

**BCCAT Economics Conference 2025 Business Meeting Minutes  
Vancouver School of Economics, UBC-Vancouver**

**Venue: Vancouver School of Economics  
600 Iona Drive, Room 301  
Monday, April 28, 2025**

**Attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Maliha Nazir	University of Victoria
Joshua Boitnott	Corpus Christi College
Marisha Pandya	LaSalle College Vancouver
Ananya Chakraborty	Ascenda School of Management
Shamaila Nawaz	North Island College
Iqtidar Shah	Yorkville University
Karima Fredj	University of Northern British Columbia
Wei Dai	University of British Columbia (Okanagan)
Sonya Plater	Coquitlam College
Kevin Richter	Douglas College
James Wishart	College of the Rockies
Laurel Xiao	Alexander College
Elisabeth Gugl	University of Victoria
Laura Lamb	Thompson Rivers University
Ocean Fan Lu	Camosun College
Lozelle Reed	Okanagan College
Jonathan Buttle	Selkirk College
Tracy Stobbe	Trinity Western University
Stephane Deseau	Columbia College
Chieko Tanimura	Capilano University
Jonathan Graves	University of British Columbia (Vancouver)
Raged Anwar	Langara College
Bryan Breguet	Langara College
Mokhtar Tabari	University Canada West
David Freeman	Simon Fraser
Anna Tikina	BCCAT
Lu Wang	Farleigh Dickinson

## First block (10:30am-12pm)

1. Call to order
  - a. Meeting was called to order at 10:35am.
2. Introductions/welcome
  - a. Breguet welcomed committee members.
3. Approval of agenda and additional item
  - a. **Motion to approve agenda as presented (Josh Boitnott, Corpus Christi/Chieko Tanimura, Capilano). Carried.**
  - b. Ascenda School of Management graciously offered to host the 2026 BC Economics Articulation meeting.
  - c. Articulation committee members were very appreciative.
4. Approval of previous minutes from April 29, 2024 at Langara College
  - a. Review of business arising and action items
  - b. This item was initially skipped. Committee returned to it at 11:48am.
  - c. **Motion to approve minutes (Elizabeth Gugl, UVic/Shamaila Nawaz, NIC). Carried.**
5. Report from System Liaison Person, Vlada Dvoracek (focus on Labour Market Outcomes)
  - a. Dvoracek joined via Zoom.
  - b. Provided an overview of BC Labour Market Outcomes Data for UFV students using survey data. Provided similar information using tax data as well. The two provided similar outcomes information according to Dvoracek.
  - c. Brief Q&A followed.
  - d. Dvoracek will provide the presentation slides to the articulation committee chair, and indicated he would accept a nomination if re-nominated to the role of System Liason.
6. Report from BCCAT by Anna Tikina
  - a. Provided a brief overview of what BCCAT does for the benefit of new committee members.
  - b. Notified members about 'JAM' sessions offered by BCCAT including some with a focus on international student trends. Noted that prior session recordings are available on the BCCAT website.
  - c. BCCAT offers awards for some who support BC transfers; some faculty may be eligible for some awards. Nomination period will be open soon. Information available on BCCAT website.
  - d. Recently published BCCAT student transfer performance and profile. Shows that transfer student performance does not differ much from direct entry students. One notable finding: 30% of BC students are transfer students.
  - e. Described a few reports that are forthcoming on the BCCAT website.
  - f. BCCAT is collaborating with ONCAT for sharing technology. Ontario will deploy the same transfer system as BC in June. Will facilitate easier sharing of information among the two jurisdictions.
  - g. Student transitions project recently published a report on international students. Tikina will provide the report to Breguet for sharing with the committee.

- h. Courses sent for articulation remain in the transfer system for one year. Decisions have to be made within a year. List of courses will be sent to the articulation chair.
- i. Sonya Plater highlighted the usefulness of a booklet called the Articulation Companion guide. Tikina mentioned it is available on the BCCAT site.
- j. Tikina provided BCCAT socks to the committee chair, vice chair, and minute taker.
- k. Breguet asked about whether grades or level of difficulty are considered in transferring. For instance, at some institutions are characterized by higher grades than others. Asked whether this data is tracked by BCCAT. Tikina noted that BCCAT does not track this data, and institutions determine how they assess whether credit from courses are granted, and offer only guidelines.
- l. Committee chair and members thanked Tikina for the information provided.

First block concluded at 11:48pm.

Second block started at 1:02pm.

