

## MINUTES

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### ATTENDEES:

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

FLEMING, Robert (Co-Chair)	BCCAT Executive Director
GRAEME, Angus (Co-Chair)	Retired President, Selkirk College
AROCA, Willy A.	Interim Dean, School of Hospitality, Food Studies & Business, Vancouver Community College
CHENOWETH, John	President & CEO, NVIT
COLLINS, Lisa	Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President, Students, SFU
DOMAE, Lisa	President & CEO, North Island College
HULBERT, Avery	Faculty Instructor/Program Coordinator, College of the Rockies
KAARDAL, Kevin	Retired Superintendent of Schools & CEO, Central Okanagan Public Schools
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
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
SOMERVILLE, Michelle	Education Planning Advisor, Recruitment and Enrolment Management, Okanagan College
WHITE, Lisa	PhD Candidate, Dept. of Educational Studies & Indigenous Education, UBC
WIEBE, Sunita	Director, Academic Quality Assurance, Langara College

#### REGRETS: *Dianne Biin, Kathy Siedlaczek*

#### STAFF MEMBERS:

DROPOL, Adina	Office 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

#### GUESTS:

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

GUEST PRESENTERS

*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 (DRAFT)

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## 1. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

*We acknowledge that we are gathering on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples including the territories of the xʷməḡkwəy̓əm (Musqueam) Skwxwúmesh (Squamish) Stó:lō and Selilweta? Selilwitulh (Tseil̓ Waututh) Nations;*

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## 2. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Rob and Angus welcomed the members to the meeting. Angus extended a special welcome to the new members – Lisa Collins and Kevin Kaardal - as well as to the re-appointed members – Willy A. Aroca, Lisa Domae, Titilope Kunkel and Zena Mitchell.

A special acknowledgment was made to the two outgoing members – Helen McGregor and Lauren Styles - and to Lisa White, whose term will conclude in December, 2025. BCCAT is looking to recruit a new student member in the coming months.

A round of introductions followed for everyone attending – online and in-person.

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## 3. PROPOSED AGENDA

The proposed agenda was approved, with minor amendments to the “attendees” section, where a few of the Council members’ titles were corrected. There was a change in title for section 5.1.2 to “Indigenous Education Update”.

**MOTION:** To approve the proposed agenda as presented. M. Somerville/W. Aroca **CARRIED**

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## 4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (JUNE 9, 2025)

The June 2025 minutes were approved as presented, with minor amendments to the “attendees” section, where a few of the Council members’ titles were corrected.

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

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## 5. COUNCIL BUSINESS

### 5.1 Provincial Issues and Developments

#### 5.1.1 Ministry Update

Ben provided a brief update, noting the following:

- The ongoing labour action in the provincial government, with ministry staff on strike for several weeks, has caused a disruption to services.
- The AI Policy Working Group continues to work on a resource for the sector with policy principles and guidelines for PSIs to use as reference when developing their own internal policies. The intent is to ensure that all PSIs have comprehensive frameworks in place. The first draft release has been delayed due to the ongoing strike.
- BCIT, BCCAT and the Ministry are working to get an updated Memorandum of Understanding in place for the administration of BCCAT.
- The Ministry is reviewing the administrative models for its program offices and considering approaches to the administration of shared services like BCCAT to strengthen the way organizations are supported.

#### 5.1.2 Indigenous Education Update

John reported that he attended the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA) conference, which took place on October 2-3, 2025. There are 39 small institutions around the province run by First Nations on reserves, which are in the queue to become IAHLAs but their membership status is being reviewed. The main theme of the conference focussed on language and fluency, looking for opportunities to regain lost language resulting from residential schools.

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John also shared that in September, Mastercard Foundation allocated 235 million to institutions across Canada in recognition of strides towards reconciliation, including NVIT.

Colleges & Institutes Canada is hosting a National Indigenous Education Symposium from October 26-28 in Calgary.

The grandmother groups are growing across the province. They make protocols for communities to follow and generally serve to guide safety, happiness, nourishment and love for communities.

### 5.1.3 EducationPlannerBC Update

Karen provided an update on the EPBC engagement work, noting the following:

- EPBC continues to connect with students and supporters as they learn about and explore their education career opportunities.
- There is a long-standing relationship with high school teachers and counsellors and they welcome EPBC into their career life education and connections courses through grades 10, 11 and 12. EPBC provides sessions to help broaden students' awareness of the full range of institutions and programs available throughout BC.
- EPBC has been engaging in a provincial initiative around French language programming, intended to broaden and increase opportunities for students to continue their post-secondary education in French.
- EPBC provides presentations to parents and supporters through partnerships with provincial school districts and parent advisory committees. Most recently, EPBC has made presentations like these open to public.
- In the past few years, EPBC has developed strong partnerships with community groups such as *Success* and *Take-A-Hike Foundations*, and *Foundry BC*.
- EPBC also participates in fairs and events such as the BC School Cancer Association event, Gathering our Voices, Education and Career Fairs, and the FNEESC Annual Conference.
- This year, EPBC has supported the transition of a large event called *Find your Fit*, that focusses on middle years students.

