

# GENDER, SEXUALITY AND WOMEN'S STUDIES (GSWS) ARTICULATION COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

### BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL on ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFERS (BCCAT)

Hosted by SFU, on zoom

Meeting Date(s): 8 May 2025

Present:

Member Institution	Representative	Email
Alexander College	Chris Rahim	c.rahim@alexandercollege.ca
Camosun College	Karoline Guelke	GuelkeK@camosun.ca
Capilano University	Sarah Yercich, Mathew Arthur	sarahyercich@capilanou.ca mathewarthur@capilanou.ca
College of New Caledonia	Marc Sinclair	sinclairm4@cnc.bc.ca
Douglas College	Sally Mennill (acting) Jill Fellows	fellowsj@douglascollege.ca mennills@douglascollege.ca
Fraser International College	Sandie Dielissen	sdielissen@learning.fraseric.ca
Langara College	Manisha Singh Itrath Syed	msingh@langara.ca
Okanagan College	Emma Lind	ELind@okanagan.bc.ca
Selkirk College	Janet Mayr	jmayr@selkirk.ca
Simon Fraser University	Tiffany Muller Myrdahl (acting), Vaibhav Saria	vsaria@sfu.ca
Trinity Western University	Holly Nelson (acting), Robynne Healey	<a href="mailto:Holly.Nelson@twu.ca">Holly.Nelson@twu.ca</a> Robynne.Healey@twu.ca
UBC-Okanagan	Ilya Parkins	ilya.parkins@ubc.ca
University of Northern BC	Maryna Romanets	Maryna.Romanets@unbc.ca
University of Victoria	Thea Cacchioni (acting)	gndrchair@uvic.ca
Vancouver Island University	KJ Reed	kj.reed@viu.ca
BCCAT Representative	Fiona McQuarrie	fmcquarrie@bccat.ca

Recorder: Marc Sinclair

#### 1. Meeting Called to Order at 10:00 AM

#### 2. Introductions/welcome

In attendance: Sarah Yercich, Marc Sinclair, Sally Mennill, Manisha Singh, Itrath Syed, Emma Lind, Janet Mayr, Tiffany Muller Myrdahl, Vaibhav Saria, Holly Faith Nelson, Ilya Parkins, Thea Cacchioni, KJ Reed, Fiona McQuarrie

- Regrets: Chris Rahim (Alexander College), Karoline Guelke (Camosun), Sandie Dielissen (FIC), Maryna Romanets (UNBC)

- Land acknowledgement was made by Tiffany.

- i. Participants wrote their land acknowledgements in the chat

### 3. Approval of Agenda and Any Additional Items

Motion: to approve agenda and minutes.

Passed

### 4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- The motion from the 2024 meeting, "That the Women's Studies committee change its name to Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies (GSWS) committee" was circulated for a vote by April 30, 2025. The name change was unanimously approved (13 YES votes, 1 did not respond). BCCAT has been notified and will be updating the committee name on the BCCAT website.
- M. Singh to share info about how people are responding to onslaught of AI on assignments. Langara does not have a coherent institutional response. What she had is now outdated.
  - Tiffany provided links about SFU and the use of AI in her report.
  - Emma – AI has undermined the "essay" as a major assignment. Reverberations about AI extend beyond AI. Academic integrity hard to police.
  - Janet – AI has impacted integrity of the paper. AI can't discuss emotions or concepts such as white privilege. More personal reflections. Going towards "unpapers" so portfolios or the construction of blogs, debates, mock trials. Creative solutions. Trying to be innovative to achieve authentic assessments.

