

# Geography Articulation

## Draft AGENDA

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL on ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFERS (BCCAT)

Abbotsford campus of the University of the Fraser Valley

Room A225/A229

**Saturday, May 16, 2015**

Gordon Weary, Chair

Steven Marsh, Co-Chair

1. 8:00 AM – Coffee and Pastries in RM A413
2. 8:30 AM - Call to Order in RM A225 or A229 – 8:47 am
3. Additional Agenda Items – none
4. Approval of Agenda – Allison/
5. Introductions and Attendance

Gordon Weary, NWCC (Chair)

Gary Clohan, COTR

Tim Elkin, Camosun

Allison Lutz, Selkirk

Colin Mills, Langara

John Fitzgibbon, BCCAT

Maxwell Ofosuhene, TWU

Mark Cernigoj, Coquitlam

Kathy Runnalls

Terence Day, Okanagan

Janet Sturgeon, SFU

Bernard Momer, UBCO

Parthi Krishnan, KPU

Chris Jackson, UNBC

Jeanne Mikita, Capilano

Jozsef Budai, BCSSTA

Claire Hay, UFV

Don Alexander, VIU

Steven Marsh, UFV

Ken Brealey, Geography SLP (UFV)

Regrets – UVIC, NLC, NIC

Absent – UBC, TRU

6. Approval of Geography Articulation minutes from May 9, 2014. (Chris & ? as amended)

Amendments – Attendance – Allison Lutz and Maxwell had sent regrets

F. Grade thresholds – BCCAT is currently seeking the information – informally (?)

H. Geography lab science transfer issues – delete/strike out the “~~The consensus is that courses that are 4 hours (2 x 2) long per week are awarded 3 credits, while those that are 6 hours (3 x 3) are awarded 4 credits.~~”

11. Instructor qualification – discussion ensued – John F informed that there were discussions at BCCAT. Key issue – instructor qualification

7. Approval of Joint Geography and Earth Science minutes from May 9, 2014. (Gary & Janet)

8. Business Arising from Minutes.

From Joint Geography & Earth Science min – promoting Geography at high schools

9. Bernard Momer – presentation on flexible pre-major in Geography (Committee thanked Bernard M. for all his work on the FPM project)

Presented the findings of the project – Geography FPM faces challenges –  
Questionnaire I – administrative issues, course offering/cancellation, and may prevent the development of new courses  
Questionnaire II – lack of statistics, and lack of knowledge at both sending & receiving institutions  
Challenges of cross matching subject areas, specializations, courses & their requirements between sending & receiving institutions

Main conclusions – little evidence exist to determine how useful a FPM would be, a FPM is possible for some institutions, and the number of specializations offered in geography programs renders a FPM complicated

John F gave an overview of FPMs in other disciplines and the BCCAT’s perspective on them – idea is to have provincial wide FPMs in the various disciplines. Next step, if there is any appetite for a provincial wide FPM, then the articulation committee will have to apply to BCCAT for funding to develop it. If no, then individual institutions can still pursue one-on-one FPMs

Meeting discussed the potential of coming up with core courses that can form the basis for a scaled down FPM, i.e. build on the existing individual and block transfers

to encourage students to take and stay in Geography, but have greater flexibility to move between institutions

Meeting accepted the FPM report (Steven M. & Don A.) & discussed the potential next step.

Action Item – Strike a sub-committee (Janet S., Kathy R., & Chris J., to work with Bernard M. to develop an implementation proposal for the FPM report)

#### 10. Jozsef Budai, British Columbia Social Studies Teachers Association – presentation on social studies curriculum revisions and potential impacts on post-secondary Geography programs

Gave an overview of Geography at the high schools, as well as the advanced placement (AP) program (Burnaby North High School has the largest AP program in Canada & UBC is the largest receiving institution, includes international students)

Gave an overview of proposed Social Studies curriculum – Jozsef B. is on the curriculum development/writing team – 4 new features – reduction in number of content learning standards, focus on disciplinary thinking, less detailed & less prescriptive content, greater emphasis on understanding Aboriginal history & culture. (More individualized, content-based, skills-based)

Main challenge – most social studies teachers do not have Geography background, proposed Social Studies curriculum does not highlight any Geography, no input from higher institutions (it is a curriculum for schools by school teachers, but there are some input vis a vis the IB program), change means that Social Studies is only up to grade 9, and has options in grade 10 to 12 (Jozsef B., together with Paula, has developed a Physical & Human Geography theme for the proposed grade 12 social studies curriculum)

This Fall K-9 curriculum will be rolled out for field testing for implementation the next year; higher level grades' drafts will be sent out for feedback.

Action item – Chris Jackson will draft a letter to Nick Postchuck (?) at the Min of Education to emphasize the spatial literacy.

Feedback to Jozsef B. on the draft of the Grade 12 Human and Physical Geography curriculum by Wednesday, 20 May 2015

#### 12. LUNCH BREAK (moved up)

#### 11. John FitzGibbon, Associate Director, Transfer and Articulation, BC Council on Admissions & Transfer – BCCAT update

Circulated the Spring 2015 BCCAT Report.

Will have a follow up meeting with the Min of Education on the work by Jozsef & the feedback from Geog Articulation.

Call for nominations for Council Awards – [bccat.ca/system/awards](http://bccat.ca/system/awards)

Provincial Review of the Associate Degree – John F. is canvassing feedback from institutions – net results – still important but have to articulate with any program with full degree awarding research intensive institutions

Emphasis on applied degrees for professional qualifications

Working on papers on Experiential Learning & Academic Advising

Highlighted the publications on the report – Articulation Committees in the BC Transfer System – to document & enhance how articulation committees work ; Dual Credit – raises questions about the exit criteria for high schools & entrance for post sec institutions.

