

# BCCAT Articulation Committee Meeting Minutes

## 2025 Conference

### Welcome from VCC

- Dennis Innes – Dean of the School of Hospitality, Food Studies & Applied Business & Willy Aroca, Associate Director. Chantal Jones, Co-Chair for Hospitality & VCC Faculty.
- Morning blessing by Elder Ruth.

### Guest Speakers:

- Mike Winsemann, BCCAT
    - New developments in the BC Transfer Credit System
    - Ontario developing their TC system based on BC's. Hopes for future interprovincial TC opportunities.
  - Walt Judas, TIABC
    - Advocacy & Policy development
    - Member priorities: 55% Economic development and value of tourism, 32% MRDT, 23% Access & Infrastructure development, 21% Emergency Preparedness
    - Opportunities for tourism to support BC economy, lobbying for gov't recognition
    - System bottlenecks: regulatory friction, workforce gaps, infrastructure deficits, climate & emergency resilience, marketing under-investment. DBC budget flat.
    - Practical roadmap – enabling infrastructure, streamlining permits, workforce programs, Indigenous-led tourism projects, accelerating climate initiatives.
    - MRDT, STR Registry (Short term rentals)
    - Example of Cascade Skyline Gondola Project, facing barriers despite proper impact assessments.
  - Dr. Randall Martin, BCCIE
    - Relayed the history of post-secondary and international students that led us to where we are today.
    - International numbers not returning to levels pre-IRCC changes
    - Predicting a 2-year stabilization period for post-secondary institutions as they pivot and reassess their strategies and products.
    - Encouraging partnerships between urban and rural institutions as students are drawn to cities, making it harder for rural schools.
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# 2025 Hospitality Articulation Committee Meeting:

## Attendees:

Member Institution	Representative	Email
Acsenda School of Management	Nirmal Vasanth	Nirmal.Vasanth@Acsenda.com
College of the Rockies	Anna-Marie Rautenbach	arautenbach@cotr.bc.ca
Douglas College	Mark Elliott	elliottm@douglascollege.ca
Farleigh Dickinson University	Michael Lever Hiran Roy	<a href="mailto:m.lever@fdu.edu">m.lever@fdu.edu</a> hiranroy@fdu.edu
LaSalle College Vancouver	Mohsen Taghodomly Saberi	msaberi@lceducation.com
Selkirk College	Wendy Anderson	wanderson@selkirk.ca
Thompson Rivers University	David Carter	dcarter@tru.ca
University Canada West	Ashli Komaryk	ashli.komaryk@ucanwest.ca
Vancouver Community College	Chantal Jones Bobbi Mand	<a href="mailto:chjones@vcc.ca">chjones@vcc.ca</a> bmand@vcc.ca
Vancouver Island University	Jean-Guy Robichaud Rob Ferguson	<a href="mailto:Jean-guy.robichaud@viu.ca">Jean-guy.robichaud@viu.ca</a> rob.ferguson@viu.ca
Western Community College	Patricia Villacorta Julia Gromyhalova	patricia@wcc.ca julia@wcc.ca
Regrets: Camosun College	David Pritchard	<a href="mailto:pritchardD@camosun.ca">pritchardD@camosun.ca</a>
Regrets: Okanagan College	Tania Rutt	trutt@okanagan.bc.ca

## Introduction & Call to Order: Nirmal Vasanth, Chair

- Approval of minutes of the Articulation Committee meeting of April 25, 2024. Minutes approved by Mark Elliott (Douglas), second by David Carter (TRU). Carried.
- Business Arising from Previous Minutes: None
- 2025 Agenda – comprised of topics from chairs and institutional contributions. See appendix for full 2025 Agenda.

