

2025 Adventure Articulation Group Meeting Minutes

May23rd, 2023, 10 AM – 12 PM

Location: Online

Chair(s): James Rodger, Sarah Osberg

Minutes: John Telford

Attending:

James Rodger – Thompson Rivers University

John Telford - Camosun College

Toby Stahl – Columbia Bible College

Julia Tashiro - SPL COLT Director

Jamie Boulding – SPL

Don Webster – College of the Rockies (ATBO)

Andrew Stegemann – Capilano University

Gregg Cormie – North Island College

Emma Courtney – Langara College

David Pinel - North Island College

Regrets:

Sarah Osberg – *Any others here you received to fill in please, James*

Guests: Karina Younk (BC Marine Trails), Sam Cutcliffe (BC Marine Trails)

1. Welcome/Call to order

- a. Brief introductions of participants – name, affiliation, territorial acknowledgements
- b. Regrets
- c. Confirmation of minute taker – John Telford
- d. Clarification of procedures/decision making – informal/conversational, motion and vote to carry as required

2. Approval of agenda

Motion: to approve agenda of May 23rd 2025

- Dave P and Don W proposed and accepted

3. **Approval of minutes**

Motion: to approve meeting minutes of May 31st, 2024

- Toby S and Emma C proposed and accepted.

4. **Correspondence & BCCAT updates**

- Informational presentation from BC Marine Trails representatives – focusing on the educational objectives of the organization (eg. Marine Trails Code of Conduct)
- BCCAT Updates – No discussion

5. **Reports**

One person from each institution/org to provide a program report for this recent year, including enrolment, successes, issues, changes, updates, trends, risk management, etc.

College of the Rockies (Golden Campus) – Don Webster

- Enrolment hit by changes to international student post-graduation work permit however recruitment for following year looks good
- Coordinator role changed from Dave Wan to Don W
- Program delivery – no major issues, steady positive. Field courses ran smoothly - no evacuations
- Challenges – adapting to use of AI in education is an ongoing work
- MAST program (for Sarah Osberg) - good enrolment. All running smoothly.

Columbia Bible Program - Toby Stahl

- Not too much impact on programs from international student PGWP changes. Slight decrease in enrolment this current year has corrected and numbers are looking better for coming year
- Land use - renewing use permits is ongoing process of negotiation
- No big incidents – some big storms during backpack trips lead to adaptations. Two mental health incidents were dealt with.

Thompson Rivers University Adventure Guide Program - James Rodger

- Good year in terms of numbers - slight growth
- Increasing incidence of student mental health challenges. Services from University to meet those challenges are not sufficient. Faculty are shouldering much of the load.
- Risk management – two dislocations in kayaking activities (resulting from previous injuries). Some cutting tool incidents and camp stove burns were the main issues dealt

with. Observing a decrease in kinaesthetic ability than in past. One case of prescription meds used in non-prescribed way.

- Rise in accommodations for learning in classroom. Not seen this need transfer over into requiring greater supports in the field
- One faculty member retiring soon. University is looking for voluntary retirements across board to reduce costs – hoping to return to 2017-18 staffing levels. Annual quality assurance exercise to justify staffing – adventure programs vulnerable due to operating costs. However, students' activity fees which mitigate against total cost don't show up in Uni metrics

Capilano University Outdoor Recreation Program – Andrew Stegemann

- Capacity is for 35 student cohort. Faculty feel 28 would be better size for teaching/learning.
- Lower numbers last year - 16. Danger of outdoor rec program cancelation but faculty made case for keeping it and were successful.
- Lot of effort went into recruitment in past year. Current students made videos that were used in promotional materials – post cards with QR code. Seems to have paid off – numbers looking good for next year.
- Outdoor Rec – SIP code covers program
- Possibility of new Bachelor of Outdoor Rec, Nature, and Wellness. Moving through the Uni system for consideration
- Chris Ladner and Roy Jensen both retired

North Island College Adventure Guiding Programs – Gregg Cormie & Dave Pinel

- No incidents to report
- Enrolment looking good. Media department has been engaging well with recruitment. Also strong recruitment outreach/communications with high schools by faculty
- College made number of cuts to programs. Department has seen cuts in staffing and diploma program has been paused. Certificate program remains. Overall feeling that department is in decent position to recover.
- Small wins on permitting and access to land for programs

Canadian Outdoor Leadership Training / Strathcona Park Lodge - Julia Tashiro / Jamie Boulding

- Enrolment challenges in past year. 2 students dropped out during spring semester – 7 graduated. Fall semester had some last minute withdrawals prior to start.
- Younger average age of participants
- Students generally showing lower organisational skills and ability to take responsibility for own learning.
- One major conflict as result of one student's values system. Lead to relational issues. Resulted in implementation of very clear group contract/agreement and also drugs/alcohol use agreement for future cohorts

- Risk management - one student with seizure condition that required careful management

Langara College – Emma Courtney

- Stable enrolment
- Department been active in developing research activities and partnerships (connecting with VIU). Research projects include looking at AI in recreation sector and post-secondary institutions, investigating experiences of racialized and immigrant status community members, and Musqueam First Nation collaboration.
- Possibility of creating new articulation committee focusing on recreation in municipal sphere

Camosun College Post Degree Diploma - John Telford

- No emergency incidents
- Current cohort running through program well
- Recruitment difficult this past year with result that no waitlist so a number of last minute withdrawals meant that program paused for 2025-26 to restart in July 2026
- Structural changes in College mean Adv Ed now sits under Kinesiology within School of Health Sciences and Human Services – possibility of positive new relationships and partnerships

6. Items arising from reports

Add items to agenda as required or agree follow-up strategy between relevant parties

- Link to research work - <https://students.langara.ca/departments/recreation/research/Faculty%20Research.html>
- Discussion on importance of marketing BC to potential students from other provinces – lack of awareness that there are adventure related programs available to them.
- Discussion on the value of promoting BC programs as a whole during outreach campaigns, conferences, etc. We all benefit from each others’ successes – eg. laddering from diplomas into Bachelor degrees, etc.
- Mention of Outdoor Recreation Council of BC report demonstrating economic value of recreation and also this report from Protect Our Winters - <https://www.protectourwinters.ca/economicreport>

7. “Moving forward” updates

College of the Rockies (Golden Campus) – Don Webster

- *Sorry Don, didn’t catch what you said here....*

Thompson Rivers University Adventure Guide Program - James Rodger

- Succession planning for possible retirements
- New President and Provost over the next 12-18 months
- Bargaining starting this year

North Island College Adventure Guiding Programs – Gregg Cormie & Dave Pinel

- Discussions with administration regarding post-secondary certificated programs that also provide industry certification

8. Items arising from moving forward updates

9. Other new business

10. Date of next meeting

Late May / early June 2026

Adjourn meeting:

- **12:20 Motion to Adjourn** - Don W and Dave P proposed and accepted