



MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

FLEMING, Robert (Co-Chair)	BCCAT Executive Director
GRAEME, Angus (Co-Chair)	Retired President, Selkirk College
AROCA, Willy A.	Asst. Dept. Head, School of Hospitality, Vancouver Community College
BIIN, Dianne	Director, Indigenous Education & Engagement, Selkirk College
CHENOWETH, John	Associate Vice-President Academic, Community Education, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
COLLINS, Lisa	Vice-President, Students, BC Institute of Technology
DOMAE, Lisa	President & CEO, North Island College
KIRKEY, Jennifer	College Instructor, Faculty of Science, Douglas College
KRAUSE, Gerda	Dean, Faculty of Science, Langara College
KUNKEL, Titi	Vice-President Academic, Students, & International, Coast Mountain College
McCREDIE, KAREN	Executive Director, EducationPlannerBC
McGREGOR, Helen	Superintendent and CEO, Vancouver School District
McMILLAN, Grant	University Registrar, Trinity Western University
MITCHELL, Zena	Vice-President, Students, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
RENNIE, Kriston	Dean, Faculty of Indigenous Studies, Social Sciences & Humanities, University of Northern BC
SAINI, Sam	Associate Registrar, Undergraduate Admissions and Student Recruitment & Advising, UBC
SOMERVILLE, Michelle	Educational Advisor, Student Services, Okanagan College
STYLES, Laureen	Vice-President Academic & Provost, Capilano University
WHITE, Lisa	PhD Candidate, Department of Educational Studies & Indigenous Education, UBC

REGRETS: Dorys Crespín-Mueller.

STAFF MEMBERS:

CHUN, Anabella	Committee & Technology Support Coordinator
DROPOL, Adina	Office Coordinator
HESLOP, Joanne	Student Transitions Project Manager
KUO, Irene	Pathways Coordinator
McQUARRIE, Fiona	Special Projects Officer
TIKINA, Anna	Director, Research & Admissions
TING, Elle	Research & Projects Officer
WINSEMANN, Mike	Director, Transfer & Technology
YORKSTON, Valerie	Executive Assistant to the Council & Communications Coordinator

GUESTS:

- MINISTRY OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION & FUTURE SKILLS: **Ben Ferrel** (Executive Director, Post-Secondary Digital Policy & Programs.)

NOTE: For definitions of acronyms used in these minutes, refer to this list of Common Acronyms used by BCCAT:

<https://www.bccat.ca/pubs/Resources/CommonAcronyms2022.pdf>

MINUTES

1. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS – Rob Fleming & Jim Hamilton (Co-Chairs)

We acknowledge that the BCCAT office is situated on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x^mməθkwəyám (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlílwataʔ/Selilwítlh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

2. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

It was Angus Graeme's first official Council meeting attending as Co-Chair. All attendees – online and in-person – briefly introduced themselves.

Angus welcomed the three other new Council members: Jennifer Kirkey, Lisa Collins and Grant McMillan. He also congratulated Lisa White and John Chenoweth on their re-appointments.

3. PROPOSED AGENDA

The proposed agenda was approved as presented.

→ **MOTION: To approve the proposed agenda as presented. Z. Mitchell / G. Krause CARRIED.**

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (October 4, 2023)

The October 2023 minutes were approved as presented.

→ **MOTION: To approve the October 2023 Council meeting minutes as presented. L. Styles / T. Kunkel CARRIED.**

5. COUNCIL BUSINESS

5.1. Provincial Issues and Developments

5.1.1. Ministry Update

Ben provided updates on the Labour Market Outlook, which was just recently released; Microcredentials Initiatives; the International Education Strategy; and the Digital Learning Strategy in follow-up to the presentation he made at JAM in November.

On November 24, the Minister announced the release of the 2023 Labour Market Outlook, which forecasts trends for the next decade. This tool helps current and future post-secondary students, organizations, employers and people looking for retraining possibilities identify and access future educational and career opportunities.

In addition, the Minister also announced the Find Your Path service, managed by EducationPlannerBC. The service is a companion to the Labour Market Outlook document. More information is available online at: <https://www.workbc.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/LMO-2022-Report.pdf>.

For Microcredentials Initiatives, there is currently a Call for Proposals for two streams. The first one is for Initiatives that look at Stacking Microcredentials and the second stream is focused on Shared Curriculum Microcredentials Development. Please refer to the following link for more information on this topic: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/post-secondary-education/micro-credentials>.

There is a Pilot Project conducted by VCC, looking at how institutions can collaborate on the development of Microcredentials. There is also work led by TRU's Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) team, looking at how to assess Microcredentials for the purpose of transfer to academic credits, and they are working with BCCAT on next steps.

Work is also underway exploring how to communicate the competency outcomes from Microcredentials in a way that employers can understand and make use of.

