Philosophy Articulation Committee

MINUTES

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL on ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFERS (BCCAT)

Location: University Canada West; 1461 Granville Street, Vancouver

Date: Friday May 24th, 2024

Present:

Member Institution	Representative	Email
Alexander College	Carl Mandy	N/A
Art Institute of Vancouver		
Ascenda School of Management		
Athabasca University		
BCIT		
Camosun College	Frank Jankunis	Jankunisf@camosun.ca
Capilano University	Martin Godwyn	mgodwyn@capilanou.ca
College of New Caledonia		
College of the Rockies	Vance Mattson	Mattson@cotr.bc.ca
Columbia College		
Coquitlam College	Brandon Narayan	bnarayan@coquitlamcollege.com
Corpus Christi College		
Douglas College	David Wolfe	wolfed@douglascollege.ca
Emily Carr University of Art & Design		
Farleigh Dickinson University		
Fraser International College	Tim Christie	tim.christie19@gmail.com
Justice Institute of BC		
Kwantlen Polytechnic University		

Langara College	Richard Johns	rjohns@langara.ca
Lasalle College Vancouver	Milos Mihajlovic	MMihajlovic@lasallecollegevancouver.com
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology		
Northern Lights College		
North Island College		
Northwest Community College		
Okanagan College	David Boutillier	dboutillier@okanagan.bc.ca
Quest University		
Royal Roads University		
Selkirk College		
Simon Fraser University		
Thompson Rivers University		
Trinity Western University	Grant Havers	havers@twu.ca
UBC-Okanagan	Giovanni Grandi	giovanni.grandi@ubc.ca
UBC-Vancouver	Paul Bartha	paul.bartha@ubc.ca
University Canada West	William Rubel	william.rubel@ucanwest.ca
University of the Fraser Valley	Jeffrey Morgan	jeffrey.morgan@ufv.ca
University of Northern BC		
University of Victoria		
Vancouver Community College		
Vancouver Island University	Carolyn Swanson	Carolyn.Swanson@viu.ca
Yukon College		
Anna Tikina	BCCAT	atikina@bccat.ca
GUEST NAME		
GUEST NAME		
GUEST NAME		

Recorder: Brandon Narayan – Coquitlam College

Welcome from: William Rubel – University Canada West - Chair

1. **Meeting Called to Order at 12:10pm.**

2. **Introductions/welcome**
   - New Members/Guests: Anna Tikina (BCCAT), Milos Mihajlovic (LaSalle College Vancouver), Brandon Narayan (Coquitlam College).

3. **Approval of Agenda and Any Additional Items**
   Motion: to adopt the Agenda with additions
   Moved: William Rubel   Seconded: Brandon Narayan

4. **Approval of minutes of the Articulation Committee meeting of May 19, 2023**
   - Amendments (if any): No Amendments
   Motion: to accept the Minutes as presented/with amendments as noted:
   Moved: William Rubel   Seconded: David Wolfe

5. **Business Arising from Previous Minutes (if any)**
   - The New Moodle Webpage
     - **Vance Mattson:** The Moodle webpage has been updated and now includes past agendas, minutes, and templates along with new resources regarding the following topics;
       - Indigeneity and Diversity
       - A.I. and ChatGPT
       - Applied Ethics
       - Forms
     - Engagement on Moodle is not quite there yet, but the source is established, so pass on the message to your colleagues. The Moodle will also contain updated meeting information, so instructors are encouraged to use the site as a regular practice. Any feedback is appreciated.
   - Potential Revival of BCCAT Philosophy Conferences (PDs) following the Annual Articulation Meeting
     - Several years ago, the committee would host a half-day or full-day philosophy conference that would include 4-5 paper submissions and presentations. Sometimes students and guest lecturers would attend. Presentations would be around 45 minutes followed by a 15-minute Q&A session.
     - These conferences seemed to benefit many instructors and would include other faculties as well, covering an array of topics ranging from highly technical philosophical topics to more general topics. Some attendees recalled their past experiences as being enjoyable.
     - Paul Bartha suggested potentially only having one or two speakers to start things back up again, but the committee agreed that it was maybe best to allow next year's chair to make the decision on establishing this conference again.

