

BIOLOGY ARTICULATION COMMITTEE 2015 MEETING MINUTES

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL ON ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFERS (BCCAT)

11-12 May 2015 – Senate Chambers, Rm A180 University Centre, University of Victoria

Present:

Allan Arndt (UFV & Alexander College)	Ellen Pedersen (Okanagan College)
Greg Beaulieu (UVic)	Germaine Mistry (NWCC)
Angela Colangeli (Camosun College)	Greg Doheny (Columbia College)
Annie Prud'homme-Genereux (Quest University)	Kathy Nomme (UBC -Vancouver)
Blythe Nilson, Chair (UBC-Okanagan)	Maria Morlin (VCC)
Carol Pollock (UBC - Vancouver)	Mario Moniz de Sa (Langara College)
Caroline Josefsson (VIU)	Marja de Jong Westman (Capilano U)
Carson Kever (Kwantlen Polytechnic)	Paula Vaananen (Selkirk College)
Christine Hodgson (North Island College)	Rob McGregor (Douglas College)
Dana Parementer (CNC)	Rob Tillman (College of the Rockies)
Dennis Venema (Trinity Western University)	Sharon Gillies (UFV & Alexander College)
Dezene Huber (UNBC)	Tara Stehelin (Yukon College)
John FitzGibbon (BCCAT)	

Regrets:

Cindy Broberg (Northern Lights College)	Paul Burns (Corpus Christi)
Tyler Bassett (College of New Caledonia)	Bruce Millen (Coquitlam College)
Emelia Kirkwood (SFU)	Mike Winsemann (BCCAT)

Recording: Danielle Janess, University of Victoria

11 May 2015

Welcome to Victoria, from Dr. Kerry Delaney, Chair, Department of Biology

1. Meeting Called to Order at 9:05 a.m.

1. Announcements (Greg Beaulieu, UVic)
2. Introductions (Dezene Huber, UNBC)
3. Welcome to New Members (Dezene Huber)
4. Regrets

2. Approvals

1. Approval of 2015 Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda without additions

Moved: Maria Morlin, VCC Seconded: Blythe Nilson, UBC-O

Carried unanimously

3. Guests

1. Angie Calleberg: BC Ministry of Education

Topic: K-12 Science Curriculum

Some points that were raised during the presentation and the subsequent Q&A:

- Is it possible to reconcile Aboriginal belief/knowledge and science? Are they conflicting?
- Assessment is the cornerstone of curriculum—will there be additional resources and final examinations?
- How are study skills being addressed as they critical for student success?
- The division of 10–12 science courses into modules may be problematic if coverage isn't adequate preparation for first year courses.
- Does having academic (university) and non-academic (professional or educated citizen) tracks make sense?
- Were scientists involved in developing the curriculum and, if not, should they be?
- Lists of learning outcomes will be reduced and focus will be shift to core competencies and deeper learning. Students will be challenged to “understand/do/know”.
- The process for curriculum redesign is supposed to be “transparent, inclusive, and open”.
- Portions of the curriculum will be provided as a variety of modules, and the students will be able to craft their own program from choosing a subset of the modules.
- Biology 11 and 12 will continue to be independent in terms of Biology 11 not being a prerequisite for Biology 12

Some of the points in the presentation could use further discussion at future meetings or for the subcommittee (see action item below) to follow up on. For instance: increasing the optional nature of science courses in high school; the nature of the “new courses”; how this potential new system would work with provincial exams; how to ensure rigor when students “create a module” for a high school science course; general reporting of transcripts to BC (and beyond) institutions; etc.

Action Item: Develop a subcommittee of the biology articulation committee that will establish a relationship with the BC Ministry of Education science curriculum development team in order to provide feedback and offer our expertise. Any action by the subcommittee will require approval of the articulation committee.

4. Reports

1. Grid report update (Aisling Brady, reported by Christine Hodgson, NIC)
2. Report on JAM, BCCAT news, Pending articulation requests (John FitzGibbon, BCCAT)

Christine mentioned the first year aims that she presented at Whitehorse in 2008 and wondered whether a project could identify the skills required for entering majors Biology. There was general agreement that it was a good idea, especially in light of the graduation years proposals.

3. Report on Biology Flexible Pre-Major (Christine Hodgson, NIC)
 - Christine reported that nine institutions offering the degree and 10 sending institutions had signed on with five yet to commit. Camosun was asked whether it would join.
 - Members noted that the Biology FPM was not particularly flexible, or perhaps it was simply poorly named (“major pathways” is an alternate term used in other jurisdictions).
 - Members were encouraged to advertise the agreement to advisors and students.
 - Chemistry is now working on an FPM.

5. Business arising from minutes of the 2014 meeting:

1. Language on 'preclusions and exemptions' (Blythe Nilson, UBC-0)

A majority of members believe that if content is the same, that a second year course should be given third year credit if appropriate.

