

BC Geography Articulation 2014 – Meeting Minutes

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL on ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFERS (BCCAT)

Northwest Community College, Terrace, BC
Spruce 113

May 9, 2014

Attendees	Representing	E-mail Address
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Parthiphan (Parthi) Krishnan	KPU	Parthiphan.Krishnan@kpu.ca
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Terence Day	Okanagan	tday@okanagan.bc.ca
Janet Sturgeon	SFU	sturgeon@sfu.ca
Crystal Huscroft	TRU	chuscroft@tru.ca
Bernard Momer	UBCO	bernard.momer@ubc.ca
Carolyn Atkins	UFV	carolyn.atkins@ufv.ca
Chris Jackson	UNBC	cjackson@unbc.ca
Dan Smith	UVic	smith@uvic.ca
Don Alexander	VIU	don.alexander@viu.ca
Ken Brealey	Geography SLP (UFV)	ken.brealey@ufv.ca
Jozsef Budai	BCSSTA*	jozsef.budai@sd41.bc.ca
Regrets		
Wim Kok	Northern Lights	wkok@nlc.bc.ca

* British Columbia Social Studies Teachers Association

1. Call to order

The Chair, Jim Bowers (Langara) called the meeting to order at 12:25 pm

2. Approval of agenda and any additional items. (M/S/C - Chris Ayles/Cliff Raphael)

3. New item 5. – Report from the Chair on the Joint Articulation Meeting (JAM)

4. Approval of previous minutes from May 3, 2013. (M/S/C – Chris Ayles/Cliff Raphael)

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

A. System Liaison Person (SLP)

Ken Brealey (UFV) is the new SLP.

B. High School Outreach

Jozsef Budai (BCSSTA) gave an overview of Geography education at the High School level. Based on evidence within SD 41, Geography at the high school has seen declining enrollment as it is no longer a mandatory subject for high school graduation. Its inclusion within a school's curriculum is often dependent on the presence and enthusiasm of individual teachers with Geography background.

The meeting discussed ways to encourage Geography at the high school level. Some institutions have outreach programs where lecturers give talks at schools. One option is to involve the Geography Students Associations at the post graduate institutions to promote the subject to high school students.

C. Committee representation from new/additional institutions

Jeanne Mikita will contact Corpus Christi.

D. Funding to attend articulation meeting

Some attendees had to use part of their PD funds to cover the costs of attending the articulation meeting. Others, such as Wim Kok (NLC), could not attend the meeting because they are sessional instructors.

Ken Brealey (SLP) volunteered to investigate the funding protocols and the responsibilities of institutions to ensure representation at articulation meetings.

E. Geography Articulation Google Group website

BCCAT has the capabilities to host the Geography Articulation website in the future, but for now the meeting decided to continue using the Geography Articulation Google Group website.

F. Grade thresholds

BCCAT is seeking details of letter grades to the 10th of a percent for awarding scholarships.

The meeting discussed the differing range of percentages for letter grades at different institutions. Most only record the letter grade or the letter grade with the range of percentages on transcripts. The meeting decided that any changes to the percentages associated with letter grades are beyond its scope, and should be addressed at the institution level in consultation with BCCAT.

G. UVic matters (BA of Education admission requirements, and EOS 110/120 and GEOG 103 problems)

These issues arose because of differing information at UVic's website. They have been corrected and the issues are resolved.

H. Geography lab science transfer issues

The meeting discussed the different number of credits assigned to geography lab courses. 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.

I. Instructor qualification

The meeting discussed the challenging nature of choosing appropriately qualified instructors to teach across the range of different subfields within Geography. The meeting decided that each position should be addressed individually, rather than have general or restrictive conditions.

A letter was sent to NWCC regarding its specific search, and the issue is now resolved.

6. Joint Articulation Meeting (JAM)

The Chair reported on the annual JAM hosted by BCCAT for Articulation Committee Chairs and SLPs. The three main issues identified at the meeting were:

- the emphasis on job ready students,
- the open textbook effort, which is progressing from phase 1 of looking for existing resources on the web to phase 2 of creating new resources for subjects that lack them, and
- the mobility of students across institutions, which will create new categories of students (the report is available at BCCAT's website).

7. NWCC SUST 101 Permaculture Design

Ken Shaw (NWCC) outlined the course to the meeting for approval in concept before beginning the full articulation process. This course integrates physical and human geography into designing for sustainable human habitat.

The meeting discussed the issues of this course's transferability to other Geography courses, as well as related courses in other programs such as Sustainable Agriculture. Also discussed was the appropriate level for this course as institutions such as Capilano, TRU and UNBC are looking to develop or have similar courses at the upper level.

Motion – that the Geography Articulation Group supports the concept in principle and the evaluation of the course when it comes for transfer articulation to the individual institutions (M/S/C Don Alexander, Chris Ayles – all in favor with 1 abstention)

8. Flexible pre-major in Geography

Bernard Momer (UBCO) informed the meeting that the funding for this project was only secured three weeks prior to the meeting. He has developed a preliminary document based on a survey of institutions' websites, which is posted to the Geography Articulation Google Group. It includes a number of important questions pertaining to:

- learning outcomes,
- the mismatch between credits for similar courses at different institutions, and
- the issue of potentially different models for the BA vs. BSc programs in Geography.

The final report on flexible pre-major in Geography is due in December 2014.

Institution representatives are to check the document and send their answers to the questions to Bernard.

9. Institution Reports

Individual institution reports are at the Geography Articulation Google Group website.

Sustaining enrolment at a time of budget cuts still remain a common issue for all institutions. Regardless of size, Geography departments are reinventing themselves by offering new programs and courses (especially in Geosciences and Environmental Studies), delivering them online or as hybrid models, and promoting field schools. Another option pursued by institutions is increasing the number of foreign students. The meeting discussed the technical and management issues of delivering courses under the current situation, as well as the ongoing challenge of plagiarism.

Several institutions are undergoing staffing changes, including Douglas, KPU, TRU, UBCO, UFV and UNBC.

Major upcoming events promoted at the meeting include:

- Canadian College and University Environmental Network Conference in May 2014 hosted by Capilano and SFU,
- WDCAG in March 2015 hosted by UNBC, and
- CAG in June 2015 hosted by SFU.

10. Any Other Business – None

11. 2015 Geography articulation chair, and selection of meeting date and location

Gordon Weary (NWCC) will be the next Chair, and UFV will host it on the first weekend of May 2015.

12. Adjournment at 3:25 pm (M/S/C – Kathy Runnalls/Parthi Krishnan)

Minutes recorded on 9 May 2014, and emailed 20 May 2014 by Parthi Krishnan