6. **Election/Re-Election of Chair and/or SLP (if required)**
   There was clarification on the positions of chair and co-chair with a strong emphasis placed on these vital roles. However, no conclusion was reached as to who would undertake these roles for next year's meeting. Richard Johns kindly offered Langara College as a tentative host but mentioned the need to

confirm with his department head. No motion was made or approved. Anna Tikina (BCCAT) noted that the recommended practice is for chairs to serve for at least three years, as this avoids confusion with matters such as emails and communications. She clarified that the chair and host need not be the same; the emphasis was placed on continuity of the chair for a minimum period. On this basis, and in the absence of other volunteers, the possibility was raised of William Rubel (UCW) continuing to chair, and William appeared willing to do so.

7. **THE BCCAT MOODLE SHARED REPOSITORY**
As only one forum on Indigenous resources was populated, there was collective agreement that we should populate the site with content we may find valuable for others. The Moodle is an important resource especially after meetings, collaborating with colleagues, and developing course syllabi in the future. This will help maintain consistency in the courses offered in terms of transfer credits and integrating more applied topics into our courses. The value of posting and sharing our syllabi was emphasized.

8. **THE IMPACT OF A.I. ON COURSES**
There has been a movement towards more classroom-based assignments to ensure students are not relying too heavily on digital resources to complete course work. Although there are 'A.I. Checkers' and other programs available that supposedly help detect artificially produced work, they are wholly inconsistent and undependable. Indeed, most of our universities have explicit policies against basing our assessments on these checkers. Aside from using our intuition to determine when there may be suspected cheating, we discussed comparing students' work done at home with work done in the classroom (a 'benchmark') to use as evidence of potential cheating. An interesting issue was raised that in-class assessments are practical for 100 and 200 level courses but impractical for 300 and 400 level courses, where students benefit greatly from engagement with research essays. Several members present expressed concern over the possible loss of this traditional engagement with the essay, which serves a vital role in the learning process. Another interesting issue was raised regarding courses that are wholly online, a format that precludes the possibility of in-class and oral assessment. Some expressed general confidence in the results of the at-home work they have recently marked, noting that it is easy to spot AI written material (and possible to design assessments so that this material would either be glaringly obvious or irrelevant). The consensus was that we are still in an exploratory moment, developing more specific, personalized assignments and new ways of mitigating the inclusion of A.I. in student assignments. A.I. is posing a universal challenge faced by all, but is also providing an interesting opportunity for instructors when it comes to designing assignments.

9. **DEVELOPING MORE RESPONSIVE COURSES AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSFERABLE COURSES REGARDING THE TOPICS OF DECOLONIZATION AND INDIGENEITY**
There is a recognition that current philosophy courses in BC may not entirely reflect the interests and culture of our growing communities. Western philosophy is often taught, excluding Eastern, Feminist, and other decolonial types of philosophy that are growing in popularity amongst our increasingly diverse students. Confusion was expressed over whether some courses such as feminist ethics are based more in opinion than in logic and fit better in political philosophy (and, presumably, political science?). This might have opened a discussion of interdisciplinarity, but it was not clear whether the committee wished to broach that topic. The issue was raised that philosophy courses in BC tend to emphasize logic and ethics and (compared to courses in Europe) de-emphasize aesthetics and metaphysics, and hence remain associated with an abstract "view from nowhere" that is more difficult to make relevant to contemporary culture. It was also mentioned that some instructors may feel uncomfortable with teaching in areas where they are less familiar, but instances were raised where this is already taking place, and new positions opening. In brief, the desire to integrate more diverse philosophy was reiterated. The Moodle Webpage was pointed at for being a potentially valuable tool to

share syllabi to help each other see what resources and topics other instructors and post-secondary institutions are using.

10. THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT POLICIES ON INSTITUTIONS

Currently there are no significant concerns with the new policies and laws surrounding international students.

11. BCCAT Report

BCCAT is celebrating a few anniversaries this year. The BCCAT JAM is being held on November 7th and 8th in a mixed format which is a free event open to all, however Chairs will be prioritized. Attendees must register prior to attending. Anna noted the YouTube channel, newsletter and various guides and sources that offer valuable information including some already included on the Moodle. Currently, BCCAT is conducting research on accessible admissions, professional regulation and transfers, course outlines, and direct admissions. BCCAT is also excited to announce a new technological platform and partnership with ONCAT, looking at new opportunities for collaboration moving forward. • BCCAT report: Anna Tikina. Anna's report is posted to our Moodle site.

12. Any Other Business

William and Vance reminded the committee to use the Moodle, share resources and collaborate in that shared space. The Chair and Host vacancies for the next meeting remain up in the air (though William Rubel expressed willingness to continue in the role) as is the PD decision.

13. Next meeting:

Location: TBA
Date: TBA

Meeting adjourned at 2:48pm.

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