COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025 | 9:30am – 12:30pm

Meeting #154 of the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer

MINUTES (DRAFT)

ATTENDEES:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

FLEMING, Robert (Co-Chair)	BCCAT Executive Director
GRAEME, Angus (Co-Chair)	Retired President, Selkirk College
AROCA, Willy A.	Assist. Dept. Head, School of Hospitality, Vancouver Community College
CHENOWETH, John	Associate Vice-President Academic, Community Education, NVIT
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, and 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
MITCHELL, Zena	Vice-President, Students, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
SAINI, Sam	Associate Registrar & Director of Undergraduate Admissions & Student Recruitment, UBC
SIEDLACZEK, Kathy	Dean, Academic Planning & Quality Assurance, BCIT
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
WIEBE, Sunita	Director, Academic Quality Assurance, Langara College

REGRETS: Dianne Biin

STAFF MEMBERS:

DROPOL, Adina	Office Coordinator
CHUN, Anabella	Committee & Technology Support Coordinator
HESLOP, Joanne	Student Transitions Project Manager
KOOK, Jennifer	Associate Director, Member Services & Engagement
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	Communications Coordinator

GUESTS:

FERRELL, Ben	Executive Director, Post-Secondary Digital Policy & Programs, PSFS

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 we are gathering 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 *– A. Graeme*

The proposed agenda was approved as presented.

MOTION: To approve the proposed agenda as presented. L. Styles / K. Siedlaczek CARRIED

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (Dec 2, 2024)

The December 2024 minutes were approved as presented.

MOTION: To approve the proposed agenda as presented. J. Chenoweth / G. McMillan CARRIED

4. COUNCIL BUSINESS

4.1 Provincial Issues and Developments

4.1.1 Ministry Update *– B. Ferrell*

Ben provided a brief update, noting the following:

- There is a hiring freeze in effect and no opportunity for travel.
- There is currently planning and reflection across Ministry on potential impacts from tariff threats.
- The Digital Learning Strategy is working with the AI policy working group to look for collaboration opportunities as a system and to look at how to best adopt AI for the benefit of learners so that the PSIs with fewer resources could benefit from the work of larger PSIs. A guidance document may be published in the summer.
- There is ongoing priority work with BCCAT and EPBC to integrate TCS transfer data into EPBC website.
- For CIP guidance, BCCAT will refer to Jamie Edwardson at PSFS.

4.1.2 Indigenous **Education** Update *– J. Chenoweth*

- The Indigenous communities and their title to the land has not been considered in tariff discussions. There is an overall frustration among Indigenous communities.
- John was happy to share that, as the adjudicator with IAHLA and FNESC, he has received 56 proposals from 43 public institutions working with IAHLAs to support programs in the Indigenous communities (5 from NVIT). This means almost all public PSIs are stepping up with proposals of training in communities. About one third are language-related.
- UBC celebrated 50 years of NITEP and John mentioned it was well represented. There were 500 graduates in the last 50 years.

4.1.3 EducationPlannerBC Update *– K. McCredie*

- Karen reported that a third-party applicant service was launched on the EPBC website for people who need assistance submitting applications.
- EPBC launched a Nursing Program page to provide an overview to applicants about the programs.
- EPBC has been working with MyCreds and the BCRA to support a province-wide solution. More discussions on this topic will take place at the Spring BCRA meeting.
- Integration work ongoing with BCCAT to present full transfer credit transcripts.

- As part of the strategic plan, EPBC developed an annual applicant survey to look at behaviours and opinions of applicants. For this project, it has partnered with Academica to work on the survey.
- EPBC is launching a national campaign with Maclean's magazine about studying in BC.

4.2   Executive Director Report – *R. Fleming*

Rob provided some highlights on recent activities and developments at BCCAT.