For the International Education Strategy, the Ministry is continuing to progress towards formalizing a new International Education Framework and is anticipating information to go public soon. A new role reporting to Deputy Minister Bobbi Plecas to support the implementation of the International Education Framework has been filled by Geoff Wilmshurst, VP Partnerships, Camosun College.

The Digital Learning Strategy is now in the implementation stage, in response to recommendations and priorities recommended by the Digital Learning Advisory Group. The first Annual Forum on Digital Learning took place two weeks earlier and was very successful. The next forum is planned for next Fall, 2024.

A few key initiatives are:

- BCcampus is gearing up to launch its repository of Educational Resources that are mapped to the Digital Literacy Framework and aim to provide resources for Faculty to embed competencies into core components of curriculum.
- BCcampus is in the process of setting up a Professional Development Sector Advisory Group to look at opportunities for providing short, focused training for instructors/faculty facing challenges and gaining skills needed to succeed in today's classrooms.
- BCcampus and BCNET are in the process of establishing an Advisory Group looking at shared education technology and ways to support institutions in the development of new resources or collaborative deployment of technology around the system.

5.1.2. Indigenous Education Update

John shared that NVIT is developing a new pedagogical framework for localized Indigenous theories. As NVIT develops their Education Plan for next year, they're considering a new way of thinking through a "Who am I" lens as it is a really important part of identity. Indigenous Education is entering a new realm about the philosophies from Indigenous communities and their richness and how they can help bring balance to BC and Canada as a whole.

John mentioned it would be beneficial to plan a higher learning conference, just like in the K-12 sector. The Centre for Indigenous Education & Community Connections at Camosun College is going to host an indigenous conference in August 2024, with the goal to build and strengthen relationships within the community. More details can be found here: <https://stenistow.ca/>.

5.1.3. EducationPlannerBC (EPBC) Update

Karen reported that the Engagement team has been very active planning and attending Educational Fairs within the province.

Karen's update focused on major modules that have happened this Fall.

1. The major revamp on the back end of their EducationPlannerBC website has improved search functionality, including the possibility of creating one's own account, and finding key data points such as tuition, duration, and credential.
2. The Find your Path interactive tool launched on November 24. It showcases education paths to career outcomes. It presents users with a better understanding of the range of paths available. More information can be found here: <https://www.educationplannerbc.ca/find-your-path>. The EducationPlannerBC website has a link to the video created for the announcement: <https://www.educationplannerbc.ca/>.

5.2. Executive Director Report

Rob provided updates on recent activities and developments.

5.2.1 MINISTRY/GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

- Around the Digital Services Strategy, meetings with the Ministry on the TCS Pathways Initiative and Care programs priorities
- Meeting with Ministry staff regarding the use of PSIPS and possible approaches to gathering program requirements data through the submission process.

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- Attending Micro-Credentials Advisory Group Meeting and follow-up around stacking and laddering and Curriculum Sharing of next funding call
 - BCCAT has met with TRU twice around the Credit Bank initiative and is considering TCS and Pathways as work flows and repositories
 - Learning Continuity Working Group (International Education Strategy; DQAB process and requirement changes; Dual Credit)
 - Degree Quality Assurance Board (DQAB) – DQAB Board, Nominations, QAPA, and Annual Report Feedback for Private PSIs

5.2.2 BC TRANSFER SYSTEM – CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

- BC Transfer System Principles: Revisions communicated and distributed to various networks; no concerns expressed.
- BCCAT is developing a formal service agreement with the PSIs around BCCAT Services
- One application for BCTS membership has been received - Will inform policy renewal in future
- BCCIE ED regarding International student mobility from private to public (10 years)
- BCRA Meeting in October (research priorities and TCS Pathways)
- JAM (November 2-3, 2023)

5.2.3 INTER-PROVINCIAL / INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

- TCS Assignment and Licensing:
 - o IP Assignment settled with CMB, Bayleaf and BCIT
 - o Seeking legal advice on potential service agreement models from AEST for orgs like ONCAT
 - o TCS feasibility assessment with ONCAT
 - o Rob & Mike met with ONCAT to discuss potential timelines and processes to facilitate ONCAT use of TCS
- Staff attended ONCAT conference in November 2023 and made presentations on Pathways and Research
- Western Colleges Mobility Network meeting and data in support of CIGan funded initiative (Douglas College lead)
 - o The Western Colleges Mobility Network (WCMN) will be a new network founded by nine colleges and institutes. The aim is to increase overall student mobility via field schools, short-term mobility, semester exchanges and hybrid opportunities. The WCMN members will leverage government investment in the BC Transfer Guide and their own investments in study abroad infrastructure, partnerships, and scholarships to achieve the goal. Cooperation will lead to increased seat utilization of available exchanges and study abroad projects, thereby lowering costs to students.
- Anna and Rob met with Conference Board Assistant Director Heather Murray to discuss research initiatives, resources and potential collaborations with StatsCan PSIS data
 - o Rob presented at the Conference Board of Canada College Executive Group and Conference – Oct 15-16 at Okanagan College (Pathways and partnerships, PSIs, Industry, Technologies)

5.2.4 Staff Report

The staff report was presented for information.

