

Minutes of the 2007 Geography Articulation Meeting

Date: May 5, 2007

Location: Malaspina University-College Board Room

Chair: Bernard Momer, University of British Columbia Okanagan

Co-chair/secretary: Don Stone, Malaspina University-College

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Bernard Momer at 9:00 am.

Prior to the call to order, Dr. Ralph Nilson, President of Malaspina University-College, welcomed representatives to Malaspina and wished everyone a good meeting.

2. Introduction and Regrets

Present:

Claire Beaney	U-C of the Fraser Valley	claire.beaney@ucfv.ca
Leif Burge	Okanagan College	lburge@okanagan.bc.ca
Gary Clohan	College of the Rockies	clohan@cotr.bc.ca
Tim Elkin	Camosun College	elkint@camosun.bc.ca
Katrina Erdos	Langara College	kerdos@langara.bc.ca
Kathy Fitzpatrick	Coquitlam College	k.a.fitzpatrick@gmail.com
Chris Jackson	Univ. Northern British Columbia	cjackson@unbc.ca
Norma Kerby	Northwest Community College	nkerby@nwcc.bc.ca
Wim Kok	Northern Lights College	wkok@nlc.bc.ca
Brett McGillivray	Capilano College	bmcgilli@capcollege.bc.ca
Don McPhee	Douglas College	mcpheed@douglas.bc.ca
Bernard Momer	UBC Okanagan	bernard.momer@ubc.ca
Cliff Raphael	College of New Caledonia	raphael@cnc.bc.ca
John Rose	Kwantlen College	John.Rose@Kwantlen.ca
Rosalind Scarnell	Langara College	rscarnell@langara.bc.ca
Margaret Schmidt	Simon Fraser University	margaret_schmidt@sfu.ca
Don Stone	Malaspina University-College	stone@mala.bc.ca
Phil Wakefield	University of Victoria	pwakef@mail.geog.uvic.ca

Regrets:

Maija Heimo	Thompson River University	mheimo@tru.ca
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Not present:

University of British Columbia -Vancouver, Selkirk College, North Island College, Trinity Western University

3. Approval of Agenda

Two items were added to the agenda under “New Business”:

6. (h) Professional Development Funding
 - (i) 200- and 300-level course numbering

MOVED: Brett McGillivray

SECONDED: Wim Kok

“That the amended agenda be approved.”

CARRIED.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the 2006 Meeting

The names of two representatives, Claire Beaney (University College of the Fraser Valley) and John Rose (Kwantlen University-College), were missing from those in attendance. These additions will be duly noted and amended to the minutes.

Moved by Brett McGillivray, seconded by Wim Kok that the amended minutes be approved – CARRIED.

5. Old Business

a. System Liaison Person

Bernard reported that everyone identified as a potential Systems Liaison Person at last year’s meeting said “no”.

Claire noted that Dr. Sandy Vanderburgh, former geography instructor at the University College of the Fraser Valley and now Dean of Science and Technology at Douglas College, might consider the position. She noted, however, that Sandy is currently the Systems Liaison Person for the Earth Sciences Articulation Committee. Concern was raised that there might be a potential conflict of interest of Sandy holding both liaison positions. There was agreement that Claire follow up on approaching Sandy about taking on the Geography liaison position.

Chris stated that she may know of someone if Sandy is unable to serve.

b. List-Serve

Allison Lutz (Selkirk College) remains in charge of the list-serve. Representatives were unsure of Allison’s status at Selkirk.

It was noted that the representatives email addresses on the server needed updating.

Claire offered to see if the University College of the Fraser Valley was willing to host the Geography Articulation Committee’s list-serve.

6. New Business

a. New Articulation Committee Companion

Bernard drew everyone’s attention to *The Articulation Committee Companion: A Resource for BC’s Articulation Committees, 2007 Edition* and noted that the information in this hard copy was also available on BCCAT’s revised website (<http://bccat.ca/>).

b. Archives on BCCAT Website

Bernard was asked by BCCAT’s Stephanie Oldford what the Geography Articulation Committee would like to have archived on BCCAT’s revised website. Minutes of past articulation meetings and postings of meetings were considered appropriate for posting. Posting agendas was not considered necessary. The posting of past institutional reports on the website was of concern to some representatives. It was agreed that the new Chair, Don Stone, communicate these positions to Stephanie.

c. Policy for Private Degree Granting Institutions

Using the BCCAT website (<http://bccat.ca/pubs/private.pdf>), Bernard reviewed the provisions of the provincial government’s new policy (released in March 2007) on the obligations of private post-secondary institutions operating in British Columbia and their participation in provincial articulation. It was noted that Coquitlam College and Trinity Western University have participated in Geography Articulation meetings for a number of years. It was noted that Canada West University planned to offer an undergraduate degree in Geography and it was suggested that the Geography Articulation Committee extend an invitation to all new private post-secondary institutions, offering geography courses, to attend the next articulation meeting.

MOVED: Ros Scarnell

SECONDED: John Rose:

“That the Chair of the Geography Articulation Committee send a letter to the Vice-Presidents, Deans and Chairs of geography departments in the new private universities and colleges inviting them to send an institutional representative to the next Geography Articulation Meeting.”