## 5.2 Executive Director Report

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

### 5.2.1 Key Activities & Developments

#### MINISTRY CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

- BCCAT staff have continued to meet regularly with a subset of the Deans and Directors of Nursing programs, through a few working sessions over the summer, in preparation for a meeting with the Deans and Directors this Fall. The group is exploring options for more coordinated bridging pathways from LPN to BSN programs.
- BCCAT continues to collaborate with the BC Credit Bank at TRU to use BCCAT's TCS technology to record and house credit awards for microcredentials going through the PLAR process.
- Mike is the representative on the AI Policy Working Group. As a result of conversations arising from that group, BCCAT has engaged a consultant at SFU to conduct an environmental scan of BCCAT's systems in relation to potential AI use cases.

#### BC TRANSFER SYSTEM CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

- BCCAT is attending Fall meetings with Deans' Groups to gain perspective on challenges and opportunities as it develops work plan for next year.
- Over the summer, Rob consulted with the Degree Quality Assessment Board and with IAHLA representatives to organize meetings with respect to the revision of BCCAT's Membership Policy.
- Rob has been meeting with Northern Consortium consultants around student pathway development. They are currently looking at potential pathway opportunities in Care Economy program areas across their institutions.
- BCCAT continues to receive applications for membership. BCCAT will be meeting with a prospective new member institution, which now has consent to offer an Associate of Science degree program, to discuss process. There is also interest from another out of province institution.

#### INTERPROVINCIAL/INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

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- BCCAT staff regularly engage with ONCAT and ACAT by participating in conferences and working group meetings, as part of its ongoing commitment to collaborate across Canada.
  - BCCAT has been reaching out to sector associations in the public sector – the Research Universities’ Council of BC (RUCBC), BC Colleges and Pacific Association of Canadian Institutes and Universities (PACIU) – with respect to opportunities for workplan considerations for next year, but most immediately to help put together a panel at JAM which will discuss Navigating Challenges and Opportunities in the post-secondary Transfer System today.

## OPERATIONS

- Rob is continuing to work with BCIT and PSFS on the renewal of the MoU in supporting BCCAT administration and operations.
- The Council Membership posting for the student position is on the BCCAT website.
- There is an ongoing Privacy and Security training for all staff, who have been engaged with the Ministry of Citizen Services to provide feedback on legislation relating to FIPPA and our responsibilities around Privacy Information Assessments (PIAs).

### 5.2.2 Staff Report

The staff report was included in the package for information.

### 5.2.3 Project & Activities Update

The projects were on track.

## 5.3 BCCAT Budget

### 5.3.1 FY26 Q2 Update

Rob provided a budget update to Council members, at quarter two of the current fiscal year. He pointed to the revenue lines, which have been increased to reflect revenue coming in through the service agreement with ON. BCCAT has added a new project to assess the feasibility of BCCAT using AI in its technology services and is using some of the revenue to allocate funds to this project.

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## 6. ADMISSIONS

### 6.1 Admissions Committee (Last Meeting: September 26, 2025)

The minutes from the January 24, 2025 were included in the package.

It was Zena’s last report as Chair of the Admissions Committee as she has completed two terms. Sunita has accepted the role of Chair and will be providing the reports going forward.

The committee last met on September 26 and the minutes are not ready for distribution yet. There were a few other membership changes: Bacel Younan (Registrar, DOUG) has joined the committee for a three-year term and Jen Smith (Registrar, BCIT) has stepped down from the committee. The committee is looking to recruit two new members.

### 6.2 Admissions Projects

Anna provided an overview of the 2025-26 admissions projects. She highlighted the *Policies and Practices of Course Syllabi Distribution at BC PSIs* project, which was recently completed. The project focussed on student-centred approaches for course syllabi timing and content. This report will be presented on at JAM in November. The other projects are highlighted in the Council package.

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## 7. RESEARCH

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## 7.1 Research Committee (Last Meeting: October 3, 2025)

Minutes from February 7, 2025 were included in the package.

Anna reported that the Research committee last met on October 3, and the minutes from that meeting were not ready for distribution. There were a few membership changes. Katerina Standish (UNBC) has stepped down from the committee, and Mark Wallin (TRU) has completed his term. Dezene Huber (UNBC) has joined the committee for a three-year term. The committee is currently looking for an Indigenous representative.

## 7.2 Research Projects

In terms of projects on the go, *Administering Three-Year Degrees, A Review of Drivers, Policies and Practices* is led in-house by Elle Ting. The *Laddering Short Post-Secondary Programs: Practices and Perspectives* project has been contracted to HESA.