4.2.1   Key Activities & Developments

MINISTRY/GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

- In relation to Nursing programs, BCCAT led a series of conversations with the LPN to BSN innovation pathways working group about pathways building. The group is looking to figure out what those pathways would look like in terms of laddering.
- BCCAT will be presenting to the Deans and Directors of Health Programs in April.
- Rob gave an update at the post-secondary learning group on BCCAT activities and the latest STP research.
- The micro-credential framework committee met late last year, with minor changes to the framework.
- Rob attends the DQAB meetings in an advisory capacity. There has been correspondence around degree authorization on pathway partnerships with non-BC Transfer System members. Rob gave a presentation on the Profile and Performance report at the last DQAB meeting, with a glimpse on how private degree-granting institutions' students are performing.

BC TRANSFER SYSTEM CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

- BCCAT held a meeting with BCAIU and RUCBC on IRCC changes, International Student Mobility and work plan developments.
- BCCAT staff met with leads at VCC to discuss the curriculum sharing initiative they're working on.
- BCCAT launched a Review of the BC Transfer System Membership Policy. The group will meet periodically over the next several months and will focus on language and expectations around degree authorization at institutions, particularly if they are brand new. The group is working on determining appropriate and inclusive language for Indigenous and First Nations mandated Indigenous institutions if they are offering programs at the post-secondary level.

INTER-PROVINCIAL/INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

- Staff have attended the ACAT Annual Pathways meeting via Zoom.
- The GDN and PCCAT conference is on the horizon at the end of May.
- Transfer Credit Frameworks meetings to follow with CICan

4.2.1.1   Ministry Correspondence

Rob referred members to reference materials such as letters from Minister, Anne Kang, as well as the Parliamentary Secretary, Sunita Dhir, and their new roles.

4.2.1.2   TRU Press Release

As part of the Digital Learning Strategy, BCCAT has partnered with TRU Open Learning in relation to their initiative to assess micro-credentials for credit. BCCAT will have a working to adapt the TCS to operate as a repository for 50+ assessed micro-credentials. The press release from TRU was included in the agenda package. This work will be highlighted in BCCAT's work plan for FY26 as it continues to support them in their assessment and eventually adapt the TCS workflow to accommodate micro-credential assessments.

4.2.2   Staff Report

The staff report was presented for information.

4.2.3   Project & Activities Update

The projects were on track.

4.3   Annual Budget & Work Plan

4.3.1   FYE 2025 Draft Budget Estimations

Rob presented the fiscal year end draft budget estimations document ahead of the final Q4 submission to Ministry. BCCAT will present the final fiscal year consolidations at the June Council meeting.

MOTION: To approve the 2024-25 Draft Budget Estimations. K. McCredie / L. Styles CARRIED

4.3.2   BCCAT Funding Request & Accountability Letter

The BCCAT budget request and accountability letter were included in the agenda package for reference.

4.3.3   FY26 Draft Proposed Budget Work Plan

Rob presented the proposed budget work plan to the Council members, for approval.

MOTION: To approve the 2025-26 Draft proposed Budget Work Plan. A. Hulbert / S. Saini CARRIED

5. ADMISSIONS

5.1   Admissions Committee *– Z. Mitchell (Chair)*
(Last Meeting: January 24, 2025)

Zena reported that the Admissions committee last met on January 24. The committee has welcomed two new members: Sunita Wiebe, Director, Office of Academic Quality Assurance (LANG) and Michelle Davis, Associate Director, Admissions and Awards (UBC-O).

5.2   Admissions Projects *– A Tikina*

Anna mentioned that the Proposed projects for 2025-26 are included in the Agenda package in more detail. One of the projects will be conducted in-house, and the other will be contracted out.

For the current projects on the go, Anna highlighted two of them:

- The *Policies and Practices of Course Syllabi Distribution at BC PSIs* project is specifically focussed on the timing of syllabi distribution and its influence on student engagement and retention at BC PSIs. The committee has received the draft report and it has been reviewed by staff and committee peer reviewers. The final draft is expected and should be complete by the end of the fiscal year.

- *The Transfer Pathways of International Students from Private to Public BC Transfer System PSIs* project has been submitted and the updated draft was received and reviewed by committee members. This draft will go to the committee within the fiscal year.