CARRIED.

d. Campus 2020

Bernard reviewed a number of recommendations produced in Campus 2020. Recognizing that this is a long and complex document, Cliff suggested that our discussion center on a couple of questions: “What impact do these recommendations have upon our institutions?” and “What impact do they have on geography as a discipline?”

At the institutional level, Bernard questioned whether the recommendations in the Campus 2020 report would lead to a re-vamping of the entire post-secondary educational system in B.C. – one modeled after California. Claire and Don noted that many in the university-college system saw little change in their roles within the broader system, other than a change in name. However, the focus of research funding (95% among the 3 Georgia Strait universities) was a major concern for fledgling researchers in the university-colleges.

Brett expressed his college's strong opposition to a recommendation in the report that the colleges no longer be permitted to offer undergraduate degrees. He noted that Capilano College had been offered specialized degrees, very successfully, for the past 15 years and to have these taken away would be extremely disruptive – at the institutional and departmental level, as some of the larger degree programs at Capilano rely on geography courses to round out their programs. John noted that Selkirk had just introduced an applied degree program with a focus on GIS and Leif stated that Okanagan College was working on an applied geomatics degree program. Capilano is currently working on a partnership degree program with Griffiths University in Australia.

Norma mentioned the importance of associate degrees to First Nations students attending Northwest Community College. Many First Nations communities in northern British Columbia use completion of an associate degree as a criterion in their hiring process.

During the discussion, a number of questions were raised on the recommendations produced in the 2020 report. It was agreed that the Chair draft a letter to the Minister of Advanced Education, with a copy to BCCAT. The Chair requested that representatives email him specific questions they would like included in the letter. Additional comments, critiques and suggestions on how to move forward would be welcomed. Don requested that these be submitted within the next 10 days and he'll take this input, formulate a draft letter, circulate it for review and feedback, prepare a revised letter, forward the revised version and then submit to the Minister. It is anticipated that this process will take no longer than three weeks.

e. Institutional Reports

Reports were presented by each institution's representative. Declining enrolments in the smaller colleges was of critical concern. Budgetary cuts at those institutions meant the cancellation of a number of geography courses and/or sections last year. A couple of university-colleges experienced a decline in enrolments for the first time in 2006-07, whilst another experienced a significant increase. The urban-based institutions in the Greater Vancouver region tended to experience an increase in enrolment. The larger universities reported stabilized or increased enrolments in 2006-07. Reasons for a decline in enrolments: strong provincial economy – students taking well-paid jobs out of high school; changing demographic patterns – fewer number of potential students; and lowering of GPA levels for entry to the large universities – perceived to have had an impact on some colleges and university-colleges experiencing a decline in enrolments in 2006-07.

f. BCCAT Chair and System Liaison Meeting

Bernard and Don attended the BCCAT Chair and System Liaison Meeting in Vancouver in February. Bernard reported the theme of the meeting centered around the results of a student survey on what was “good” and “bad” about the provincial articulation system. One of the key issues raised at the meeting: How are students moving around and through BC's post-secondary system? How can

BCCAT facilitate easier movement of students from one institution to another? A critical issue raised at this meeting involved a review of “Sending” and “Receiving” institutions, as currently set up on BCCAT’s new website. It was noted that university-colleges and some colleges were now “Receiving” institutions, rather than traditional “Sending” institutions and that the current interface is confusing for students, systems liaison persons, articulation reps, student advisors, etc. For example, there is no way for Capilano College to easily determine whether a student transferring from UBC into one of its degree programs has already met some of the program requirements.

This issue of “Sending” and “Receiving” institutions was discussed by reps at some length. It was agreed that the Geography Articulation Committee support any move BCCAT can make to “the system” that would facilitate an easier cross-referencing system – perhaps on a course-equivalent basis.

g. Course Outline Template for Articulation

Bernard demonstrated BCCAT’s new course outline template that is now available online (<http://bccat/outline/index.cfm>).

In a related matter, Wim asked how many reps put their course outlines on the worldwide web. Only a few indicated they did. Several indicated they put their course outlines and course materials on a secure student site (e.g., Moodle).

h. Professional Development Funds

Wim inquired as to whether other institutions had had their professional development funding reduced in the past year. He noted that Northern Lights College had cut PD funding by \$62,000 (from \$92,000 to \$30,000) for the coming year, in order to increase faculty salaries by 1%. Several reps commented on minor adjustments but nothing of the magnitude experienced at NLC.

i. 200- and 300-level Geography courses

Claire raised the issue that some 200-level physical geography courses (e.g., geomorphology) at UCFV were not being accepted as 300-level courses at the universities when the course content was the same as the 300-level courses offered by those universities. Phil noted that the University of Victoria only allows two upper division courses to be transferred into its degree programs. However, he did note that if a request for a UCFV physical courses course at 200-level (e.g., geomorphology) was forwarded to the department, the undergraduate advisor would accept transfer credit and give it the same level of credit if the course content matched, or nearly matched, that of the equivalent UVic course. Margaret noted that Simon Fraser University will not entertain 200-level courses for 300-level transfer credit. There was an understanding that resolving this type of issue was likely best left for individual institutions to negotiate rather than address it within an articulated system that is not equipped to handle 300-level courses.

7. Selection of New Co-Chair and Next Year's Host

New Co-chair: Gary Clohan

The 2008 meeting will be held at the College of the Rockies on May 6, 7 and 8.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.