### **Second block (1pm-2:30pm)**

- 7. Presentation of institutional reports (45 min)
  - a. Breguet explained how the institutional reports will be shared (available on Moodle and summarized by Breguet during the meeting).
  - b. Common themes according to Breguet:
    - i. Decline in enrolment
    - ii. Camosun noted second year courses doing better than first year
    - iii. Corpus Christi international student numbers down quite a bit
    - iv. Many departments using open resources
    - v. Alexander College does not accept fully online asynchronous courses from students who are returning from academic suspension
  - c. Additions from institutions
    - i. **University of Victoria:** Struggling with enrolment, renewing faculty work is not looking great. Successfully implemented a few changes in the undergraduate program. Additional honours stream created. Only provides credit if exams are in person. New Senior Academic Coordinator position (faculty role) has been great.
    - ii. **Yorkville:** Created new facilities, 4 full-time faculty and 7 part-time faculty. New LMS Brightspace has been adopted. Significant decline in student enrolment. Paused admission for summer 2025 term.
    - iii. **Camosun:** Fall in international enrollment. Primarily service dept for business. So not much of a downturn in microeconomics. Greater decline in second year courses (associated with Arts programs). There is a hiring freeze at UVic. By the end of July, hoping that no one will lose their job. New BBA program about Sustainability Management; will include a new course about the economics of sustainability.

- iv. **North Island College:** Significant drop in international enrolment. Reduced one section each of micro- and macroeconomics. Decrease in the number of faculty members, no new sessional faculty to be hired in 2025-2026. Three layoffs and more expected in the coming year.
- v. **Okanagan College:** Heavily affected by drop in IE. Lost 11 econ sections (1 full time, plus sessional). Looking at moving to in person online exams.
- vi. **UBC Okanagan:** Decline in enrolment. Two new courses: ECON 333, American Economic History, ECON 366: Economic Analysis of Criminal Law.
- vii. **UFV:** Program review approved last year. Updating courses according to EDI/DEI. President stepping down.
- viii. **Alexander College:** Drop in enrolment. Focusing more on transfer now as a result. Was not able to offer sessional instructors any courses this semester. Looking into open resources. Developed a course pack of the intro to econ course. New downtown campus.
- ix. **Trinity Western University:** No decline in enrolment. Will probably hire. Possibly fulltime tenure track.
- x. **Ascenda School of Management:** As of March 2025, 1386 students. Using open textbooks and McGraw Hill textbooks.
- xi. **TRU:** Declining enrolment. Changes to the math courses in the core. Revising another course that will be approximately 50% managerial economics, and approximately 50% sustainability. Hired for a Canada research chair position; joining in July.
- xii. **Fairleigh Dickenson University:** Main campus in New Jersey. Econ courses under the umbrella of business school. New Assoc Provost was appointed in March. Significant drop in enrolment.
- xiii. **UNBC:** Drop in enrolment. Hired two new tenure track positions (back up to 6 faculty). New three-year term position. Curriculum development: working on MA, from Development Economics to Applied Economics. Many courses changed, some courses added. Some changes in undergrad program prerequisites. Two new courses: Indigenous Economics and Sustainability Economics.
- xiv. **Capilano University:** Looking for new President and VP Academic/Provost. Expanded to take over Quest University. Dept will offer Sustainability certificate in fall. No section cancellation so far. Not hiring any new people. There may be more regularization, faculty joining from nonregular group soon.
- xv. **Coquitlam College:** Institution is set up as an international student institution, so it has been affected. Focusing more on transfer now as a result.
- xvi. **Corpus Christi:** Enrolment fairly stable. Enrolment will probably go down next semester. Name will not be changed to St. Marks after all. Will likely apply for a BA degree in 2026.

