Meeting #153 of the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer

December 2, 2024 (9:30am – 12:30pm)

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

MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

FLEMING, Robert (Co-Chair)	BCCAT Executive Director
GRAEME, Angus (Co-Chair)	Retired President, Selkirk College
AROCA, Willy A.	Assistant Department Head, School of Hospitality, Vancouver Community College
CHENOWETH, John	Associate Vice-President, Academic-Community Education, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
DOMAE, Lisa	President & CEO, North Island College
HULBERT, Avery	Faculty Instructor/Program Coordinator, College of the Rockies
KIRKEY, Jennifer	College Instructor, Faculty of Science, Douglas College
KUNKEL, Titi	Vice-President Academic, Students, & International, Coast Mountain College
McCREDIE, Karen	Executive Director, EducationPlannerBC
McGREGOR, Helen	Superintendent & CEO, Vancouver School District
McKEOWN, Stephanie	Chief Institutional Research Officer, UBC
McMILLAN, Grant	University Registrar, Trinity Western University
SAINI, Sam	Associate Registrar, Undergraduate Admissions and Student Recruitment & Advising, UBC
SIEDLACZEK, Kathy	Dean, Academic Planning & Quality Assurance, BCIT
SOMERVILLE, Michelle	Educational Advisor, Student Services, Okanagan College
STYLES, Laureen	Special Advisor, President's Office, Capilano University
WHITE, Lisa	PhD Candidate, Department of Educational Studies & Indigenous Education, UBC
WIEBE, Sunita	Director, Academic Quality Assurance, Langara College

REGRETS: *Dianne Biin, Zena Mitchell.*

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
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 *– R. Fleming & A. Graeme (Co-Chairs)*

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

2. PROPOSED AGENDA

The proposed agenda was approved as presented.

→ ***MOTION:*** *To approve the proposed agenda as presented.* ***H. McGregor/J. Chenoweth CARRIED.***

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING *(October 7, 2024)*

The October 2024 minutes were approved as presented.

→ ***MOTION:*** *To approve the October 2024 Council meeting minutes as presented.* ***A. Hulbert / S. McMillan CARRIED.***

4. COUNCIL BUSINESS

4.1 Provincial Issues and Developments

4.1.1 Ministry Update *– Ben Ferrel*

Ben Ferrel provided a brief update, noting the following:

- The results of the election have been finalized. There were a few organizational changes: the Ministry welcomed Anne Kang back into the role of Minister; Bobbi Plecas, has moved on to the Ministry of Infrastructure and was replaced by Trevor Hughes, the New Deputy Minister. Eric Peters continues in his role as Chief of Staff.
- Following the election, the Immigration portfolio was added to the Ministry as well.
- BCcampus hosted the second annual Digital Learning Strategy in November.

4.1.2 Indigenous Education Update *– John Chenoweth*

John noted that this is the second month in his new role as the President of NVIT.

He reported that IAHLA held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) conference November 14-15, where Indigenous language and training was a recurrent topic for discussion. There is also a strong need for resources and curriculum development, which can be achieved with the support and expertise from other post-secondary institutions. IAHLA is getting closer to being able to articulate Indigenous courses that would become part of the BC Transfer Guide.

John called on the expertise of many of the PSIs to support Indigenous language/course development. Currently, there is a lack of qualified teachers to pass on the knowledge of the language.

4.1.3 EducationPlannerBC Update *– Karen McCredie*

Karen provided a brief update noting the following:

- EPBC is on the cusp of launching three new information services to better support applicants, in particular, a page which provides a full listing of micro-credentials that are offered across the province.
- In the following weeks, EPBC is going to also launch a nursing applicant page, which would provide consolidated information about Nursing programs as well as guidance on how to make decisions related to Nursing and the different variations of Nursing programs across the province.
- EPBC continues to support the Future Skills Grants program by listing all the programs that are currently available at PSIs for this grant.
- Karen noted the first anniversary of *Find your Path* and indicated that development work for this tool is ongoing
- Additional research is still ongoing on how to integrate additional information into *Find Your Path*

4.2 Executive Director Report – *Rob Fleming*

Rob provided some highlights on recent activities and developments.

