



Meeting #146 of the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer

**March 13, 2023** (9:30am – 12:30pm)

Online & In-Person (BCIT Downtown Campus, 555 Seymour Street, Vancouver, BC)

## MINUTES (Approved by Council)

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### ATTENDEES:

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

FLEMING, Robert (Co-Chair)	BCCAT Executive Director
HAMILTON, Jim (Co-Chair)	Retired President, Okanagan 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
CRISPIN-MUELLER, Dorys	Executive Director, Integrated Planning & Effectiveness, Thompson Rivers University
DICK, Brian	Professor and Chair, Engineering, Vancouver Island University
DOMAE, Lisa	President & CEO, North Island College
HEMANI, Rummana Khan	Vice-President, Students & International, Simon Fraser University
LOUIE, Brenda	Vice-Principal, Columbia College
MCCREDIE, Karen	Executive Director, EducationPlannerBC
MCGREGOR, Helen	Superintendent & CEO, Vancouver School District
MITCHELL, Zena	Associate Vice President, Enrolment Services, and Registrar, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
SAINI, Sam	Associate Registrar and Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Student Recruitment, UBC
SOMERVILLE, Michelle	Educational Advisor, Student Services, Okanagan College
STYLES, Laureen	Vice-President Academic & Provost, Capilano University
WHITE, Lisa	PhD Candidate, Dept. Of Educational Studies & Indigenous Education, UBC

*REGRETS: Gerda Krause, Titi Kunkel, Kriston Rennie*

#### STAFF MEMBERS:

DROPOL, Adina	Office Coordinator
HESLOP, Joanne	Student Transitions Project Manager
KOOK, Jennifer	Manager, Technology Services
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:

- Ben Ferrel (Executive Director, Post-Secondary Digital Policy & Programs, Ministry of Post-Secondary Education & Future Skills)
- Amanda Coolidge (Interim Executive Director, BCcampus)
- Guest Presenters: Roger Pizarro Milian and Katie Herlick, Academica

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

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

# MINUTES

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## 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<sup>m</sup>məθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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## 2. PROPOSED AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

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## 3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (December 5, 2022)

The minutes of the December 2022 meeting were approved as presented.

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## 4. COUNCIL BUSINESS

### 4.1. Provincial Issues and Developments

#### 4.1.1. Ministry Update

Ben Ferrel provided a brief update, noting the following:

The Digital Learning Strategy is moving forward on shaping a three-year implementation plan. Work will be starting soon on a tactical program design, focused on key priorities. A key focus will be on how digital training may be supported and costs can be reduced for post-secondary institutions. A steering committee is being put together – members will be representative across the provincial post-secondary sectors.

The Digital Services Hub is also advancing under the Ministry's StrongerBC plan. Work continues with EducationPlannerBC, BCCAT, and other system partners to bring services together to better support learners for a more coherent service experience.

#### 4.1.2. Indigenous Education Update

Dianne Biin spoke about recent experiences reinforcing the depth of Indigenous language courses and their parity with other language courses. As well, she had recently participated at the 2023 Celebrating Salish Conference, which brought together over 500 delegates (all Salish dialect speakers) from coastal and interior regions in Western Canada and US. It was a useful opportunity to connect and share strategies on how to support students learning Indigenous languages.

Dianne and John Chenoweth both underscored the incredible diversity of Salish dialects, and how students learn dialects in line with their particular region-based language instructors, demonstrating that there is more than one way to teach them. An ongoing challenge is the consideration of how Indigenous languages can be recognized within a formalized, public system, while remaining vital and keeping their identity. In particular, “where does Indigenous education fit within a public system?” or how can stakeholders work together on these issues both collaboratively and respectfully.

#### 4.1.3. EducationPlannerBC (EPBC) Update

Karen McCredie provided a brief update regarding EPBC, touching on the following points:

Karen McCredie spoke about a number of launches scheduled for 2023. First of all, the new EducationPlannerBC website will be launched later this spring. New features will include the ability for users to compare programs and create personal accounts outside of the application tool. The website will also include BC's first micro-credential registry.

Later this year, EducationPlannerBC will go live with the *Find Your Path* tool (as part of Digital Services Strategy). This tool will take users on an interactive journey showcasing the variety of educational pathways towards careers, thus providing a bridge between the work of WorkBC and EPBC.

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EPBC will also be launching a data warehouse, allowing post-secondary stakeholders to view live and retrospective application data. Plans are to connect the database with the Central Data Warehouse (CDW) and the Student Transitions Project (STP).

Recently, EPBC was brought into the conversation regarding how to support post-secondary institutions in terms of the Future Skills focus.

#### 4.1.4. BCcampus Update

Guest, Amanda Coolidge (Interim Executive Director, BCcampus) provided a brief updating regarding recent BCcampus developments, including the following points:

Work continues with the Ministry on Micro-Credentials. As of February, over 100 micro-credentials will be available at BC post-secondary institutions, requiring considering investment towards upskilling and reskilling individuals across the province. In collaboration with the Ministry, BCcampus hosted a one-day event focused on the issue, with over 150 attendees from across BC, Canada and beyond. Collaboration continues towards the development of a micro-credentials toolkit.