6. RESEARCH

6.1   Research Committee *– S. McKeown (Chair)*
(Last Meeting: February 7, 2025)

Stephanie reported that the last committee meeting took place on February 7, with a jam-packed agenda. The new members are Keith Ellis, Associate Vice-President, Institutional Effectiveness (DOUG), James Gifford, Professor & Director of University Core (FDU), and Aurelea Mahood, Associate Vice President Academic & Vice Provost (CAPU). For Dianne Biin, Director, Indigenous Education & Engagement (SELK), it was her last meeting, although her term on the committee ends in April.

The ongoing projects are *Delivery Preferences and Overview of Student Surveys and Institutional Responses*, led by CHASI UFV, and *Exploring Inter-Provincial Student Mobility,* led by HESA.

The two new contemporary issues projects are *Transferring Accommodations in an Institutional Setting: Challenges and Opportunities* and *Advancing Cross-Discipline Credit Recognition Pathways in BC*.

The new 2025/26 research projects are *Laddering Short Post-Secondary Programs: Policies and Perspectives* and *Administering Three-Year Degrees: A Review of Drivers, Policies and Practices*. One of the projects will be conducted in-house, and the other will be contracted out.

6.2   Research Projects *– A. Tikina*

Anna provided more information on the ongoing projects. The *Delivery Preferences and Overview of Student Surveys* project is led by UFV researchers who are developing a dashboard that contains survey reports on student preferences for delivering modalities during and post-COVID. This dashboard is currently in Draft mode. The committee members are hopeful they will receive the finalized version by the end of FY25.

The *Exploring Inter-Provincial Student Mobility* project is still waiting for data to be released by Statistics Canada. Funding for this project will be carried over into the new FY26.

Elle reminded the members that the Contemporary Issues in Student Mobility initiative is a grant-like project category. For these projects, the applicants propose the topics, in alignment with the Council mandate. The contractors are responsible for knowledge mobilization as well. BCCAT does not publish these reports. The Call for proposals goes out once a year, typically in October.

BCCAT received two proposals this year:
- *Transferring Accommodations in the Institutional Setting: Challenges and Opportunities*. This project will evaluate tools and strategies that students with disabilities use to transfer accessibility accommodations from one institution to another.
- *Advancing Cross-Discipline Credit Recognition Pathways in British Columbia*. This project aims to identify a cross-discipline credit recognition to facilitate translation and conversion of credit across trades and academic programming.

6.3   Admissions Models for Authentic Inclusion *– E. Ting*

This current Contemporary Issues project is an environmental scan of all 25 public PSIs to examine what supports are available to students with intellectual disabilities. Currently, the contractors are wrapping up interviews with personnel, institutional leadership and public policy makers, and they will be working on data analysis next. The final draft report will be completed in May or June.

7. TRANSFER & ARTICULATION

7.1   Transfer & Articulation Committee *– S. Saini (Chair)*
     (Last Meeting: January 31, 2025)

Sam reported the last TAC meeting was on January 31. The committee minutes will be included in the June Council package. The committee welcomed new members Patricia Aroca-Ouellette, Division Chair, Applied Sciences (LANG) and Brian Chapell, Dean, Science and Technology (DOUG). The committee also reviewed the JAM post-event survey.

7.2   TAC Projects *– S. Saini & F. McQuarrie*

Sam reported that the committee also reviewed the long-awaited EAP CLB re-alignment report. There was a series of recommendations and next steps included in that report. The committee voted to accept it. A new proposal was submitted to develop a new EAP level, Level 5, with the intention of making courses at this level transferable for academic credit. The committee discussed the proposal and where these courses would fit with current first year courses. The committee decided to send the proposal back to the project proponents with suggestions for further revisions.

The committee reviewed and approved two additional reports:

- The *Simultaneous Enrollment & Letters of Permission in the BC Transfer System* project completed by Fiona McQuarrie.
- The *Decisions on Awarding Equivalence for Courses at an Institution Outside of BC* report.

The Draft TAC Work Plan was reviewed via email and approved.

