

BC History Articulation Committee

MINUTES

British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfers (BCCAT)

Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC

Meeting date: 8 May, 2017

Present:

Wayne Melvin	Alexander College	waynemelvin@shaw.ca
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Timothy Lewis	Vancouver Island University	timothy.lewis@viu.ca

Guests:

John Fitzgibbon	BCCAT	
Steven Earle	BCCAT, Field School Opportunities	
Chris Moon	BC Social Studies Teachers Assoc.	christopher.c.moon@gmail.com
Nick Poeshek	Ministry of Education	
John Belshaw	Open Textbook Project and TRU OL	jbelshaw@tru.ca
Alisa Webb	System Liaison Person	alisa.webb@ufv.ca

Recorder: Tina Block, Thompson Rivers University

Welcome from Dr. Ross Mackay, Dean of Arts and Humanities, Vancouver Island University.

Welcome from Howard Hisdal, Chair of the BC History Articulation Committee.

Meeting called to order: 9 a.m.

Agenda:

Amendment by John Fitzgibbon: BCCAT added to agenda.

Motion to approve: Ted Binnema (UNBC); seconded Niall Christie (Langara).

Minutes:

Amendments: None

Motion to approve: James Hull (UBCO); seconded by Ted Binnema (UNBC).

Institutional Reports:**Okanagan College**

Enrolments stabilizing in Arts.

Four full-time positions; replacement for one member going on extended study leave.

New course: History of Warfare and Terrorism since 1945.

Alexander College

Enrolments up; increase in international student enrolment.

New course in Early Modern Europe.

One full-time historian at the college; Asian Studies instructors also teach courses relevant to history.

Several initiatives re: international students – how to attract and retain them, and help them be successful.

Capilano University

Two full-time faculty, one permanent part-time, and one sessional.

Enrolments stabilizing after a few years of sharp declines; minor in History being developed.

University is being re-branded, and has a new president.

New courses: Slavery and Anti-Slavery; Canadian Military History; 20th Century World.

Course in Canadian Aboriginal History to be re-launched in Spring 2018.

New General Education Program starting in Fall 2018.

Trinity Western University

Moderate increase in enrolments; faculty stable.

Developing a new core curriculum which is a challenging process, uncertain how it will impact the History department.

New course: Foundations of the Western Legal Tradition.

Corpus Christi College

Corpus Christi is a small two-year Catholic Liberal Arts college located on UBC campus (not part of UBC); total college enrolment of approximately 200; 60% of students finish their degrees at UBC.

Most faculty at the college are sessional instructors; there are no departments.

Two instructors in history; history enrolments increasing.

History recently became the fourth pillar discipline at the college; History to double its offerings next year from four to eight courses.

New course on the History of Racism in North America.

Langara College

Decline in history enrolments; an overall decline in domestic enrolments, and an increase in international student enrolments; international students seem to avoid courses that involve intensive reading/writing in English.

Completed internal program review last summer.

Three new special topics courses were offered.

New course on the Crusades making its way through the approval process.

Faculty stable – two retirements over the past two years, both have been replaced.

University of British Columbia (Vancouver)

New Department Chair in July 2017.

New courses: Soccer in Latin America; History of Hong Kong – with long-term possibility of developing a minor in Hong Kong studies.

Conference at UBC in September 2017: Power, Politics, and the State in Canadian History.

Anticipated hire next year – half-time with UBC History and half-time with Vantage College; Vantage College aims to attract students who may not get into UBC, part of wider effort to increase enrolments.

Faculty complement declined by two in 2016W; two anticipated retirements in 2017W.

Decrease in enrolments; undertaking various initiatives to recruit and retain students.

Simon Fraser University

Completed external review.

Enrolments relatively stable.

New lower-level courses: History of Technology; Global Environmental History - well-enrolled.

Developing new team-taught courses as part of retention strategy; first one, on the History of Capitalism, to be taught next year.

Various outreach/recruitment initiatives: visiting high schools, updating website, public lectures.

Exploring possible joint major with First Nations Studies; also considering an Asian Studies program.

Three faculty members have announced temporary or permanent departures; uncertain if they will be replaced, but department hopes to secure two limited-term positions.

One new faculty member, the Director of the Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies and Cultures, will be joining the department.

Selkirk College

Faculty and domestic enrolments stable; international enrolments up.

Some changes to upper administration.

Focus on indigenization.

A commemorative book on the history of Selkirk, co-authored by Takaia Larsen, was recently released.

New two-year transfer program in Law and Justice Studies, which includes history as a core course.

Community colleges of Selkirk and Spokane to pilot an international field course.

