

WELDING ARTICULATION COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

June 5-6, 2018

Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, B.C.

Participants:

Name	Institution	June 5/18	June 6/18	Email
Mark Flynn, Chair	BCIT	X	X	mark_flynn@bcit.ca
Bernie Magee	BCIT	X	X	Bernard_magee@bcit.ca
Kevin Alexander	Camosun	X	X	alexank@camosun.ca
Ken McKay	COTR	X	X	kmckay@cotr.bc.ca
Al Sumal	KPU	X	X	al.sumal@kpu.ca
Chris Udy, SLP	NIC	X	X	chris.udy@nic.bc.ca
Terry Waters	NIC	X	X	twaters@nic.bc.ca
Darcy Suchy	NLC	X	X	dsuchy@nlc.bc.ca
Bruce Neid	NWCC	X	X	bneid@nwcc.bc.ca
Mark Stathers	Okanagan	X	X	mstathers@okanagan.bc.ca
Sean Jarvis	Okanagan	X	X	sjarvis@okanagan.bc.ca
Colin Makeiv	Selkirk	X	X	cmakeiv@selkirk.ca
Larry Franzen	TRU	X	X	lfranz@tru.ca
Bernard Booth	UAPICBC	X	X	bernard.booth@uapicbc.ca
Spenser Julseth-White	UFV	X	X	spenser.julseth-white@ufv.ca
Mike Hallam	VIU	X	X	Michael.hallam@viu.ca
Brad Harrison	VIU	X		Brad.harrison@viu.ca

Guests:

Angela Caughy, Program Development Office, ITA, acaughy@itabc.ca

Dean Nutter, District Manager, Miller Electric Mfg. Co., dean.nutter@millerwelds.com

Maggie Santos, ACORN Education & Program Specialist, maggie.santos@cwbgroupp.org

Meg Stainsby, Director, Transfer & Articulation, BCCAT, mstainsby@bccat.ca

Pat Sheard, District Manager, Miller Electric Mfg. Co., pat.shead@millerwelds.com

Steve D. Hidden, Channel Manager, Miller Electric Mfg. Co., steve.hidden@millerwelds.com

Trent Conrad, CWA Foundation Technical Outreach Officer, trent.konrad@cwa-foundation.org

Recording Secretary:

Maddy Thomas, VIU ABT work op student, maddy.thomas@viu.ca

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Welcome and Introductions

The Associate Dean of Trades and Applied Technology, Paul Mottershead, welcomed the members to Vancouver Island University.

Roundtable introductions of members.

The meeting was called to order at 9:14 a.m.

Additions to the Agenda

- Level 2 Discussions
- SATE Discussions

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: Kevin Alexander moved and Larry Franzen seconded that we approve the agenda with additions. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2017 WAC Meeting

MOTION: Kevin Alexander moved and Larry Franzen seconded that we approve the minutes from the 2017 WAC Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Chair Report

- Not much communication with ITA.
- Group project at BCIT still not complete; being finalized. Mark will forward to the group when complete.

Discussion on the Current Climate of Trades in BC

- Every institution is getting several requests from local employers for welders – high demand for work.
- First time in 30 years classes are starting without being full.
- A lot of indigenous funding is available, but very few indigenous students are enrolling.
- There's a trend of high registration numbers, but lower class numbers.
- Fitter training is in demand in foundation.

Discussion on Harmonization Implementation

- Levels 1 and 2 are almost done being harmonized.
- Having summer camps will aid in paying dividends.

Discussion on Apprenticeship acceptance and support, what is and isn't working

- Roundtable discussion on current enrollment and class numbers.

Adjourned for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Meg Stainsby, Director, Transfer & Articulation, BCCAT

- Meg works as a liaison to make sure transfer guide is up-to-date.
- An indigenization project is underway; produces resource kits for institutions and education professionals to attract and retain indigenous students; will be published on the BCCAT website by July 1.

Discussion on Modular Model

- We need to have a discussion on using Level B and A as resources.
- Since the Red Seal test was updated, several instructors are finding better results.
- Level A exam is in development; there is an existing MPAW exam.