Action Items:

- *Dezene has supplied the BCCAT document on “Upper level credit in the BC transfer system” prepared by Mike Winsemann via email list.*
- *Mike & Blythe to continue work on finding solutions to 3rd year transfer credit agreement that will allow direct lower level to upper level transfers where appropriate.*
- *Note: When documents are sent to research institutions use extra rigor in explanation and include learning outcomes, etc. In other words, add comments and additional information as possible to ensure good interpretation at a later date.*
- *John noted that UBC does not have a policy prohibiting granting third year credit for second year courses but generally favours articulation of lower level courses. Some receiving institutions feel that there is a significant difference between lower level and upper level courses while others feel the boundary is artificial. Mike Winsemann’s paper on Upper Level credit is found on the BCCAT website at*

6. Reports from member institutions

1. Yukon College (Tara Stehelin)
2. Vancouver Island University (Caroline Josefsson)
3. Vancouver Community College (Maria Morlin)
4. University of Victoria (Greg Beaulieu)
5. University of Northern British Columbia (Dezene Huber)
6. University of the Fraser Valley (Allan Arndt & Sharon Gillies)
7. UBC-Vancouver (Carol Pollock & Kathy Nomme)

8. UBC Okanagan (Blythe Nilson)
9. Trinity Western University (Dennis Venema)
10. Thomson Rivers University (Eric Littlely)

4:30 pm Recess for the Day

12 May 2015

9:00 am Business meeting reconvenes

6. Reports from member institutions (cont.)

- 11. Selkirk College (Paula Vaananen)
- 12. Quest University (Annie Prud'homme Genereux)
- 13. Okanagan College (Ellen Pedersen)
- 14. Northwest Community College (Germaine Mistry)
- 15. North Island College (Christine Hodgson)

Action Item: Members to send email about 1st-year majors textbook. Which do you use or like and why?

- 16. Columbia College (Greg Doheny, via polycom)
- 17. Langara College (Mario Moniz de Sa)
- 18. Kwantlen College (Carson Keever)
- 19. Douglas College (Rob McGregor)
- 20. College of the Rockies (Rob Tillman)
- 21. College of New Caledonia (Dana Parmenter)

Action Item: Members called to share any teaching tips on mathematics, textbooks via email list.

- 22. Capilano College (Marja de Jong Westman)

Action Item: Marja will send CCUEN (Canadian College & Environmental Network) information to email list, with a view to gain more membership from among BIOL articulation.

- 23. Camosun College (Anna Colangeli)
- 24. Alexander College at UFV (Sharon Gillies)

7. New Business

- 1. Ongoing maintenance of the Biology Flexible Pre-Major (Christine Hodgson)

Suggestion in subsequent meetings to have standing agenda item on the FPM.

Action Item: Change agenda template to include standing item for ongoing maintenance of the FPM.

- 2. Liaisons potential with Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (Dezene Huber)

Action Item: Try to ensure Biology Articulation meetings of ACAT and BCCAT do not co-occur. Perhaps rep from BCCAT to attend ACAT in person or via telecom if possible?

- 3. AP and BIOL first-year placement

Only a very brief discussion.

4. Statement on Teaching Evolution (Dennis Venema, Trinity Western University)

Discussion on whether to adopt an existing statement or create our own.

Motion to endorse NABT statement on Teaching Evolution

Moved: Blythe Nilson, UBCO

Seconded: Sharon Gillies, Alexander College

Unanimously carried.

Action Item: Dennis to contact NABT to notify them of BC Articulation endorsement and link to Articulation Committee website. Also ask for guidelines and restrictions on the use of the statement. Let them know Articulation Committee supports listing by name on NABT website.

5. Partnership for Undergraduate Life Sciences Education (PULSE) (Carol Pollock, UBC-V)

Action Item: Members called to speak with Carol if your institution could benefit from attending the PULSE Curriculum Revision Workshop (USA).

6. Mail list

Anna Colangeli, Camosun College, will be the new mail list coordinator.

8. Any other business (A.O.B.)

- Textbook discussion
- We express our thanks and gratitude to various people who made this meeting possible, and to those who are retiring or otherwise leaving the committee and who have worked hard in this context over the past (sometimes very many) years.

9. 2016 Meeting Planning

1. Location: Yukon College, Whitehorse
2. Host: Tara Stehelin
3. Dates: Sometime after May 9, 2016
4. BC BIO Hosting: Maria Morlin, VCC

10. Election of Chair for 2015/16

Nomination: Dezene Huber, UNBC

Motion: Greg Beaulieu, UVIC

Seconded: Marja de Jong Westman, Capilano U

Carried unanimously

11. Meeting Adjourned 1:30 pm 12 May 2015

Motion to adjourn

Moved: Carol Pollock, UBC

Seconded: Christine Hodgson, NIC

Carried unanimously