5.2.5 Project & Activities Update

Rob reported that the projects are on track.

5.3 2023-24 Budget Update and Operations

Rob provided a brief budget update.

- An update on 2023-24 Budget and Activities was included in the package for information.
- 2024-25 Budget and Work Plan in development
- Operational Budget increase discussions with Ministry

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- Staffing Reviews and Considerations: Communications Officer, Executive Assistant, additional positions to support Pathways in next fiscal year
 - Renewal of Admin Services and Lease agreement with BCIT—meetings in October and December, 2023

5.4 Membership Policy

5.4.1 Membership Application Process

Rob gave a brief background on the process of membership application to the BC Transfer System.

A subcommittee of TAC members was formed earlier this year to review the document before being forwarded to TAC for feedback at the February 2024 meeting. TAC will then make a recommendation to Council.

If an institution is granted membership in the BC Transfer System, it would have to sign a letter of assurance with BCCAT. Application for membership can only be made once an institution has been given ministerial consent to offer a degree program. The institution is approved only for transfer activity in the degree program(s) for which it has consent.

6. ADMISSIONS

6.1 Admissions Committee (Last Meeting: September 22, 2023)

Zena (Committee Chair) provided some key points:

- Since the last Council meeting in October, the Admissions Committee has published one new report: EDI and Admissions Practices at BC Post-Secondary Institutions. Institutions will benefit from the recommendations from this report around accessibility.
- The Pathways for Upgrading Programs to Further Post-Secondary project is currently in review and is expected to be completed in early 2024.
- The Increasing Availability of Transfer Data project is considered operational and may be delisted as a stand-alone project at the next Admissions Committee meeting.
- The International Transfer Student Pathways project is currently underway
- There are also three in-house projects underway: Exploring Summer Melt in BC, Course Outline Policies and Practices, and Direct Admissions Overview. All three have been reviewed and were presented at JAM, and are currently awaiting approval for publication, likely at the January Admissions Committee meeting.

6.2 Admissions Projects

6.2.1 International Transfer Student Pathways

Anna reported that this project is tracking students from private institutions – how they fare and what they study after they transfer into public institutions in BC. Four private institutions provided data for the project. The project is expected to use data from UBC, UNBC, SFU and UVIC and to be completed in Spring, 2024.

6.2.2 Accessible Admissions

Elle reported that this report is available on the BCCAT website. The report is an environmental scan of Admissions practices at BC Transfer System institutions through a lens of disability, justice and intersectionality. There are also supplementary materials: a set of infographics and a video produced and designed with accessibility in mind.

The researchers may provide a presentation at the next Council meeting in March 2024.

<https://www.bccat.ca/publication/accessibleadmissions>

7. RESEARCH

7.1. Research Committee (Last Meeting: Oct. 13, 2023)

Since the Chair is not a member of the Council, Anna gave a brief update on Committee activities.

There are three ongoing projects: BC Transfer Students Profile and Performance Report, Online Trends and Intentions from a Student Perspective, and Tracking Interprovincial Transfer. All three projects are in progress and they are expected to be completed in Spring 2024.

Anna also mentioned that last year's Online Delivery Trends from an Institutional Perspective project results were presented at JAM this year. The presentation is available on the BCCAT YouTube channel.

The Contemporary Issues in Student Mobility initiative that provides funding for projects aligned with Council's mandate currently has two projects in progress that resulted from last year's Call for Proposals.

7.2. Research Projects

7.2.1. BC Transfer Students Profile and Performance Report

Anna provided a brief overview of this project. The goal is to analyze trends in the performance of transfer students at BC public universities, compared to direct entry students. This report has been published for over 30 years and updates are published widely every five years. For this iteration, all public universities in BC were invited to participate. The data collection is in progress, and the research team from Langara has completed a literature review and has developed a set of testing data, working towards completing a dashboard.

7.2.2. Contemporary Issues in Student Mobility

Elle reminded everyone that the Call for Proposals for the next fiscal year has been released and the deadline for applications was December 15. There are currently two projects supported by this initiative. The Qualifications Framework Review project is led by UVIC and was presented at this year's JAM. The Monitoring Persistence in Engineering Studies project is led by VIU in partnership with SFU. They are looking at demographics in first year engineering programs, with attention to equity, diversity and inclusion.

There have been some inquiries regarding the current Call for Proposals.