Currently there are no other projects being funded by TAC.

8. TECHNOLOGIES/WEBSITES

8.1   Transfer Credit System (TCS) Update *– M. Winsemann*

Mike reported that BCCAT has embarked on consultations with the various stakeholder groups in relation to modernizing the TCS platform through a user survey of its primary TCS users. BCCAT is also preparing a survey geared towards subject matter experts and their experience with the TCS. Additional feedback sessions will also be scheduled with administrators and Deans groups to put together a work plan. One of the key goals of the modernization initiative is greater interoperability with systems outside of BCCAT's jurisdiction.

8.2   BC Credit Bank Update *– M. Winsemann*

BCCAT is collaborating with the BC Credit Bank which is operated by TRU, to expand TCS to include micro-credential assessments that have already been completed and to also include assessments that will be completed in the future. Currently, there are ten pathways for micro-credentials into degree programs at PSIs and the intention is to add another fifty by summer. The TCS will act as a repository for documentation and records for these decisions.

Discussions with TRU will resume in April to talk about how the TCS can be adopted as a workflow so that micro-credentials can be passed through the assessment process that exists in the TCS and get published in the BC Transfer Guide. This is subject to available funding and priorities. BCCAT will work with BC Credit Bank to leverage the technology already used in TCS and to standardize the process in which micro-credentials are assessed into degree programs.

8.3   ONCAT Project *– M. Winsemann*

Mike reported the ONTCS (Ontario environment for the TCS) has been established and is currently being pilot-tested with their institutions. The goal is to go live in June, which means Ontario and their ONCAT institutions will be using the same platform as BCCAT through enabled shared resources and course outlines.

BCCAT is working with ONCAT on a service level agreement that will see BCCAT receive revenue in exchange for the use of its platform.

Other provinces have shown interest in this project and BCCAT is open to collaboration.

8.4   TCS Pathways Update *– J. Kook*

Jennifer reported BCCAT is in the wrap-up phase of the POC. In early April, staff will be meeting with the POC partners – the Northern Consortium and the subset of Engineering program leads – to go over the program profiles that are going to be added to the Pathways tool.

In the next two months, staff will be sending out invitations to the Phase 2 partners before operationalizing this tool. There has been significant interest in the Pathways tool from PSIs such as TRU, LANG, VIU, CAMO, BCIT, CAPU and NLC. There will be an initial meeting to conduct business process reviews to see how they approach pathways development and where their institution is at in terms of participation in the project. BCCAT will facilitate the program profile input, but it will be up to the institutions to decide whether they wish to create these pathway agreements amongst each other.

Next year, staff will be working on an API with EPBC to get pathway agreements built in.

9. COMMUNICATIONS *– V. Yorkston*

9.1   2025 Transfer Awards https://www.bccat.ca/about/awards/

Val reported that BCCAT recently published a highlights video about the 2024 awards last year, featuring the awardees.

The awards committee is going to meet for a debrief of last year's awards and to gear up for the 2025 Awards launch, likely in April. Val will send out a major announcement and post reminders through the social media channels and Engage newsletter.

9.2   Engage – Latest Issue https://mailchi.mp/bccat/gd0mdypkrv-6746207
To subscribe: https://www.bccat.ca/about/news/#Engage

Val reminded the members that Engage is one of the main ways BCCAT sends out regular updates. She encouraged them to subscribe and share the news for better outreach. BCCAT sends out email announcements to all system contacts, sector groups, and institutional contacts, while Engage works by subscription only.

10.   IN THE NEWS
Click here to view recent news articles of interest:
https://mailchi.mp/0bc7fad44469/gd0mdypkrv-6746416

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12. NEXT MEETINGS & ADJOURNMENT:

TRANSFER & ARTICULATION	May 23, 2025
COUNCIL	June 9, 2025
ADMISSIONS	September 26, 2025
COUNCIL	October 6, 2025

March 10, 2025 Council Meeting

RESEARCH	October 10, 2025
COUNCIL	December 8, 2025
COUNCIL	March 16, 2026