

2011 Geography Articulation

Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday May 7, 2011 at Room P216, Camosun College (Lansdowne Campus) in Victoria, B.C. Canada.

Attendees	Representing	E-mail Address
Allison Lutz (Chair)	Selkirk	alutz@selkirk.ca
Chris Ayles (Co-Chair)	Camosun	cayles@camosun.bc.ca
Jeanne Mikita	Capilano U	jmikita@capilanou.ca
Gary Clohan	COTR	clohan@cotr.bc.ca
Cliff Raphael	CNC	raphael@cnc.bc.ca
Don McPhee	Douglas	mcpheed@douglas.bc.ca
Parthiphan Krishnan	Kwantlen	parthiphan.krishnan@kwantlen.ca
Jim Bowers	Langara	jbowers@langara.bc.ca
Wim Kok	NLC	wkok@nlc.bc.ca
Gordon Weary	NWCC	gweary@nwcc.bc.ca
Stephanie Bunclark	Okanagan	sbunclark@okanagan.bc.ca
Liliana Hill	SFU	liliana_hill@sfu.ca
Brian Goehring	TRU	bgoehring@tru.ca
Maxwell Ofosuhene	TWU	maxwell.ofosuhene@twu.ca
David Ley	UBC	dley@geog.ubc.ca
Bernard Momer	UBCO	bernard.momer@ubc.ca
Ken Brealey	UFV	ken.brealey@ufv.ca
Chris Jackson	UNBC	cjackson@unbc.ca
Cameron Owens	UVic	camo@uvic.ca
Michael Tripp	VIU	michael.tripp@viu.ca
John Fitzgibbon	BCCAT	jfitzgibbon@bccat.ca
Matteo Babbini	High School Representative	babbini_m@sd36.bc.ca
Regrets		
Linda Sheehan	North Island	Linda.Sheehan@nic.bc.ca
Daniel Ryan	UNBC (SLP)	ryand@unbc.ca

Minutes

1. Call to Order at 8:45 am by the Chair, Allison Lutz (Selkirk College)
2. Introduction & Regrets

Regrets: Linda Sheehan (North Island) and Daniel Ryan (UNBC - SLP)

3. M/S/C (Clohan/Ayles) approved the Agenda
4. M/S/C (Ayles/Momer) approved the Minutes of May 8, 2010 Geography Articulation held at Selkirk College, B.C. as amended

a. Correction to Parthi Krishnan's email address.

5. Old Business/Business Arising

A. New SLP:

Daniel Ryan (UNBC) is the new SLP, but could not attend the meeting.

John Fitzgibbon explained the role of the SLP.

B. Committee Representation from High Schools

Matteo Babini is the new High Schools representative. He is also the B.C./Yukon regional representative of the Canadian Council for Geographic Education (CCGE)

Matteo informed the meeting of the issues facing high school geography in B.C, and Canada. These include:

- Geography 12 provincial examination is now optional. This has led to decreases in the number of students who wrote the examination. In January 2011 just over 470 students wrote it, down from over 3,000 students before the examination was made optional.
- No revision of B.C. High School Geography curriculum since 1998. This has led to the Science curriculum selectively absorbing some of the geographical science foci. This happens as early as Grade 10. The effects are increased interest in, though not awareness of, Geography with a shift from a normal curve to bi-modality in students' ability in Geography. The Geography Articulation Committee needs to take a role in revising the B.C. High School Geography curriculum.
- No standard High School Geography curriculum in Canada. Every province has revised their Geography curriculum, but B.C. in the last 3 years. The CCGE is working on this issue.

The meeting then discussed the critical issue of how to raise Geography awareness at the B.C. High School level.

Action Item: Matteo to get a list of B.C. High School Geography teachers and the Ministry of Education contacts to raise Geography awareness.

Action Item: The Chairs to write a letter to the Ministry contact(s) expressing our interest in high school geography, and our willingness to participate in curriculum review or in any other capacity.

C. Missing representation

Not an issue this year – great attendance

D. Committee representation from new/additional institutions

The following members volunteered to contact the institutions:

Chris Ayles - Royal Roads

Cameron Owens – Athabasca

Chris Jackson - Yukon

Jeanne Mikita - Corpus Christi

E. Denial of Funding to Attend Articulation

The Chair read the letter sent to NLC and the response regarding the denial of funding for Wim Kok to attend the 2010 Geography Articulation meeting. The meeting discussed the growing trend for institutions to view attendance at articulation meetings as an individual responsibility, rather than an institutional issue.

