

MINUTES from 2025 BCCAT Articulation Meeting

Tuesday, May 27th, 2025 (Zoom hosted by VIU)

Present: Leon Potter (VIU, host), Fiona McQuarrie (BCCAT), Wesley Eccleston (TRU, minutes), Catriona Leger (TRU), Craig Alfredson (Douglas), Danica West (Douglas), Tom Scholte (UBC), Denise Kenney (UBC-O), Conrad Alexandrowicz (UViC), Michelle Deines (Capilano), Raes Calvert (Studio58), Shelley Liebembuk (UFV), Jody Thompson (Corpus Christi), Sharmila Miller (ABCDE)

Regrets: Robin Nichol (TRU), James Long (SFU), Kirsten Sadeghi-Yekta (UVic), Leora Morris (UBC)

Meeting began at 10:15am. Welcome and Introductions.

Approval of 2024 minutes moved by Catriona, unanimous.

Action Items from previous meeting & incomplete articulation requests:

- Michelle spoke to 2 new retitled courses within Capilano program with questions about how to proceed. Fiona suggests contacting the transfer credit person at institution and request articulation process.
- Craig spoke to introductory stagecraft and acting classes offered outside core program.
- Raes spoke to new block transfer agreement with SFU, 60 credits, 2 more years of study for BFA beyond diploma offered at Studio58.

BCCAT Report, Fiona

- Challenging times for post secondary institutions
- review and development of new policies ongoing, hopefully approved next year
- Encouraging hybrid meetings, funding for travel challenges should be communicated to BCCAT to report to ministry
- Development of simultaneous enrolment (2 institutions) for transfer credits
- Review of policies and criteria of institutional transfer credit from outside Canada
- Student transitions project looking at demographic data
- Technology, platform/software, ONCAT (Ontario) adopting BCCAT system
- o Sharing of data as a benefit
- BCCAT's JAM (joint art meeting), Nov 6 and 7 online (Pheedloop, Cdn provider), free and encouraged to drop in (last year with 300 participants online/in person)

- Craig asked about institutional quality review bodies, Fiona indicated DQAB (recommends to minister), and BCCAT's own membership criteria (capacity to deliver)

Institutional Reports

Conrad, UVic

- program still recovering from COVID, upper administration looking at enrolment, still have 3 venues with conservative audience, limited 14 applicants this past year, all got in and some not capable
- topical Ionesco production well received in season; *Putnam Spelling Bee*, *12th Night*

Jody, Corpus Christi

- Unique program, students transferring to UBC after completion, challenging retaining students, outsourcing to some work to AI
- o interdisciplinary showcase, but another production was cancelled last minute

Raes, Studio58

- BING highschool program graduates applying
- o Difficult year, dealing with mandate on enrolment
- o Cuts/layoffs elsewhere at Langara, but not for theatre program, budget static (still modest at best), venue still an ongoing issue (150 seats), *Heathers the Musical* sold out
- o student attendance a growing issue, discussion ensued: commitment typically stronger in cohorts, notifications and approvals with deductions as remedy, no doctor notes and mental health reasonings to be respected; clarity helps on assignments and syllabus, process weighted heavily, verbal reminders helpful, video chat assists too, exploring all work arounds; one on one conversations, flexibility to the change in the current climate, view outline is a contract, earn the participation grade

Shelley, UFV

- Update to curriculum due to recent program review, surveyed students for feedback, More community engaged practices
 - Digital scenography and new tech being included in curriculum, Acting for Animators course, special topics, looking to Media industry, improved funding due to new direction for new offerings, working toward a BFA beyond the BA major
- Season included partnering with Chilliwack Cultural Centre, offering *Paperback Princess* and *MacBeth*, Box office not tied to budget, tackling a new work unique

Michelle, Capilano

- tech, acting, musical; all diploma programs ongoing, enrolment situation serious

- Professional practices policy instituted, student meetings at end of semester to develop student learning plan; Workshops, resilience training based on Grant MacEwan model, looks at stress to normalize, Budget static since COVID, Dean presently supportive
- included relaxed performances, 4 shows a year, rehearsals now moved to afternoon versus the evenings, seems to be working; attendance good, strategies for student attendance adopted
- productions included *Romeo and Juliet*, *One Man Two Governors*, a new work