System Liaison Person

Alisa Webb (SLP) spoke to her pre-circulated report on the Joint Articulation Meeting, 2016.

The meeting addressed a range of issues including best practices for articulation meetings, the new curriculum, and the transfer system.

Marcel Dirk noted that Alisa Webb was a 2016 Transfer Award Winner, and the committee offered their congratulations.

University of Victoria

Enrolments stabilizing.

Many new special topics courses were offered.

Various recruitment strategies: team-taught course on Ten Days That Shook the World; visits to high schools; history fairs at UVic; public lecture series.

Debates within the department about what, precisely, constitutes experiential learning.

Anticipate 3-4 retirements over next few years, unlikely to be replaced.

New Dean has been hired.

University of the Fraser Valley

Enrolments stable.

Several new special topics courses, including History of Monsters; new first-year course focused on critical moments rather than a survey approach.

One faculty member retired this year, and anticipate another retirement next year; unlikely to be replaced. Sessionals will provide opportunity to try out new courses and areas. Some faculty have been experimenting with different delivery modalities, such as blended learning and weekend seminars.

Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Three new faculty members, two at 50% and one at 75%, to replace three previous full time retirements. New courses in Canadian gender history, and in digital history, and several special topics courses. Continued move from area studies to thematic courses.

Decline in lower-level enrolments continued in Fall 2016 and Spring 2017, but some recovery in Summer 2017; upper-level enrolments are strong and History continues to place graduates into PDP, law school, and grad schools.

Moving to a core competencies model for the BA degree, and an e-portfolio system, which may have a positive impact on History enrolments.

Northern Lights College

Department of Arts and Science growing due to increase in international student enrolments.

In process of hiring two 75% positions to teach various subjects, including history.

Anticipated retirement within the next few years.

Camosun College

Budget stable; enrolments declined in 2016, but increased slightly in 2017.

Faculty complement reduced from 4.75 to 3; anticipated retirement a year from now, optimistic that the position will be replaced.

New Dean of Arts to be hired.

Dual credit program with local school district allows high school students to get some exposure to college credit.

Reviving dormant classes such as the History of Human Rights and American survey courses.

University of British Columbia (Okanagan)

Decline in enrolments; retirements have not been replaced.

History department has changed to Department of History and Sociology.

Responses to declining enrolments include: 1: redesign of History major away from geographical/chronological focus and toward laddering of skills; 2: establishing closer relationship with heritage community; 3: trying to embed History in other programs.

Currently undergoing program review.

BC Social Studies Teachers Association

The BC Social Studies Teachers Association is a professional services association focused primarily on providing professional development for teachers.

Each year the association holds a large professional development conference; this year the conference theme is historical thinking.

The association is developing an academic journal focused on teaching social studies at the high school and elementary level.

The website TeachBC is an online repository of resources for teachers.

University of Northern British Columbia

Decline in enrolments.

Faculty complement is 4.5; no new hires anticipated.

Some special topics courses are offered.

Undergraduate History Society is thriving.

Douglas College

Enrolments steady, with slight decline in Winter.

History a key component of Asian Studies program.

One faculty member on leave; one retirement; and one new hire.

Collaborative public history project with Coquitlam Archives in development.

College of the Rockies

History courses tend to be service courses for education programs.

Difficult to retain international students due to the emphasis on reading and writing English.

New technology in the classroom has enhanced effectiveness of video conferencing.

Invited an anthropologist from UVic to give a presentation on residential school children's art, and was informed that such an event required permission from local First Nations groups and on-site counselling; while understandable, this also raises the issue of academic freedom.

Concerns about the course approval process, and whether committees (senate and otherwise) should be reviewing course outlines for content as well as format.

Vancouver Island University

Full-time faculty at 7.25; new hire in Medieval and Early Modern history.

New courses this past year: World History at first-year level; Medieval Europe at second and third-year levels; new courses in the upcoming year: Science and Technology from Antiquity to 1800; U.S. First Ladies.

Courses in development: Gender and Sexuality in the Premodern World; the European Witch Craze.

Public History course has been revived.

Enrolments slightly up.

Program restructuring: removed field-specific/geographical major requirement; changed pre-requisites for upper-level history courses to make them more accessible; moved a few courses from second-year to first-year level.

Honours program in development.

Canadian Letters and Images Project continues to grow.

VIU hosted BC Studies; open call for an institution to host BC Studies 2019.

Will be undergoing external review.

Thompson Rivers University Open Learning

In the process of reviving the TRU OL major in history.

Several new courses in development.