4.2.1 Key Activities & Developments

MINISTRY/GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

- Work continues in collaboration with EPBC and Ministry staff to support initiatives around Nursing programs. BCCAT will be focusing on the stacking and laddering primarily – the LPN to BSN Pathways.
- Rob and Mike met with the Deans and Directors of Health programs earlier in the Fall and will be meeting with them again in the Spring. They will attend a working group that's already looking at LPN to BSN Pathways. VCC, VIU, UNBC and KPU are interested in collaborating with BCCAT for this initiative.
- In relation to the Digital Learning Strategy, the work with TRU credit bank and their process for assessing micro-credentials for credit will continue through the summer. BCCAT will incorporate micro-credentials credit awards into the TCS repository, to be displayed accordingly. This initial work should be completed by the end of the fiscal year.
- The Joint Procurement Steering Committee for a Curriculum and Catalogue Management System is ongoing with an aim to launch an RFP early next year, looking at acquiring software through the BCNET process. BCCAT and EPBC are participating in this project as there may be opportunities for interoperability of data and information with BCCAT and EPBC systems.
- Rob attended the Micro-credential Framework Committee meeting, which consisted of making minor changes to the language around the framework.
- Rob attended the DQAB retreat in October. Stage 1 Reviews are now in place for private PSIs.

BC TRANSFER SYSTEM – CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

- Rob had several meetings with the Trades, Training BC Consortium (TTC) and with the BC Association of Trades and Technical Administrators (BCATTA) organization and he presented at VCC on the topic of laddering opportunities between trades and academic programs. BCCAT is committed to supporting trades to academic pathways development. The first step would be to look at a *Proof of Concept* around apprenticeship programs and how to map credit pathways into a degree.
- Rob met with the new CEO of RUCBC, Christina Zacharuk.
- BCCAT is also in touch with the BC Scholarship Society in relation to the Ike Barber Transfer System Scholarship criteria.

INTER-PROVINCIAL / INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

- Rob was going to meet with ACAT and ONCAT to discuss IRCC changes and the impact within their provinces.
- BCCAT staff attended the ACAT Annual Pathways meeting via Zoom.
- BCCAT is working closely with ONCAT, who are preparing to adopt the BC Transfer Credit System.

4.2.2 Staff Report

The staff report was presented for information.

4.2.3 Project & Activities Update

Rob reported that the projects are on track.

4.3 Budget & Accountability – *Rob Fleming*

4.3.1 2024-25 Budget Update

Rob walked the Council members through some highlights of the FY25 budget as BCCAT prepares its Q3 update for submission to Ministry in January 2025.

4.4 Member Policy – *Rob Fleming*

4.4.1 Information Note: BCCAT Policy 3A Membership in the BC Transfer System

This information note was circulated before with respect to the need to update and revise BCCAT's membership policy. The information note is intended to remind everyone what BCCAT's priorities are. BCCAT would like to have a few members who were previously involved in the last membership application review on this committee as there is an opportunity to streamline the process and make it more incumbent upon institutions to do more of the work upfront. Rob invited Council members to connect via email if they are interested in joining the subcommittee.

There have been changes in the degree program application review process. The Native Education College is now an Associate Degree granting institution and BCCAT will support the institution as it participates in the BC Transfer System.

5. ADMISSIONS

5.1. Admissions Committee – *A. Tikina*

(Last Meeting: September 27, 2024)

Anna provided the update on behalf of Zena. The minutes from the previous meeting were included in the meeting package. There were no action items from the previous meeting and no changes to membership, although the committee was still looking for new members.

5.2 Admissions Projects

There was one publication, P*athways from Upgrading Programs to Further Post-Secondary* report which explored pathways from Adult Basic Education (ABE) to undergraduate programs in BC institutions. There was a presentation on the findings of this project at JAM, which is available on the BCCAT YouTube channel.

There are three projects on the go:

- A first draft report for the project called *Transfer Pathways of International Students from private to public BC Transfer System Post-Secondary Institutions* has been submitted and reviewed and is currently back with the contractor for revisions.
- *Students' Affordability Considerations for Post-Secondary Access*. Affordability and all the various costs associated with attending post-secondary are currently prevalent topics of discussion. The contractors are planning interviews with financial experts, student advisors, post-secondary admission staff and some post-secondary students.
- *Policies and Practices of Course Syllabi Distribution at BC Post-Secondary Institutions.* This study aims to assess the timing of syllabi distribution and its influence on student engagement and retention at BC Post-Secondary Institutions. The draft literature review was received, and the interviews with students are almost completed.