### 7.2.1 2025 Research Plan

The Research Plan was attached in the package. It also features the committees who commissioned each project.

The Contemporary Issues in Student Mobility Call for Proposals will be issued before November. The funding for successful projects will be allocated by the Council for the next fiscal year, 2026.

### 7.2.2 Delivery Mode Preferences: Student Surveys and Institutional Responses

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

This project is a repository of different surveys that assess students' responses to changes in course and program delivery modalities. Anna invited the members to explore the Dashboard. This project will be presented at JAM.

### 7.2.3 Exploring BC Post-Secondary Students' Interprovincial Mobility with Statistics Canada Data

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

This project explores the pathways of students who enrolled full-time for the first time at a BC public college or university and later enrolled at a post-secondary institution in another province. The results show most students went to AB or ON.

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## 8. TRANSFER & ARTICULATION

### 8.1 Transfer & Articulation Committee (Last Meeting: September 19, 2025)

Minutes from May 23, 2025 were included in the package.

Sam reported the last TAC meeting took place on September 19. The minutes were not ready for distribution. Dezene Huber (UNBC) has completed his term on the committee and has now joined the Research Committee. Jean Maltesen has been re-appointed for another term, and the committee was still looking for another member.

### 8.2 TAC Projects

Fiona reported that the project *Assessing the Resource Requirements and Benefits of Participation in the BC Transfer System* is currently undergoing internal review. The *Understanding Barriers to Transferring Credit for Transfer Students in BC* project is on the JAM agenda. Fiona has not yet started collecting data for this project and will be presenting at JAM on the theoretical model and its implications.

### 8.3 JAM Update

Mike reported the JAM agenda was included in the Council package. Since the last Council meeting in June, there has been a shift in delivery format for JAM from hybrid to fully virtual, due to the challenging state of the current post-secondary environment. This year, BCCAT is using a new conference platform – Pheedloop – which is a Canadian-based provider. There were over 300 people registered for the event at the time of the Council meeting. There will be a panel discussion on *Revitalizing Voices*, which

will focus on how PSIs can work on preserving indigenous. There will also be a panel discussion on navigating the currents of the post-secondary system in times of change. Most of the sessions will be available after the event on the BCCAT YouTube channel.

## 9. TECHNOLOGIES/WEBSITES

### 9.1 Transfer Credit System (TCS)

BCCAT has hired a new contractor to perform an environmental scan on how we could insert AI into various aspects of the TCS to help improve efficiency and to find opportunities for articulation. The work was underway.

### 9.2 ONCAT Project

BCCAT was in the final stages of user acceptance testing before launching the ON TCS. This will result in a major release for the BC version of the TCS as well. BCCAT will be introducing a new course outline look-up tool and updates will be visible on almost every screen to help with better wayfinding and a better overall approach to using the system.

There will be a presentation on both initiatives at JAM.

## PRESENTATION: Student Transitions Project Update

Joanne Heslop, STP Manager

Joanne provided an informative presentation with updates on the Student Transitions Project.

## 10. COMMUNICATIONS

### 10.1 BCCAT Transfer Awards Nominations

Mike provided this update on behalf of Val, who was missing her first Council meeting since 2003. He referred the members to the report and recommendations of the Transfer Awards Committee regarding four award nominees. Alejandra Mazariegos (CAPU), Lisa Randell (LANG), and Hilary Thomas (NVIT) were nominated for the *Transfer & Articulation Service Award*. Maggie Reagh (CAPU) was nominated for the *Lifetime Achievement Award*.

Mike referred the members to the synopsis for each one of the successful nominations and the motion for approval.

**MOTION:** To accept the recommendations of the Transfer Awards Committee regarding the 2025 nominees. K. McCredie/S. Saini  
**CARRIED**

Mike pointed out that since JAM was going to be entirely virtual this year, the awards ceremony was postponed until December 8, on the same day as the Council meeting, so that some of the Council members could attend.

## 11. IN THE NEWS

Click here to view recent news articles of interest:

<https://mailchi.mp/4dba78e5cd41/gd0mdypkrv-6749823>

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Angus informed the Council members that after 16 years of service as BCCAT's Executive Director, Dr. Rob Fleming is going to retire by mid-December. Angus expressed appreciation to Rob for his impeccable leadership of the BCCAT team over the years.

An interim Executive Director will be appointed soon and then a public announcement will be made. Council members were asked to treat the information as confidential until announcements are made.

## NEXT MEETINGS & ADJOURNMENT:

COUNCIL

December 8, 2025

October 10, 2025 Council Meeting

ADMISSIONS	January 23, 2026
TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION	January 30, 2026
RESEARCH	February 6, 2026
COUNCIL	March 16, 2026