John Fitzgibbon informed the meeting that BCCAT considers it an institution's responsibility to support faculty attendance at articulation meetings.

Motion: That a letter from the Articulation Committee regarding the issue of funding to attend articulation meetings be sent to the SLP (Wim & Maxwell) (Approved)

F. Course hours at Kwantlen

Parthi Krishnan informed the meeting that the pilot project of 1.5 hours by 2 matrix of instruction at Kwantlen is currently under review.

G. Flexible pre-major

The Chair explained how flexible pre-majors are used in other disciplines. John Fitzgibbon elaborated on how History and Biology are working on such agreements.

Discussions on the following issues ensued:

- The benefits of flexible pre-majors. They allow agreement on the core foci of the discipline. This requires the learning outcomes of Geography programs at the institutions to match when transfers are involved. Well-developed flexible pre-majors will reassure students that the courses they complete at a sending institution can be used for their major when transferring to a receiving institution.
- The model to implement flexible pre-majors in Geography. The model from Computer Science with its two main streams was suggested as an example for Geography to consider.

BCCAT is working on flexible pre-majors for all disciplines in 2 phases; analysis and implementation. John Fitzgibbon explained the process of applying for funding to work

on a proposal for pre-majors for Geography, and will send further information to the co-Chairs.

This issue will be revisited next year, with updates on the progress of other disciplines sought from BCCAT.

6. New Business

A. Update on BCCAT Activities

John Fitzgibbon provided the meeting with information sheets, and gave an overview of the articulation system, and the ongoing projects and research at BCCAT. These include:

- Changes from the traditional sender or receiver status to the dual-role of institutions. This requires institutions to keep information about the programs they offer correct and current. John will circulate a list of BCCAT contacts for the individual institutions.
- The difference between Block Transfers (usually between 2 institutions) and Pre-Majors (unlike block transfers, these apply to several institutions).
- Course articulation. They are generally from the sender to receiver institutions, but not necessarily the other way.
- A pilot study on student mobility in the B.C. public system to understand the new relationships between institutions. John informed the meeting that data on transfers are accessible from institutional analysis and planning departments of individual institutions.

The meeting discussed student movements and BCCAT's upcoming study on the reasons why students transfer or not. Anecdotal evidence suggests time/distance, cost and name recognition as critical reasons. The basic assumption of the study is that students will and should be able to move between institutions.

B. Institutional Contact Persons (ICPs) at Articulation Committee

The Chair reminded the meeting to inform the co-Chairs when changes to ICPs occur at their institutions.

C. 2011 JAM (Joint Annual Meeting of Chairs, SLPs and ICPs)

This year's meeting is on November 4, 2011 at the River Rock Casino Resort, Richmond.

D. Maintenance of Listserv

The meeting discussed alternative ways of maintaining contact and communication, and managing documentation.

ACTION ITEM: Allison Lutz will study the alternatives and report back at the next meeting.

E. Institutional reports

The common issues for most institutions are student enrolment in an environment of shrinking funds, and “administrative creep” where policies set by administrators have profound effects on academic matters.

Several institutions are undertaking complete or partial reviews of their Geography programs, namely SFU (joined the new Faculty of Environment), UBC (completed its 10 year departmental review), and UVic (major restructuring and focusing on five areas).

Some institutions have new research initiatives, including UFV (the New NSERC Chair is based in Geography), UBC (the new Geographic Information Centre to house the provincial government’s air photo repository), and CNC (a research proposal for NSERC grant for climate change and assisted species relocation).

The discussion identified the issue of grading where institutions set different thresholds for letter grades. This has profound implications for transfers. Wim Kok offered to circulate his study on comparing grade values between different institutions.

UBC Okanagan will be hosting WDCAG 2012 in March 2012.

7. Selection of New Chair and 2012 Co-Chair/Host

Wim Kok (NLC) will host the 2012 Geography Articulation meeting.

8. Members expressed appreciation to Chris Ayles for hosting the meeting and organizing the field trips, and to Allison Lutz for chairing the meeting.

9. The meeting adjourned at 15:40

Minutes recorded May 7, 2011, and transcribed and emailed May 16, 2011 by Parthi Krishnan.