Survey of international students – currently in BC ~ 30,000 students; about 9,000 responded, final report in late summer 2015 – will deal with their motivations & issues in coming here.

Implications of New High School Graduation Requirements – looking at the different range of entrance requirements at the post sec level, and how it can be improved for smoother transition of students from high school to post sec. – Jeanne M. what will it look like? – John F. default position appears to be some kind of standardized tests – bringing together a team of people from BCCAT and institution to look at the system and the processes.

BC Transfer Students Profile & Performance Reports – tracking how well transfer students are doing at the different institutions

BCCAT Website redesign – check that the information there is up-to-date for the various institutions

15. Election of new chair and co-chair and selection of next date and location. (moved up)

Chair - Steven M. UFV – Terence D./Bernard M. – passed unanimously  
Vice-Chair – Kathy R. – Gary C./Tim E. - passed unanimously  
Date & Location – 5-6 May 2106, Douglas College

13. Presentation of Institutional Reports

**KPU** – BA Major 1<sup>st</sup> graduates, chair change, retirements, new faculty, BSc Major development, Associate Degree discontinuation, budget freeze, department move

**UFV** – Environmental Studies degree, new courses & refining/reintroduction of existing courses, minor changes to streamline the programs. Steve now the Chair, full complement of regular faculty, so continuity in running the programs, budget freeze & cuts, online course offering

**Douglas** – new lab tech, though enrolment down has ability to introduce new course (e.g. Environment & Media), very first 3<sup>rd</sup> year courses (Tourism & Recreation), no field school this year, looking at a name change (Geog & the Environment), exploring possibility of a field course, main issue – enrolment

**TWU** – proposal to merge Geography & Environmental Studies programs into 1 department – issue of how Human Geography will still be part of the new department that is coming onboard in 2016. Consolidating and building the Geography department/program at TWU. Main issue – budget freeze – impacts ability to attend articulation meetings

**Langara** – no major changes, 1 faculty on long term disability – might impact an online course. Emphasis on increasing international students in courses – acculturation issues. New building at Langara. Jim B. now Division Chair & Colin M. Geog Chair

**SFU** – recalibration of streams: changes are designed to improve accessibility/flexibility/focus of the 3 streams. WQB changes (Writing/Quantitative/Breadth): some double designations now allowed (ie Intro to Geomorphology). New course: GEOG/LBST 328 Labour Geographies (cross-listed with Labour Studies.) Host of CAG 2015.

**UBC Okanagan** – Geography is one of 4 disciplines within *Community, Culture & Global Studies*; the other members are Anthropology, WMST, and Indigenous Studies. The 'unit' head comes from outside of the institution. Enrollment decline since 2011/12 peak; physical geography has stabilized in the past year. International field courses to Brazil, Italy, and New Zealand/Cook Islands this year.

**Camosun** – current number of courses is stable, with approximately 80% enrollment. Budget cuts, however, have meant the loss of the newly created position of p/t lab assistant. This lab position was tied to increased numbers in lab courses, but now there won't be support. Recent initiatives include a partnership with local high schools to teach Geog 100 (Environmental Sustainability) and 111 (Natural Hazards.) Challenge: *Infosilem* is creating problems regarding dedicated classrooms, and time overlaps.

**UNBC** – 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary! WDCAG 2015 was relocated to Kamloops due to strike; hope to offer in near future. 2 retirements; need frequent sessional instructors because several regular faculty are research chairs (with decreased teaching loads.) Moving towards a more 'generalist' BSc. Field schools this year in Guatemala (Rights Action) and Peru (with Anthro). Continuing trend of declining enrollment.

**Selkirk** – Increased enrollment in Physical Geography reflects a general trend at college. However, still working to get 2<sup>nd</sup> year courses back (Geomorphology suspended in 2013). GIS degree offered through School of Environment & Geomatics. International students: about 200 students in Arts & Science from Punjab, India.

**College of Rockies** – Best wishes to Gary Clohan, retiring after 30 years. His full-time positions will be filled as RPT (60-70%). Enrollment trends: leveled out and slight increases noted.

**NWCC** – total section count has been reduced by 20 at the college; Smithers campus will be shut down (2015/16). One .5 position lost in Geography. All geography and environment programs remain intact in Terrace & Prince Rupert. New option: Complete Earth & Enviro Studies (EES) certificate & then continue on to Associate of Arts in Cultural Resource Management. Continue to run popular field school with Biology and Anthropology

**Capilano** – new Academic Plan defines Cap as a teaching-focused institution. Geography sections for 2014/15 reduced from 35 to 29 due to lower enrolment; 2<sup>nd</sup> year physical courses suspended. Geography will supply courses for the new Environmental Stewardship concentration within the Liberal Studies BA; continues to play an active role in the EarthWorks lecture & event program. New course: **GEOG 360**: Geography of a Sustainable World

**VIU** – No program changes. Two new Masters programs in Fall: Community Planning, and GIS Applications (both as 'cost-recovery programs.) Enrollment is approximately 80-90%; no cancellation yet, but provincial pressure to achieve 95-100% utilization of FTEs.

**Coquitlam** – mostly international students; enrollment is up, perhaps tied to new Associate of Arts degree (since 2013.) 2<sup>nd</sup> year course are articulate, but not being offered yet.

**Okanagan** – new GIS stream (part offered through Continuing Ed (Salmon Arm). New course: Geog of Wine. Enrollment has seen a slight decrease, primarily due to a temporary reduction in offerings.

14. Any Other Business

16. 4:00 pm - Motion to Adjourn