- xvii. **University Canada West:** Enrollment fairly steady (about 13,000 students). May drop a bit, but not too much. Hiring aggressively the last few years; not in econ, but still hiring continuing faculty in computer science, project management and some other areas. Hired a new econ faculty member.
  - xviii. **Douglas College:** Stable enrolment so far leading up to the summer. Dean asked to have a few sections cut, didn't get to it in time, filled up, so those sections are running. One retirement, two junior faculty members have been reassigned to teach throughout the year (three terms). Looking to develop a PDD. The first one on global economics is doing well. New campus is still being built. Revising some old courses; including economics of globalization and the world economy.
  - xix. **Selkirk College:** Being hit hard (120 to 14 international students). Not sure if there will still be a business school next year.
  - xx. **College of the Rockies:** Declining enrolment. Some programs suspended. New president taking over.
  - xxi. **Columbia College:** Declining enrolment. One faculty member retiring.
  - xxii. **La Salle College:** Partnership with UNBC. Offering some of the UNBC courses on their campus. Decline in sessional faculty contracts. No change for fulltime faculty so far.
  - xxiii. **Simon Fraser University:** One new research faculty member. Two retirements. IE students declining moderately. General faculty hiring is down. Proposed concentration in economics in public policy. BSC in Economics similar to U Vic proposed. Decreased entry requirement a bit (marginal). Joint program between econ, philosophy and political science (?) proposed.
  - xxiv. **UBC Vancouver:** Overall enrolment hasn't fallen at the university. Composition has shifted. Some hiring freezes/chills in economics. Will be admitting students with a minimum of 24 credits (after first year) soon. Some first-year requirements will be changed (calculus requirement will be changed). Reserving seats for some transfers, and different transfer requirements. Get in touch if interested in details. Hired new faculty member to take over most of the first year courses.
8. Roundtable discussion: report about how we teach principles courses + success rates
- a. Breguet provided overview of survey on how economics is taught at different institutions.
  - b. Graves stated that they look at how assessments are used in courses. Value of some out of class summative assessments has declined due to technological advances. Looking at the summative/formative splits. The survey suggests that some depts target grades and others don't. UBC uses them primarily to compare across sections and compare to historical averages. Uses soft target averages.
  - c. Some discussion followed. Breguet mentioned that at this stage the committee is just sharing information so each can assess it.

- d. Discussion about scaling ensued. UVic explained that scaling is not allowed at UVic. If grades are too high or low, this is discussed with at the chair level with relevant instructors.
- e. One institution noted that the institution encourages to not fail students.
- f. UVic asked about transfers, coverage and the number of instructional hours; some institutions cover more material over a shorter number of instructional hours, how should this be addressed?
- g. Tikina suggested considering the appropriate number of credit hours, also referred to the guide on articulating courses on the BCCAT website

Second block concluded at 2:25pm.

Third block started at 2:51pm.

### **Third block (2:50pm-4pm)**

- 9. Election/Re-election of chair and co-chair and SLP
  - a. This item was not initially discussed. Came back to it at 3:47pm.
  - b. The current chair and co-chair will continue in their current roles for another year.
  - c. **Motion (Stephane, Columbia College/NAME OF SECONDER): Vlada Dvoracek continue as system liaison. Carried.**
- 10. Roundtable discussion: AI + online exams discussion
  - a. Breguet asked about how people handle in-person invigilation for online courses
  - b. Camosun College helps schedule exams with third parties, but charges students \$30
  - c. Yorkville has an accommodation and consideration department. Students apply, and if approved, then the instructor accommodates.
  - d. UBC Vancouver doesn't offer online courses right now. There is a list of approved institutions. There is a nominal fee. The list of approved institutions is available on the UBC website.
  - e. One institution requires all exams be in-person and paper-based.
  - f. Some institutions use lockdown browsers or are considering lockdown browsers
  - g. Some institutions noted that concerns raised by invigilation technologies like Proctorio
  - h. UVic allows in person courses with up to 30% of the classes online. Department policy is no exams online.
  - i. Breguet asked whether AI has changed anything for committee members recently.
  - j. One participant noted that some employers seem to value the ability to use AI, another participant described how some of their colleagues are using more AI in their curriculum; some members also noted they use AI for course content.

- k. UBC noted that AI is forcing people to think about the purpose of assessments and consider the formative-summative distinction. Could strengthen our assessments.
  - l. At UVic not allowed mandate the use of AI in courses, but they can encourage it.
  - m. One committee member described how they use AI for their own research.
  - n. One member offered 4 paths for AI that they've run across from various sources:
    - i. AI tutors in textbook platforms; tries to improve their thought process
    - ii. Provide all course content to the AI, then student can engage in conversation with AI as if it's a TA for the student
    - iii. Creating scenarios to make theories more relatable and more realistic examples
    - iv. Interview AI while telling the bot to take on the persona of a prior economist
  - o. UCW presented some information received at the last ASSA meeting (hosted by the AEA). One big topic was RBG (relevance, belonging, growth). Suggested the importance of RBG in our classrooms.
11. Next meeting (format, location, date)
- a. Next articulation meeting will be held **in-person** at **Ascenda School of Management**. The date will be confirmed in by December 2025.
12. Closing remarks
- a. Coquitlam College suggested discussing Indigenization and RBG in a future meeting. UBC agreed and suggested discussing engagement with high schools as well.

**Motion to adjourn (Stephane, Coquitlam College/Marisha, La Salle College). Carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:04pm.