

2012 Geography Articulation

Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday 5 May 2012 at Northern Lights College (Fort St John Campus) in B.C. Canada.

Attendees	Representing	E-mail Address
Chris Ayles (Co-Chair)	Camosun	cayles@camosun.bc.ca
Wim Kok (Co-Chair)	NLC	wkok@nlc.bc.ca
Jeanne Mikita	Capilano	jmikita@capilano.ca
Parthiphan Krishnan	Kwantlen	parthiphan.krishnan@kwantlen.ca
Jim Bowers	Langara	jbowers@langara.bc.ca
Rosalind Scarnell	Langara	rscarnell@langara.bc.ca
Gordon Weary	NWCC	gweary@nwcc.bc.ca
Allison Lutz (Chair)	Selkirk	alutz@selkirk.ca
Janet Sturgeon	SFU	sturgeon@sfu.ca
Graeme Wynn	UBC	graeme.wynn@geog.ubc.ca
Bernard Momer	UBCO	bernard.momer@ubc.ca
Steven Marsh	UFV	steven.marsh@ufv.ca
Chris Jackson	UNBC	cjackson@unbc.ca
Dan Smith	UVic	smith@uvic.ca
Alan Gilchrist	VIU	Alan.Gilchrist@viu.ca
Mike Winsemann	BCCAT	mwinsemann@bccat.ca

Regrets

Gary Clohan	COTR	clohan@cotr.bc.ca
Cliff Raphael	CNC	raphael@cnc.bc.ca
Don McPhee	Douglas	mcpheed@douglas.bc.ca
Linda Sheehan	North Island	Linda.Sheehan@nic.bc.ca
Stephanie Bunclark	Okanagan	sbunclark@okanagan.bc.ca
Brian Goehring	TRU	bgoehring@tru.ca
Maxwell Ofosuhene	TWU	maxwell.ofosuhene@twu.ca
Daniel Ryan	UNBC (SLP)	ryand@unbc.ca
Matteo Babini	High School Representative	babbini_m@sd36.bc.ca

Minutes

1. Call to Order at 8:45 am by the Co-Chair, Wim Kok (NLC)
2. Opening address by Steve Roe, Dean of Academic and Career Programs, Northern Lights College. The Dean welcomed the Geography representatives and the Chemistry representatives via video conferencing to the campus for their respective articulations. He thanked Wim Kok for more than 20 years of excellent service to education in B.C.
3. The agenda was amended to allow Mike Winsemann from BCCAT to address both the Geography and Chemistry Articulation meetings via video conferencing. There is a change to the BCCAT enabling and transfer system to better reflect student movement. As of 1

Sept 2012, every post-secondary institution will be listed as both a sending and receiving institution. They can be:

- a. Full sending and receiving institutions,
- b. Partial sending and receiving institution (from a region e.g. Vancouver Island) or
- c. Passive receiving institutions (case by case transfer credits)

This will remove barriers and give flexibility to institutions in meeting students' needs. Representatives can check the BCCAT website or contact Mike Winsemann if they have questions.

4. Introduction & Regrets
5. M/S/C (Alan Gilchrist/Chris Jackson). The meeting approved the Agenda with changes.
6. M/S/C (Allison Lutz/Gordon Weary). The meeting approved the Minutes of 7 May 2011 Geography Articulation meeting held at Camosun College, Victoria, B.C.
7. Old Business

A. System Liaison Person (SLP)

Mike Winsemann informed the meeting of the role of the SLP. They are usually from administration to provide their perspective, and serve as a communication liaison between articulation groups and administration at institutions. Daniel Ryan (UNBC), the Geography SLP, has not attended the last three articulation meetings.

Action item – The Co-Chairs to contact the SLP to confirm he will be able to fulfill his role

B. High School Outreach

- Letter to the B.C. Ministry of Education (MoE)

A copy of the letter from the Co-Chair, Chris Ayles, to Nancy Walt from the MoE expressing the Geography Articulation group's interest in high school geography, and our willingness to participate in curriculum review or in any other capacity was circulated. Ms Walt introduced Markus Baer, Curriculum and Assessment, as the appropriate contact.

- High school teacher contact options

Due to changes to the Provincial Grade 12 examinations, Geography is an optional subject and it is up to individual teachers to incorporate elements of geography into their curriculum. While physical geography is usually integrated into high school science curricula, the challenges of introducing human geography and environmental/sustainability themes were discussed. The challenges include the time

to develop the lessons and the need to transition high school students to the university mode of teaching/learning. Currently, only informal linkages between post-secondary institutions with teachers at the Vancouver and Prince George school districts exist. The meeting agreed that champions at the high school level are required and to expand the search to include school counselors/advisors and geography teachers.