Craig, Douglas

- In midst of program review, working on block transfers; Enrolment, steady but not great, tech is more popular than acting; Budgeting a challenge, presently require 22 students to break even on instructor costs, meaning heavy subsidizing from other programs
- Expanding music program encroaching on theatre space, new building under construction
- Season of 4 plays, *Jane Austin Action Figure*, *Soldier Dreams*, *Black Watch*, ticket sales are weak, promotional efforts being made
- Second Study tour, new program, 14 students to Edinburgh Festival (Prague previously) learning with transferable courses to Douglas; scholarships available to offset costs to studying abroad

Break at 11:50am.

Resumed at 12:45pm.

Tom, UBC (Vancouver)

- Faculty personnel typically 5 Fulltime in acting/directing program, down 2 this year due to 2 retirements, sessionals covered courses, but administration/service load was challenging, bigger job than it used to be
- (Jonathan Signan from U of Regina, joining ranks)
- Budgets an issue, UBC prudent planners and asked to make some reductions in budgets affecting personnel
- Student numbers good, stuck with online auditions reaching diverse apps, 150 audition this year (International enrolment for cohort is improved due to online auditions)
- also facing issues of attendance, BFAs challenging years ago and introduced a stricter attendance policy, students now sign contract (one miss okay, then deductions) while supportive, no one kicked for being ill, but will be able to make it up in another semester, clarity helpful; Go global course cut
 - Season strong, *The Very Book Indeed* (UBC bought a folio and produced new play about it, *The Arsonists*, *The Last of the Pelican Daughters*; couple one acts,

MFA 2 students every second year (away uniform) and common hope (toronto)

- Next season, co-production with pro cast for *Women of the Fur Trade* with Touchstone, *Pe'er Gynt* as well

Leon, VIU

- student numbers are consistent, encouraging situation generally, new recruitment is challenging
- university experiencing growing pains, reshuffling at very top, music program is cut, 11 other programs also on the chopping block
- recent retirement did not lead to a replacement (3.5 FT to 2.5), non-essential courses cut
- 3 productions: *Tough!*, *Our Town*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, low ticket prices, comped productions for high schoolers as initiative, still run own space and host other university/local events
- backlash for employing AI image on show promo/poster, discussion surrounding use of it; also offered the '2 truths and an AI' like last year

Wesley, TRU

- Generally status quo with stable first year enrolment mix of domestic and international students, no cuts to offerings
- 3 ongoing FT faculty, with full technical coordinator compliment; workstudies and sessionals hired for special topics, minor TA assistance
- Record attendance across 4 show season in 100 seat venue, large cast numbers, included *Hearts Like Fists*, *Storied Voices (new Verbatim)*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Directors Festival* (student creative writing scripts)
- Next season: *Plucker*, *A Christmas Carol (Revenge of Tiny Tim)*, *Laramie Project*, *DF*
 - Discussion around budgets: need for one, rising fees, reaching out to other companies, challenges of raising professional fees to mirror pro world, students also designing as practicum/part of graded curriculum

Denise, UBC-O

- performance program is blended with visual arts, interdisciplinary service course offerings, recently demoted to a minor, public speaking courses popular
- devised work produced every year, some students work with media students

Sharmila, ABCDE

- Sits on many important committees, policy design for BCTF, DEI connected
- Bargaining year making matters more difficult, budgets are underfunded
- Encouraging mentoring, desires to be in touch with potential theatre teachers
- encouraged to support *Talk Theatre with Us* podcast

SFU, no report offered/submitted

New Business

- Discussion about hiring professionals to work with post-secondary institutions
 - talk of responsibility of artist to work it out with Equity versus institutions
framing of hiring as instructor/guest artist, determin DOT agreement
 - included as part of workload if possible, but wished there was more
availability (ie. intimacy coordinator in faculty), ongoing case by case basis
with no perfect system that fits all institutions

Next Meeting

- Articulation 2026 hosted by UBC (Vancouver), 2027 undetermined

Michelle adjourned at 2:33pm.