The Open Collection continues to grow. Along with Open Textbooks, BCcampus now offers a number of courses that have been developed by Subject Matter Experts, vetted by Instructional Designers, and reviewed by EDI consultants. The goal is to provide faculty with the opportunity to use exemplary, pedagogically sound resources and offer alternative means of assessment.

To date, open resources have saved the province over \$35M, and adoption and use of the resources continues to grow.

Members were referred to a document outlining key updates, including a number of upcoming events offering webinars supporting professional development.

## 4.2. Executive Director Report

### 4.2.1. Key Activities & Developments

Rob Fleming updated members on recent activities and developments. A few key points are outlined below.

#### *Ministry/Government*

- BCCAT's TCS Pathways project, as aligned with the Ministry's Digital Services Strategy
- Learning Continuity Working group – recent meetings focused on international education strategy and transition
- Indigenous Policy & Engagement Branch (meeting regarding BC Transfer System membership of Indigenous institutions) and the possibility of hosting a forum on Indigenous Pathways with IAHLA institutions
- Recent meetings with the Minister and Deputy Minister

Consultations regarding Council Nominations

#### *BC Transfer System Consultation*

- DQAB and RUCBC regarding new Associate Degree institutions and BCCAT membership
- Meetings with key sector groups, including BC colleges, RUCBC, and BCAIU regarding research and pathways

#### *Inter-provincial / International Collaboration*

- Meetings and development regarding TCS partnership opportunities (focused on consolidating Intellectual Property and Licensing)

### 4.2.2. Staff Report

The staff report was briefly reviewed, and there were no questions.

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#### 4.2.3. Project & Activities Update

The Project & Activities chart was provided to update members on the status of key projects and activities in this year's work plan.

#### 4.2.4. Revisions to Research & Admissions Committee Terms of Reference

The revised Terms of Reference for the Research & Admissions committees were presented with the following recommended changes:

- Clarification of term duration and renewal options; and
- Update of role/title (references to "Associate Director" of Admissions & Research had been changed to "Director").

**> MOTION: To approve, as presented at this meeting, the revised Terms of Reference document for the Admissions Committee and the Research Committee.**

**K. McCredie / R.K. Hemani CARRIED.**

*ACTION: Laureen Styles noted the importance of addressing within the Terms of Reference a clarification of how a diversity of perspectives would be reflected in these committees. This point was taken under advisement.*

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## 5. ANNUAL PLANNING SESSION

### 5.1. 2022-23 Budget & Work Plan

#### 5.1.1. 2022-23 Budget Update and FYE Estimates

The 2022-23 Budget update was provided with estimated year-end balances.

**> MOTION: To accept the 2022-23 Budget Update and FYE Estimates.**

**B. Dick / K. McCredie CARRIED.**

### 5.2. 2023-24 Proposed Budget & Work Plan

#### 5.2.1. Overview & Proposed Operating Budget

BCCAT expects to hear from the Ministry over the next few weeks regarding confirmation of funding for 2023-24.

Rob Fleming referred members to a letter from the Minister setting out BCCAT's mandate, strategic priorities, accountability and reporting responsibilities. In particular, the strategic priorities focused on:

- Research and communications aligning with the priorities of the Ministry and the BC post-secondary system;
- Collaboration and implementation of the Program Pathways project in support of the Digital Services Strategy;
- Working with the Ministry and Indigenous Peoples in support of meaningful reconciliation as pertains to BCCAT's mandate and core responsibilities.

The proposed budget for 2023-24 was presented, based on BCCAT's budget request to the Ministry. Members raised some concerns:

- Is the base budget enough? Does it account sufficiently for inflation?
- Is it possible to move towards a more sustainable, multi-year approach (e.g. three years?). Perhaps incremental growth for the next three years could be built into the base funding.
- BCCAT research (for example) represents considerable value for the system (especially given current constraints on institutions). That should be reflected in funding support.

Rob confirmed that he is in discussion with the Ministry and BCIT regarding the possibility of carrying over project funds in the future and expanding the base budget.

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## 5.2.2. Proposed Work Plan

Rob Fleming walked through key projects proposed for 2023-24.

> **MOTION: To accept the proposed 2023-24 Budget & Work Plan.**

**B. Dick / Z. Mitchell CARRIED.**

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## 6. ADMISSIONS

### 6.1. Admissions Committee (Last Meeting: January 27, 2023)

Zena Mitchell (Committee Chair) briefly reported on the last committee meeting, noting the welcome of a new member: Michael Bluhm (Associate Vice-President Strategic Enrolment and University Registrar, Thompson Rivers University) and Jan Smith (Registrar, British Columbia Institute of Technology).

### 6.2. Admissions Projects – A Tikina

#### 6.2.1. Pandemic-Related Changes in Registrarial Policies

The goal of this project was to capture key changes in admissions and registrarial policies implemented during the pandemic. This report is expected to be available shortly.