6. RESEARCH

6.1. Research Committee – *Stephanie McKeown*

(Last Meeting: October 11, 2024)

Stephanie reported she would take on the role of Chair for the Research Committee in 2025.

The Research Committee met in October and the minutes were included in the December meeting package.

Brian Dick (VIU) and David Wells (VCC) completed their terms as committee members. The committee was still looking for one or two new members before the next Research Committee meeting in early February 2025.

At the October meeting, the committee voted to approve the *BC Transfer Student Profile and Performance Report* which covers the years 2018-2019 to 2022-2023, and agreed to pay the contractor. The executive summary of the report was included in the Council meeting package.

The Research Committee also approved the final report of a Contemporary Issues project called *Monitoring Persistence in Engineering Studies according to Demographic Groupings*.

There are three current projects:

1. *Delivery Preferences, Student Surveys and Institutional Responses*. This project is led by UFV.
2. *Exploring Inter-Provincial Student Mobility with Statistics Canada Data*. This project is led by Higher Education Strategy Associates (HESA).
3. *Inter-Provincial Transfer Pilot*. This is an in-house project.

6.2 Research Projects – *Anna Tikina & Elle Ting*

6.2.1 2018/2019-2022/2023 BC Transfer Students Profile and Performance Report (Attached)

Anna highlighted the latest *BC Transfer Student Profile and Performance Report.* This is a standing publication that BCCAT has been producing for the past 30 years. This project compares the demographic profile of the transfer students and direct entry students at the public universities in BC. The most recent iteration covers the period 2018-2019 to 2022-2023. Anna had made a presentation on the results of the study at JAM; and the report will be published on BCCAT website and in hard copy soon.

Elle reported on the Contemporary Issues projects:

- A project led by UVIC, *Learning from Comprehensive Qualification Frameworks,* was completed in July. The final report is entitled *Ever Better Access: Learning from Qualification Frameworks.* The following link provides details from this report: https://newprairiepress.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4406&context=aerc.
- The project by VIU and SFU researchers *Monitoring Persistence in Engineering Studies According to Demographic Groupings* is now completed. The findings from this report were published by the ASEE – the American Society for Engineering Education. Elle posted the link to findings from the report in the chat of the Zoom call. The following link also provides access to findings from this report from the American Engineering Education Association (AEEA): https://www.viurrspace.ca/server/api/core/bitstreams/9b99fc95-a66e-4040-a54e-fb1a3233b3c9/content.
- The 2024-25 *Admissions models for Authentic Inclusion* project is currently underway. It is led by VIU, in partnership with STEPS Forward, a family-driven organization that partners with BC post-secondary institutions to support students with developmental disabilities. The contractors have completed their interview recruitment plan.

The next call for proposals (CFP) for Contemporary Issues projects closed in December 2024.

7. TRANSFER & ARTICULATION

7.1. Transfer & Articulation Committee (TAC) – *Sam Saini (Chair)*

(Last Meeting: September 20, 2024)

8.1.1 Minutes from September 20, 2024 meeting (Attached)

Sam informed the Council members that the September minutes were included in the agenda package for review. The next meeting will take place in January 2025.

Mike reported that the TAC committee is in the process of recruiting new members.

7.2. JAM 2024 Report – *Mike Winsemann* (Attached)

Mike provided a summary of the JAM conference in November. The JAM Engagement report was included in the Council agenda package. Overall, 388 people attended the JAM conference, both virtually and in-person, which is a great indication of the outreach BCCAT had. The feedback was very positive and BCCAT was very pleased with the way the event unfolded, especially since BCCAT also celebrated its 35th anniversary. Most of the sessions are available on the BCCAT YouTube channel.

BCCAT is starting to think ahead to JAM 2025, including securing the dates, the venue and platform.

7.3. TAC Projects – *Fiona McQuarrie*

Fiona informed the Council members that the final report for the project by the English as an Additional Language (EAL) articulation committee was submitted but that the project is not actually complete. In the meantime, the committee has

received a proposal for a new project by the same articulation committee, which is dependent on the outcome of the first project.