Tim Lewis acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, specifically the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

New Business

1. Nick Poeshek, Ministry of Education, presentation on the new Social Studies Curriculum

Full-scale revision of entire curriculum, K-12.

Structured around 6 curricular competencies; the focus is on mega-cognitive skills/critical thinking skills. Social Studies 11 exam has been eliminated.

The new curriculum is less top down than previous, and allows for greater flexibility at the classroom level.

Indigenizing the curriculum – content not limited to a single section or course but rather woven throughout.

K-9 curriculum has been implemented in schools; 10-12 curriculum still in draft, optional implementation next year (mandatory implementation the following year).

Discussion Summary:

Q: The new curriculum makes history optional in Grades 11 and 12, so technically students could graduate high school having last taken history in Grade 10? Concern that they won't be prepared, particularly those who want to go on to become Social Studies teachers.

A: By giving students more choice, the new curriculum allows students to choose subjects of interest to them, so they are likely to be more engaged with the material.

Q: Will it be mandatory for Grade 11 students to take a Social Science course?

A: Yes, they have to choose one.

Q: Does the new curriculum assure that students develop certain basic, shared skills?

A: The new curriculum is framed around developing thinking skills; but it does not specify precisely how these skills are to be taught, which allows for greater flexibility in the classroom.

Q: With elimination of Social Studies 11 exam, how will students be assessed?

A: In the classroom.

Q: How does the new curriculum prepare students to function in an exam setting?

A: Students will still gain experience writing exams under the new curriculum.

2. Steven Earle, BCCAT, presentation on pre-circulated written report on Field School Opportunities at BC Colleges and Universities

Research project on coordination of field courses at BC post-secondary institutions.

The purpose of the project is to enhance collaboration, with the overall objective of making field schools accessible to more students.

Field schools have been shown to enhance student learning and engagement.

Approximately 25% of field courses have been articulated.

There are not many field schools in History.

Discussion summary:

Field schools are defined as stand-alone credit courses, with at least half of the time in the field.

Collaboration between institutions raises questions about budget, workload, FTE allocations etc.; field schools are approached unevenly across institutions and departments.

Each institution handles the issue of insurance/liability differently.

Field schools are often expensive, and students bear those costs; they are beyond the economic reach of some students.

Need also to consider how accessibility issues may impact faculty participation in field schools – such participation may be limited by family responsibilities, mobility issues, etc.

3. John Fitzgibbon, BCCAT, presentation on BCCAT Update [report available online at: <http://www.bccat.ca/pubs/2017%20Spring%20Update%20Newsletter.pdf?t=636256052531758418>]

BCCAT provides oversight for transfer and articulation activities; much information is included on the website www.bccat.ca; recent publications can be viewed on the website.

The Joint Annual Meeting provides chairs with the opportunity to come together and discuss best practices for articulation meetings.

The Transfer Credit System (TCS) is being upgraded and updated.

With the new curriculum, anticipate there will be more variability in skills of students transitioning from secondary to post-secondary institutions.

The Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT) will hold a conference in June; there is indication that student mobility is increasing nationally, and that transfer issues need to be addressed at a national, and not just provincial, level.

BCCAT has several ongoing projects of interest which are outlined in the report.

4. John Belshaw, presentation on Canadian History Open Textbooks

Developed Pre- and Post-Confederation Canadian History Open textbooks through BCcampus OpenEd; the textbooks are free to use and to change.

The textbooks contain many dynamic, interactive features, including embedded interviews with historians; student assignments can be embedded in the textbooks.

The textbooks have been adopted by instructors at several institutions.

Those who use the textbooks should fill out the adoption registry at BCcampus OpenEd.

Next step is to promote networking and sharing between those who adopt the textbooks.

There are opportunities for the development of new open textbooks in various subject areas.

Discussion summary:

Q: What is the process by which adaptations get incorporated into a new version and shared?

A: That's where the networking comes in.

Q: How are contributions to open textbooks evaluated by tenure and promotion committees?

A: Textbooks are not peer reviewed in the same way as monographs. But the open textbooks are, in a sense, constantly being reviewed by those who use them.

Election of new Chair for 2017-18:

Tina Block (TRU)

Election of new Secretary for 2017-18:

Gail Edwards (Douglas College)

2018 Meeting

Location: College of the Rockies, Cranbrook

Date: To Be Determined

Thank you to Tim Lewis and Vancouver Island University for hosting the meeting.

Thank you to Howard Hisdal for chairing the meeting.

Motion to adjourn: James Hull (UBCO); seconded by Niall Christie (Langara).

Meeting adjourned: 2:30