Presentation: Central Data Warehouse Transfer Credit Data

- by Anna Tikina, Director, Research & Admissions, BCCAT

8. TRANSFER & ARTICULATION

8.1. Transfer & Articulation Committee (TAC) (Last Meeting: September 29, 2023)

Sam Saini (Committee Chair) provided a brief update on the latest TAC activities.

The 2023 updated editions of the Articulation resources – the Articulation Committee Guide and the How to Articulate Handbook – have now been published.

Sam reiterated the importance of revisions made to the Principles and Guidelines for Transfer document. There was some discussion about how much staff time is spent on applications for membership.

In terms of the TAC Terms of Reference, Sam mentioned the committee is considering adding term limits to TAC memberships. The TAC members also opted in favor of student consultations, and did not feel it was necessary to recruit student members for TAC.

Mike reported that the next TAC meeting is on February 2. The application for membership in the BC Transfer System will be discussed at that meeting, as well as the work plan for the following fiscal year.

8.2. Articulation Committees

A handful of committees choose to meet during the Fall. The ABE Steering Committee met in late September and the Computing Education committee met in October. Mike mentioned that there may be a proposal to create a new articulation committee.

8.3. TAC Projects

Fiona McQuarrie provided project updates.

Currently, TAC is supporting two research projects. The first draft of the report on the Effects of Professional Licensing or Program Accreditation on Transfer Credit Activity has been completed and sent out to peer reviewers for their feedback. The other project, to align Provincial EAL benchmarks with the Canada Language Benchmarks, is being conducted by a contractor from the EAL Articulation Committee. Half of the project fees have been paid. The final report should be completed in March.

8.4. 2023 Joint Annual Meeting (JAM): November 2-3, 2023

Mike provided a post-JAM report with highlights from the successful Joint Annual Meeting. For more information, see www.bccat.ca/articulation/jam2023/.

9. TECHNOLOGIES/WEBSITES

9.1. Transfer Credit System (TCS) Update

9.1.1. TCS Development Updates

Mike informed the Council members that a more current programming framework of the TCS is ready for deployment and is scheduled for release on January 16. The release will update the programming framework of the TCS to .Net 6.

9.1.2. TCS Pathways Demo

Due to time constraints, the demo was tabled for a later date.

Jennifer provided a verbal update on the TCS Pathways. The TCS Pathways Project falls under the umbrella of the Ministry's Digital Services Initiative and is looking at what BC Transfer System tools are currently available through the TCS course-to-course articulations and the system-level workflow available. Jennifer reported that the Proof of Concept was developed while working with certain groups, such as the Northern Consortium and a subset of Engineering stakeholder PSIs. The Pathways tool will allow PSIs to identify and build pathways agreements and pathways strengtheners.

There are two modules: program and pathways. The program module can operate as a stand-alone. The pathway module leverages program profiles built in the program module and it focusses on program agreements between two PSIs, sender and receiver.

In the future, this information will be available on the BC Transfer Guide, and on the widget that PSIs can use to focus on their own pathway agreements.

User testing will take place internally in January and February. Testing with proof of concept partners will take place in February and March and any issues will be addressed at that stage.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

10.1. 2023 BCCAT Transfer Awards

Val was pleased to report that Stephanie Boychuk was the recipient of the BC Transfer Award at the JAM. Video is available here: <https://www.bccat.ca/about/awards/>.

In January, the BCCAT Transfer Awards committee will be meeting to discuss its upcoming 10th anniversary and plans for celebration.

11. INTER-PROVINCIAL/INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

11.1. Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions & Transfer (PCCAT)

As the new BCCAT board member on PCCAT, Mike reported that preparations are underway for the ARUCC/PCCAT conference, which will take place on June 23-26, 2024 in Calgary. A Call for Proposals has been released. There is no agenda yet but it is a great way for the provincial bodies responsible for transfer to get together.

More information on the conference here: www.pccat.ca/conference.

11.2. Inter-Provincial Collaborations

Rob reported that BCCAT and ONCAT are currently conducting a gap analysis project to evaluate how the TCS can be deployed within the Ontario jurisdiction. BCCAT and ONCAT are also in discussions about an agreement to license the TCS for use in Ontario.

12. IN THE NEWS (for info only)

Rob Fleming shared some recent news items of interest: <https://mailchi.mp/4c5e09223339/gd0mdypkrv-6682883?e>.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other items of business.

14. NEXT MEETINGS & ADJOURNMENT

ADMISSIONS	Friday, January 26, 2024
TAC	Friday, February 2, 2024
RESEARCH	Friday, February 9, 2024
COUNCIL	Monday, March 11, 2024
COUNCIL	Monday, June 10, 2024
COUNCIL	Monday, October 7, 2024
COUNCIL	Monday, December 2, 2024
COUNCIL	Monday, March 10, 2025