#### 6.2.2. Collection & Use of Student Data on Race, Ethnicity, and Ancestry

In addition to the report which was recently published, a video of the session is available on BCCAT YouTube channel, and the slide-deck. The findings of the project were discussed at the pan-Canadian Strategic Enrollment Management event in Toronto in November 2022. There is a continuing discussion on possible steps to carry the topic and the results forward. <https://www.bccat.ca/intro/REASStudentData>

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## 7. RESEARCH

### 7.1. Research Committee (Last Meeting: February 10, 2023)

Brian Dick (Committee Chair) provided a brief update about the latest committee meeting, including the welcome of two new members: Chad Thompson (Vice-President, Academic, College of New Caledonia) and Mark Wallin (Associate Dean, Curriculum Development, Faculty of Arts, Thompson Rivers University).

### 7.2. Research Projects

#### 7.2.1. Research Plan

A document outlining potential research topics under consideration were provided to members for information.

#### 7.2.2. Contemporary Issues in Student Mobility <https://www.bccat.ca/projects/call>

Anna Tikina spoke briefly about the current Contemporary Issues project. The project “Student and Staff Perceptions of Support Services for International Transfer Students at B.C. Post-Secondary Institutions”, conducted by researchers at the University of the Fraser Valley, has been completed. The researchers are planning to publish the results with academic community and institutional researchers.

#### 7.2.3. Survey of Mobile Students

Elle Ting walked through the findings of this survey. Three infographics (focused on Demographics, Mobility, and Motivations), are provided along with the sector-level summaries at <https://www.bccat.ca/publication/surveyofmobilestudents>

#### 7.2.4. Online Learning in Rural and Remote Communities

*Presentation by Roger Pizarro Milian and Katie Herlick, Academica*

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## 8. TRANSFER & ARTICULATION

### 8.1. Transfer & Articulation Committee (TAC) (Last Meeting: Jan. 20, 2023)

Sam Saini (Committee Chair) provided a brief update about the last TAC meeting. The agenda included discussions the revised Terms of Reference for articulation committees and new applications for institutional membership in the BC Transfer System (BCTS).

### 8.2.TAC Projects

#### 8.2.1. Exploring Stranded Credit

Fiona McQuarrie spoke briefly about this report looking at credits that students earn at post-secondary institutions but are unable to use or transfer due to unpaid debts. The report indicates that this is not a major issue in the BC Transfer System. However, given the challenges that stranded credit can present for students, the report raises awareness and offers recommendations to institutions. Fiona expressed appreciation to the BCTS registrars for their support and participation in this project.

<https://www.bccat.ca/publication/strandedcredit2023>

### 8.3.BC Transfer Guide Course Inclusion Policy (Proposal) – M. Winsemann

**> MOTION: To approve the BC Transfer Guide Course Inclusion Policy.**

(NOTE: This item was tabled for the June 2023 meeting, due to time constraints.)

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## 9. TECHNOLOGIES/WEBSITES

### 9.1. Transfer Credit System (TCS) Update

#### 9.1.1. TCS Suite

Mike reported that Langara College have now completed the import of their US and international equivalencies to the BC Transfer Guide. University of the Fraser Valley and Thompson Rivers University have also added theirs. To date, 80,000 external equivalencies have been added to the database.

#### 9.1.2. TCS Pathways

Jennifer Kook reported that UX testing is underway for the Pathways module. In April, program testing will proceed. The goal for completion is early fall / end summer.

### 9.2. BCCAT Websites Update

The BCCAT website is undergoing a major refresh. We expect to launch the updated site by the summer.

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## 10. COMMUNICATIONS

### 10.1. GOV 2023 (March 22-25, 2023) <https://gatheringourvoices.ca/>

This year, we will be attending this event as exhibitors for the first time to share information regarding BCTransferGuide.ca and about transfer in BC. Primarily, though, this will be an opportunity for us to interact with Indigenous students, leaders, and others, and to learn more about the nature of this event.

### 10.2. 2023 BCCAT Transfer Awards <https://www.bccat.ca/about/awards>

Val Yorkston noted that the 2023 BCCAT Transfer Awards will be launched shortly. Council members are encouraged to inform others and to look out for potential nominees.

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## 11. INTER-PROVINCIAL/INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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

11.1.1. PCCAT Learning Day – June 2023 <https://www.pccat.ca/conference>

Members are invited to participate at this online learning day. Details will be provided at the above link.

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## 12. IN THE NEWS (for info only) – R. Fleming

This digest of news items was shared for information only:

<https://mailchi.mp/edb7a327216e/gd0mdypkrv-6262759>

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## 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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## 14. NEXT MEETINGS & ADJOURNMENT

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TAC	Friday, May 26
<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>Monday, June 5</b>
ADMISSIONS	Friday, September 22
<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>Wednesday, October 4</b>
RESEARCH	Friday, October 13
<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>Monday, December 4</b>