

BC Political Science Articulation Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: May 2nd, 2025

Location: LaSalle College, Vancouver, In Person

Chair: Greg Millard

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Greg Millard.

Land Acknowledgement: Delivered by Greg Millard.

Introductions:

Attendees included:

- Dr. Anna Tikina, Director, Research & Admissions, BCCAT
- Greg Millard (KPU)
- Chris Beach (CNC)
- Michael Laurence (Capilano University)
- David Matijasevich (Capilano University)
- Sanjay Jeram (SFU)
- Jason Lacharite (UNBC)
- Nader Ganji (University Canada West)
- Jocelyn McGrandle (Columbia College)
- Neil Cruickshank (SLP)
- Darin Nesbitt (Douglas College)
- Saira Bano (Thompson Rivers University)
- Leanne Smythe (Trinity Western University)
- Richard Gleadoah (Alexander College)
- Maria Glara Brito (LaSalle College)
- Carey Doberstein (UBC)
- Stephen Phillips (Langara College)

2. Welcome & Introductions

3. Approvals

3.1 Approval of Agenda (Moved by Stephen – Unanimous? Sorry no recording)

3.2 Approvals of 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes from the 2024 meeting.

Moved by: Stephen

Seconded by: Chris

Motion carried.

3.3 Election of Chair for Next Year

- Anna suggested extending Chair terms to two years for continuity.
 - Stephen noted the past practice of having the Secretary become Chair.
 - Discussion deferred to the end of the meeting.
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4. Business Arising

4.1 BCCAT Joint Annual Meeting (JAM)

- JAM will take place on November 6 (Online or Hybrid).
- Discussion of transfer awards and recognition for impactful contributions to student success.

4.2 Action Items from Previous Year

- Request for participation from research universities was successful.
- Communication between Articulation Chairs and BCPSA minimal.
- Greg proposed including one articulation Chair on the Executive.

- **Motion:** That a Co-Chair sit as a guest on the Executive.

Moved by: Stephen

Seconded by: Darin

Motion carried.

5. New Business

5.1 Future of the BC Transfer Program

Discussion led by Darin:

- PSCI merged with History at Douglas due to enrollment issues.
- Microcredentials seen as a questionable trend.
- Concerns raised about advisor and student awareness of transfer opportunities.
- Rosalind emphasized the need for more block transfers and internal promotion of transferability.
- Suggestions included rethinking the role of PSCI and its communication to students.

5.2 Navigating AI in the Classroom

Discussion facilitated by Darin and others:

- Concerns about integrity, overreliance on AI tools, and lack of institutional guidance.
- Stephen and others noted a shift to in-class assessments.
- UBC noted a need to define what skills a PSCI degree should offer.
- SFU (Sanjay) advocated for creating assessments that allow for ethical AI use.
- Rosalind emphasized writing as central to PSCI critical thinking.
- Varied institutional responses and policy levels noted.
- General agreement that further collaboration and policy development is needed.

5.3 TRU Program Application

Saira (TRU) shared concerns about the requested withdrawal of their proposed degree in Politics & International Studies.

- Concerns included sustainability and reliance on international students.
- Multiple members expressed support and frustration at the opaque review process.

Motion: That the BCPSA Articulation Committee expresses general support for TRU's proposed Politics and International Studies major.

Motion carried (unanimously)

5.4 Future Meeting Formats

- Concerns raised about switching fully to online.
- Hybrid format deemed burdensome for hosting institutions.
- Suggestion to have BCCAT send memos reminding institutions of their financial responsibility to support instructor travel.

Action Item: Chairs will remind their institutions that participation is subsidized and financially supported.

6. Reports

6.1 Institutional Reports

Langara (Stephen Phillips): Declining enrollment, faculty retirements, shift to vocational focus.

UBC (Gary): Good enrollment, dynamic instruction at 1st-year level, hiring freeze.

Okanagan College (Rosalind): Enrollment down, program pauses, advocacy for more class time.

LaSalle (Maria): Political Science not a current priority; proposals stalled.

Alexander College (Richard): Feeder programs paused; shift to online delivery.

Trinity Western (Leanne): Stable enrollment, program review underway.

TRU (Saira): Frustrations over blocked expansion, lack of clarity.

Douglas College (Darin): Strong enrollment but faculty cuts; planning new credential.

Columbia College (Jocelyn): Reduced faculty, committed to program despite financial strain.

UCW (Nader): Hiring more full-time faculty; adding Political Science content.

UNBC (Jason Lacharite): Stable department; budget cuts anticipated.

SFU (Sanjay): Enrollment rebounded; limited offerings due to freeze.

Capilano (David): International reliance; course cuts; working on a minor in PSCI.

CNC (Chris): Declining enrollment, only Sessional will be let go, down to one full-time instructor

KPU (Greg): Lost 1 FTE. Challenging but program integrity maintained.

7. Elections

Motion: To elect Greg Millard and Chris as Co-Chairs for the upcoming term.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Next Meeting

Host Institution: TRU (Rosalind confirmed)

10. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: [Mover/Seconder not recorded]

Meeting adjourned.

