course calendar published online.

9. Election or Re-Election of Chair, Co-Chair and SLP

Since this year is the second year for current chair, there was need for an election this year.

Motion: Re-electing Bryan Breguet (Langara College, the current chair) as the chair for the next two years (moved by P. Tsigaris (TRU) and seconded by S.M. Yoo (TWU)) – Motion Carried.

Motion: Re-electing James Wishart (College of the Rockies, current co-chair) as the co-chair for the next two years (moved by B. Breguet (Langara) and seconded by O. Lu (Camosun)) – Motion Carried.

Motion: Re-electing Vladimir Dvoracek (UFV, current System Liaison Person) as the System Liaison Person for the next two years (moved by K. Richter (Douglas) and seconded by O. Lu (Camosun)) – Motion Carried.

10. Future (2025) Host of the Articulation Meeting

No volunteers for hosting the next meeting came forward.

Motion: The chair to circulate the (updated) historical list of previous hosts and the decision to be made via email by May 15 based on the list (moved by B. Comish-Trimble (UVIC) and seconded by J. Buttle (Selkirk)) - Motion carried.

Topics for Next Institutional Reports or Roundtable Discussion

Motion: For the next meeting as part of our institutional reports we provide reports of our assessment standards and methods of assessment (grading standards, distribution, modes of assessment such as in-person or online) in the principles courses (moved by J. Graves (UBC) and seconded by S. Deseau (Columbia)) - Motion carried.

11. Closing Remarks

None.

Motion: Adjourning the meeting.

The chair raised the motion. (moved by B. Comish-Trimble (UVIC) and seconded by W. Troost (VIU)) - Motion carried.