The committee asked the contractor to complete the current project and then resubmit the proposal once that first project is completed and approved by TAC. The contractor has been asked to submit the report in time for review at the January 2025 TAC meeting.

8. TECHNOLOGIES/WEBSITES

8.1 Transfer Credit System (TCS) Update – *Mike Winsemann*

8.1.1 Information Note: TCS Modernization (Attached)

Mike informed the members that a copy of the presentation he gave at JAM on BCCAT's Modernization plan was included in the agenda package. Both the presentation and the Information Note highlight that there are many opportunities with regards to the use of new technology such as AI as well as the ability to interoperate with other systems out there. BCCAT would like to hear from stakeholders with regards to what should be BCCAT's technology priorities moving forward. Currently, BCCAT is planning a sector-wide consultation and has identified various stakeholder groups. Mike stated that *The Call to Action* asking for volunteers was very well received. BCCAT hopes to start with electronic surveys to different stakeholder groups sometime in December and have more comprehensive consultation initiatives in Spring 2025.

8.1.2 ONCAT Project – *Mike Winsemann*

Mike reported work with ONCAT is progressing well. BCCAT has imported all of their data into the test environment and is currently working on enhancements that will be of benefit to both jurisdictions. ONCAT is planning to do pilot testing with Ontario post-secondary institutions. This work is scheduled for January, with the goal to go live in June 2025. At that point, both BC and ON will be on the same transfer articulation platform, which opens the door to greater sharing of information between the two jurisdictions.

BCCAT and the Ministry are working on creating a service-level agreement between the provinces. This agreement would articulate the operational expectations, as well as the licensing costs.

8.1.3 TCS Pathways Update – *Jennifer Kook*

Jennifer stated that the Pathways project will be entering the end of its Proof of Concept (POC) stage. A stable version will be available to showcase to Phase II partners, who will be confirmed in early January. The process will be similar to the POC process, which includes partner interviews, in order to get an understanding of how they use tools to do their pathways work and set priorities, and to focus on certain program areas to build out the tool further.

Since the Program Module and the Pathway Module serve two different user groups, the approach for each will be different. In the following weeks, the team was going to be meeting with NIC and SFU for a demo of the tool. Jennifer was hopeful Phase II of the project would be launched in January, 2025 and an Application Programming Interface (API) will be available to EPBC sometime at the end of Spring.

PRESENTATION: Student Transitions Project: Contextualizing Student Transitions

Joanne provided an informative presentation to Council members on the results of the Student Transitions Project (STP), with a focus on Contextualizing Student Transitions.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

9.1. BCCAT Transfer Awards – https://www.bccat.ca/about/awards – *Val Yorkston*

Following Council's decision at the October meeting, the 2024 Transfer Awards were presented to Pricilla Stone (VCC) and Emily Gadzala (UNBC) at a ceremony held during the JAM 2024 reception, on November 7th. Colleagues of both awardees attended the event, and taking up the opportunity to celebrate these exemplary individuals and their accomplishments.

A video will be made available early next year, featuring these and other awardees, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the BCCAT Transfer Awards.

BCCAT will be continuing to share the story throughout the year. There will be a video available giving a brief look at the recipients' stories and also celebrating the 10th anniversary of the awards program.

Val thanked Angus for hosting the ceremony, and the awards committee for reviewing and adjudicating nominations.

9.2. History of Transfer in BC - https://www.bccat.ca/system/history – *Val Yorkston*

At JAM 2024, BCCAT provided a "history corner" presenting infographics focused on the history of BCCAT and the BC Transfer System, to commemorate celebrating BCCAT's 35th anniversary. These materials are also available on the BCCAT website.

10. IN THE NEWS

Rob Fleming shared some recent news items of interest: https://mailchi.mp/f9e47a4c954a/gd0mdypkrv-6744818

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other items of business.

12. NEXT MEETINGS & ADJOURNMENT

ADMISSIONS	January 24, 2025
TAC	January 31, 2025
RESEARCH	February 7, 2025
COUNCIL	March 17, 2025
COUNCIL	June 9, 2025
COUNCIL	October 6, 2025
COUNCIL	December 8, 2025
COUNCIL	March 16, 2026