## Institutional Updates: See documents in BCCAT Moodle

## Discussions

### *Setting the Tone for Articulation - Rob Ferguson, VIU & Hospitality Articulation SLP*

- Rob's role has been supporting hospitality & tourism chairs.
- Challenges with weakened ability to work together on larger projects ex: LinkBC.
- Support expressed for a collective voice for tourism, hospitality educators (task force).
- Ensuring student mobility agreements between institutions are recognized. **68 hospitality agreements in system, committee members need to fill gaps in the system, it's part of our mandate.** There are 118 agreements in tourism.
- Formalize the trust that we have through the system. Core curriculum effort. **We should send out old handbooks 2018 for revisions.** 2019 effort was to create **core curriculum base for reviewing block transfer agreements – need to be reviewed.**

### *Discussion: Current Issues*

- Interprovincial issues with block transfer? (mike will speak to this). BCCAT has been closed to BC only and ON has been trying to get in.
- Observation that private institutions are doing far better than public. Why? Ascenda: Quick decision making and approvals. Diversification of the student body. Philippines, India, Mexico. “CIPing” the programs... What did that look like? Food science and nutrition. Already have many students working in senior living. One key area Senior Living Concierge service.
- Diploma enrollments are down for private, so they may see reductions in degree next year.
- Canadian reputation is damaged. Things shifted slightly with Justin Trudeau resigning, but the rejection rates by IRCC are very high (up to 70%).
- Tourism investment, tourism growth. “warm body syndrome”, students may choose not to seek education when they can just get jobs and work their way up. Our programs are competing with business programs too.
- Industry may hire English proficient high school student versus educated international graduates.
- Interesting to know how many students are using the transfer guide. Selkirk, TRU seeing minimal use. Some use from ON to BC in adventure tourism. Students like to see the possibilities but don’t always use. Perhaps the increase in international lowered use as mostly domestic uses the TC Guide?

### *Discussion: Updating Block Transfer Credit Information:*

- Need the grid (excel comparison sheet) that aligns with core curriculum. Grid was designed to be given to institutional reps, then it gets entered into the TC system.
- **ACTION ITEM everyone update the grid!**
- Can consider using the recent research by Tourism HR Canada that provides an analysis of core competencies for various Tourism/Hospitality jobs and represents industry validation of the core courses.
- Observation: Hospitality is one sector of Tourism. Perception is hospitality is Hotels vs. Restaurants and Tourism is attractions.
- Suggestion by Wendy – gather in the fall to work on the core courses and core competencies.

### *Discussion: Red Seal Transfer into Degree*

- Culinary into Hospitality makes sense but has to be different than other degrees.

- VCC – BHM Executive Cohort would make more sense for existing Chefs. Considering offering a similar pathway as VIU but does not currently have electives. VCC wants to ensure students are set up for success entering the BHM.
- VIU used to have bridge term, now in the degree, they have to take 8 electives, and they've included those bridge courses in the electives, and they have to take 4. Back to a 2-year program. 120 credits total/5 courses per semester. 60 diploma/40 degree
  - Giving Red Seal Chefs block transfer credit of 60 credits to come into BHM.

### *Accessibility for ND*

- Autism BC - Paper Planes Café. By Radisson Hotel. They have a hard time to find those who are trained to work with neurodiverse students.
- Case Program @ VCC – have hospitality specific program
- Neurodiversity – EDI – we can educate them, but how do they do in the industry?
- Technology – AI is good helping to take Moodle and make them more accessible to diverse learners.
- Can offer a coop or internship with partners in the industry who have places for them.
- Micro credentials could be offered
- Some chefs taking initiative, recruiting ND people and giving training.

### *PLAR for Adult Learners*

- Douglas – post experience diploma. Not doing PLAR.
- There are so few domestic students. Hard to validate international experience.
- Very few exceptional entries (Selkirk)
- FDU. Removed “hospitality” degree out as qualification to get into Masters, replaced with interpersonal skills, interview process. Getting somewhat unrelated degree students ex: law. Looking for engaged students. Just started Fall 2026.
- Time consuming.
- Students still pay for the courses they PLAR.
- Offering micro credentials to upskill

### *Election/Reelection of 2026 Chair/Co-Chair & Host Selection*

- Nirmal to finish as Chair. Chantal to move up to Chair in 2026
  - Motion to approve Chantal Jones for Chair 2026. Moved: Mark Elliott, Seconded: Bobbi Mand. Carried
  - Motion to approve Jean-Guy Robichaud for Co-Chair 2026. Moved: David Carter, Seconded: Wendy Anderson. Carried.
- David Carter from TRU has offered to host in 2026
- Rob Ferguson from VIU has offered to host 2027

## ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Update GRID at each institution.** It would be nice to know which classes are online for retake opportunities (ex: TRU sees many retakes in their online courses). Set up shared document in BCCAT Moodle. Add new institutions to Google doc. UPDATE BEFORE SUMMER VACATION. Update handbook. Update System. NEED TO DO THIS ALONGSIDE TOURISM. **DUE END OF JUNE.**
  - a. Set meeting date end of September
  - b. Chantal to create Google Sheet as a shared document to update GRID
2. **Handbook update**
  - a. If we change any core courses, tourism should be involved. When we send out Moodle/Google doc, loop in Martin, Chair for Tourism Committee.
  - b. **Meet Thursday September 25, 2025 at 4pm via TEAMS** to discuss core courses and learning outcomes.

## Next Meeting:

Online via Teams

September 25, 2025 re: updates to Grid and Core Curriculum review.

2026 Annual meeting date TBA.

## APPENDIX: 2025 AGENDA

### BCCAT – 2025

#### Hospitality, Tourism, and Culinary Articulation Meeting

**Date: 02 May 2025**

**Time:** 08:00 am to 12:15 pm

**Location:** VCC Downtown Campus, 250 W Pender St, Vancouver, BC V6B 1S9

**Members:** Mr. Nirmal Vasanth (Chair)  
Ms. Chantal Jones (Co-Chair)

<i>Order</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Action required</i>
<b>1 to 11</b>	<b>08:00 am to 12:15 pm</b>		
1	Welcome	Nirmal Vasanth Chantal Jones	
2	Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement	Nirmal Vasanth	Call to order
3	Approval of Agenda for BCCAT Articulation Hospitality Breakout Session	Nirmal Vasanth	Approval
4	Approval of the Minutes of Meeting 2024 Members to Review Minutes -2024 Action Items from Previous Meeting	Nirmal Vasanth	Approval
5	Institutional Updates Individual Institutes – 5 mts each <b>08:20 am to 09:15 am</b>	Institutional Representatives	Discussion
6	Discussion on <b>Review of BC Transfer Guide – Block Transfer Options</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status, challenges, and opportunities for improvement.</li> </ul> <b>09:15 am – 09:30 am</b> <b>Diploma-to-Degree Articulations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of existing pathways and identification of gaps.</li> </ul> <b>09:30 am – 10:00 am</b> <b>Revisiting Program Articulations</b>		



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Innovative engagement and recruitment initiatives.</li> </ul> <p><i>11:30 am to 11: 45 am</i></p>		
<b>NON-STANDING ITEMS (11:45 – 12:00 noon)</b>			
8	<p><b>Joint Institutional Projects and Applied Research Collaboration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities for cross-institutional research or innovation projects involving faculty and students.</li> </ul> <p><b>Indigenous Pathways and Cultural Competency in Program Design</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancing accessibility and relevance for Indigenous learners across institutions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Micro-Credentials and Stackable Certificates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploring the integration of short-term skills training into existing articulation pathways.</li> </ul>		
<b>CLOSING (12:00 to 12:15 noon)</b>			
9	<p><b>Summary of key Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Identification of Follow-up Points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open Floor for Final comments, reflections, or announcements</li> </ul>	Nirmal Vasanth Chantal Jones	
10	<p><b>Chair and Co–Chair for 2026</b></p> <p><b>Articulation to be the same (as per the Articulation handbook)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open for an additional Co-Chair for the Next Articulation Meeting</li> </ul>	Nirmal Vasanth Chantal Jones	Discussion Plan for action
11	<p><b>Confirmation of Next Articulation Meeting Date and Host Institution</b></p>	Discussion All	Discussion Plan for action
12	<p><b>Appreciation to All Participants, presenters, Organizers, Host Institution, and Volunteers</b></p>	Nirmal Vasnath Chantal Jones	