Action item – Chris Jackson to investigate the direction of Geography at the high school level and report back at the next meeting

Action item – The Co-Chairs to re-contact Matteo Babini (High School Representative) to find out what is happening at the high school level, and to forward the same letter to Ellen Curtis (Royal Canadian Geographical Society) and BC Social Studies Teachers Association

C. Committee representation from new/additional institutions

Members reported back on their efforts to find representatives from identified institutions:

Chris Ayles – Royal Roads – Does not offer Geography

Chris Jackson – Yukon – Geography not offered regularly

Jeanne Mikita – Corpus Christi – Geography not offered regularly

Cameron Owens – Athabasca – A representative (Julie Peschke) has been identified and hopes to attend next year

Parthi Krishnan – Coquitlam College – To contact it regarding a representative

D. Denial of Funding to Attend Articulation

The meeting was informed that Brian Goehring (TRU) was not able to attend this year due funding issues. More seriously, he is yet to be reimbursed for last year's articulation by his institution. Also, smaller institutions, such as North Island, only have sessional instructors teaching geography courses and are denied funding to attend articulation. The meeting was concerned that there might be a cap on funding articulation attendance by post-secondary institutions.

Action item – The meeting will revisit this issue next year based on the Geography Articulation attendance

E. Google Groups communication tool

The meeting agreed that the Geography Articulation Google Group works better than the Listserv. It was decided that the Listserv be closed and that members should sign up for the Google Group. Members are to contact the Co-Chairs and Allison Lutz if they have any issues.

F. Grade thresholds

The issue of different level for grades was discussed. For example, Capilano is moving to an institutional wide grading system, while Langara allows departments to decide what percentage equates to a letter grade though the institution assigns a letter grade to a GPA. This has implications for admissions, scholarships and graduating, as a receiving institution can decide to use the lowest percentage value when calculating grades.

Action item – Wim Kok will investigate this issue and report back at the next meeting

8. New Business

A. BCCAT update

Mike Winsemann circulated the list of outstanding transfer requests. He also explained the concept of flexible pre-major, where institutions agree that any student from any sending institution can get onto a major offered by the receiving institution. Each institution can apply to BCCAT for up to \$15,000 to develop/analyze and another \$15,000 to implement such flexible pre-majors.

Action item – Gordon Weary and Bernard Momer to explore this issue

B. Problem with UVic EOS 110/120 and GEOG 103

The meeting was informed of the problem where students cannot receive credit for both UVic's EOS 110/120 and GEOG 103, which are now separate courses.

Action Item – UVic Geography to investigate and resolve this issue

C. Problem with Geography as a Lab Science

- While UVic and VIU are not accepting Geography as a lab science for admissions, others such as UBC, SFU and UNBC do. The Co-Chairs had sent a letter to the Dean of UVic Education, Ted Rieckin, but have not received a reply yet.

Action Item – Chris Ayles to send a follow up letter, including a request for explanations/reasons. Alan Gilchrist will investigate the VIU situation.

- Wim Kok informed the meeting that he is investigating the issue of transferability of Geography as a lab science. There appears to be variability among institutions as well as the number of credits assigned. For example, UFV assigns 4 credits, but at other institutions they are 3 credits. The issue of online courses was also raised as Open Learning courses are not given credits, but Athabasca's are accepted.

Action item – Wim Kok will investigate and create a matrix of the differences for the next meeting

o Instructor Qualification

With layoffs affecting many smaller institutions, the issue of instructors with only some Geography experience being assigned to teach Geography courses was discussed. BCCAT's position statement is that instructors should have at least a Master's degree in a **related** field. If this becomes an emerging issue, members are asked to contact BCCAT and it will forward its position statement to their institution.

Action item – Graeme Wynn and Gordon Weary to draft a position statement supporting that of BCCAT's, with extra wording to reflect the human-physical geography divide so that only appropriately qualified instructors teach Geography courses

D. Institutional reports

The common issues for most institutions are similar to those expressed at last year's meeting. These include student enrolment in an environment of shrinking funds, and "administrative creep" where policies set by administrators have profound effects on academic matters. One difference between institutions is that larger, more established institutions have stable and modestly increasing enrolment while smaller institutions are experiencing decreases, especially in northern B.C. where the resource sector attracts high school students into well-paying jobs.

Some institutions have or are undergoing complete or partial review of their Geography programs, such as Camosun and UFV, while others are reworking their programs to add new streams or realign them to retain and increase student enrolment. These include UBC with its environment and sustainability theme, UNBC with its environmental and social justice theme, and UBC-O with its women and gender studies theme. Indigenization of Geography courses and the development of full on-line courses are other emerging themes. However, the issue of intellectual property rights for on-line course material remains.

Action item – The meeting decided that next year's institutional reports should be paperless

9. Selection of New Chair and 2013 Co-Chair/Host

Jim Bowers (Langara) will host the 2013 Geography Articulation meeting. Chris Ayles will carry on as Co-Chair as Wim Kok is retiring.

10. Members expressed their thanks to Wim Kok for hosting the meeting and organizing the extremely informative field trips, and to Chris Ayles for co-chairing the meeting.

11. The meeting adjourned at 14:40

Minutes recorded 5 May 2012, and emailed 10 May 2012 by Parthi Krishnan.

Addendum: Next meeting at Langara will take place on Saturday, May 4, 2013, preceded by one or two days of field trips.