### 5. Election of Chair: Manisha Singh will serve as Chair for 2026.

### 6. Presentation of Institutional Reports

- a. Please see institutional reports

- i. General and/or novel themes – AI; cutbacks; layoffs; removing credentials; creation of minor in some programs; budgeting decisions sometimes confusing; solidarity across GSW to maintain its importance as a pillar of postsecondary education; colleges seem to be impacted more than universities; some schools feel pressure to be neoliberal marketers; mindset changing from having students registered in courses to the number of majors as indicators
  1. M. Singh - What kind of solidarity would we have about the preservation of GSW program's across the committee?
  2. Vaibhav – Associate Dean wanted a list of articulated courses but there was some pushback from other departments because of revenue crunch. That is, articulation agreements have been student-centred and flexible, but courses that don't transfer

exactly may be in danger of not articulating as well as they have in the past. Coalition building was highlighted as an option that we explore.

3. M. Singh - What is streamlining? Interdisciplinary studies hasn't had an indication that certain courses weren't meeting the bar (even through program review). Dean says he sees enrolments in the program, but students are not completing the credentials. Removing the credentials impacts the stability of the program. Streamlining means removing the credentials associated with the program.
4. Students inquiring about practicality of credential designation (ie – what is it that I can do with X credential?)

## 7. BCCAT Report – Fiona MacQuarrie

- a. Articulation meetings are a place for BCCAT and also a place of solidarity across disciplines
- b. More than 60 articulation committees.
  - i. BCCAT encourages in-person meetings with online options.
  - ii. Concerns with cutbacks and international enrolments.
    1. Some concerns about tariffs and potential impacts on programs.
  - iii. BCCAT one of the best transfer credit systems in the world.
    1. Helps efficiency and provides students options and flexibility.
  - iv. JAM – Brings together participants.
    1. Next year Jam is Nov 6 and 7.
      - a. November 6 is online
      - b. November 7 is hybrid
        - i. Switching to Pheedloop platform
        - ii. Every session from last year's jam is on the BCCAT youtube channel.
      - c. Some pushback from institutions sending attendees (re: travel funding).
        - i. This is stated in Articulation Research Guide
      - d. Previous Research
        - i. Overview of practices
        - ii. Recent version of transfer student demographics from 2019-2023
        - iii. BCCAT doing review of policy of institutional membership
          1. Draft review being circulated to stakeholders to approve hopefully for fall.
        - iv. TCS allows institutions to send and receive requests. Ontario is adapting BC's system for their use. Running by June/July. This software has the capability to link systems from BC and Ontario for transfer credit evaluation

## 8. Manisha – Program Evaluation at Langara

- a. Hoping to have folks volunteer as an external reviewers
  - i. Interested in having larger universities volunteer
    1. Sally Mennill (Douglas)
    2. Vaibhav (as a last resort). There was a concern raised about lack of experience.
      - a. Tiffany Muller (happy to serve so long as she doesn't have to be the main author of the report)

## 9. Emma Lind – Okanagan

- a. Layoffs have been discussed.
- b. Discussion of solidarity
- c. Manisha - Associate of Arts are at risk – This puts colleges at risk
  - What is the benchmark of enrolment to see these degrees as being seen as relevant?
  - i. Faculty expectations to recruit students
  - ii. Vaibhav – Prospect of larger schools absorbing faculty already employed in smaller schools (so as to maintain employment)
    - 1. Janet - Suspensions of GSW programs in Ontario
    - 2. Elimination of DEI positions and policies.
    - 3. Manisha – When funding cuts happen we need to support one another in programs
    - 4. KJ – At VIU, the solidarity between students and faculty has helped with regards to securitization policies (library hours closures)
      - a. Marc – Can we start a discussion board in a BCCAT Moodle?
        - i. Fiona – Annabella Chung can start that up.
        - ii. Some other committees are coming together to write letters to management or the Ministry
          - 1. If letters are created they should be clear that they are from the committee and not from BCCAT.
        - iii. Tiffany – Will be stepping away from the role and can inquire about Moodle but cannot administrate it.
      - iv. Emma – We are inundated with Moodle. Maybe emails are better.

## 10. Location for Next Year.

- a. Davina offered to host at UVIC next year.
- b. Could be a hybrid option.
- c. Manisha will be the Chair
- d. Tiffany to send email to Davina regarding the timing.