Discussion on Harmonization Implementation

- Employer sign out check list is not being seen coming back for levels 1 and 2. Modular exams are a problem; P4, P6 should be split up.
 - ITA spreadsheet asks for P4, P6 mark.
 - P1, 2, and 3, are all level 1; point is to encourage the final red seal exam. Harmonization made it one line. Angela can answer some of this stuff. 70% for practical needed to pass.
- Mike Hallam has grading rubrics is on the shared drive website.

Preparation for discussion with ITA

- Stand-alone tests for B or Red Seal – is there one at the end?
- Red Seal challenge – how is it accessed online?
- What is definition of “challenger”?
- Make 1000 hours not recommended, but instead set minimum of 850 hours?
- Is there a standardized number of writes you can do per test before you must retake training?
- Level 2 practical project
- How to stop students signing off on hours from an inappropriate sponsor – “Fake hours”
- Is final Level B exam possible instead of Red Seal?
- Is there a test at the end of Level A?

Nelson Books

Nicolette Lopes presented on behalf of Nelson Books, highlighting new content and MindTap resources. MindTap is an online learning tool that can be embedded into current applications; flash cards, read-to-me text, real-time gradebooks, and practice assignments are some of the features available.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

Additional Agenda Items

- Material costs
- Nelson books – what did we think?
 - Can make custom textbooks made of content from many textbooks
 - TIG component is excellent material
 - No matter what, we should keep a standardized system; stay together
 - Should have a package for each level (1, 2, 3, B, A, Foundation)

Open Discussion

- Acorn has followed the harmonization guidelines
 - BC program outline for levels 2, 3; none for foundation or Level B.
 - Goal is to have Acorn material harmonized across the country.
 - Only have online component available for one year; they are willing to discuss that with us.
- We need to do pilots of both Nelson and Acorn to figure out which is more educationally effective and cost effective.
 - Without using it in a full class, we won't be able to give the feedback that they need.
 - Nelson online content is more customizable for instructors – can add your own photos, videos, links, rubrics, marks, spreadsheets, etc.
 - Acorn membership is for one year and charges \$1780/year; Nelson is four years and free.
- Students don't want hard copy books; they can receive tablets loaded with e-books and helpful videos, etc.

MOTION: Colin Makeiv moved and Mark Flynn seconded that Mark will write letter to both Acorn and Nelson to present us with a Line D and Line E of the NOA. Motion Carried.

- We don't want to give everything to CWB – they've got a long-term plan that we don't want to get sucked in to.

MOTION: Colin Makeiv moved and Mark Flynn seconded that we talk with Angela to get Level B and Foundation back on website, front and centre, to show the ITA that we are a collective in BC. Motion carried.

- ITA is incorrectly recommending students to take Level 3 when they should be taking Level B instead

Material Costs

Roundtable discussion on each institution's material costs.

- Average of 53¢/pound.
- Save money by shearing in your own shop.

- Waste found in dumpsters is a constant battle.
- Big problem with donations is to make sure everything is separated; need to have traceability for any materials.
- Need to be able to record waste; keep testing materials separate from foundation/apprenticeship materials; needs to be certified with ref numbers.

Adjourned for lunch at 12:07 p.m.

Presentation from Angela Caughy, ITA

- Harmonization recap
 - Programs started March 31, 2017
 - 1-week gap training provided at Level 3
 - 2-week duration increase at level 3
 - Level 3 will run at 11 weeks until March 31, 2020
- Standardized level exam pilots
 - Levels 1, 2 piloted Dec. 14, 2017, Sept 29, 2017
 - Foundation piloted Nov. 24 and Dec. 7, 2017
 - Launched May 1, 2018
- Foundation Exam Weighting Comparison
- Foundation Stats
 - Provincial pass rate same between 2016-2017
 - Average score 73% between 2016-2017
 - 970 writes in 2016; 802 in 2017
 - Level 2 about half the writes as usual
- Provincial pass rate up 2% from last year (not including challenges)
- Apprenticeship status
- Apprenticeship status by region
- Welder B Update
 - Industry Consultations
 - Employer impacts
 - Apprentice impacts
 - Recommendation for hours goes to industry relations group
 - 3- to 5-year phase-out; pace must slow down to accommodate administration/registration issues.
- Learning resources update
 - Discussions with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST) and Trades Training BC (TTBC) in progress
 - Strategies:
 - Harmonization priorities
 - Ongoing maintenance
 - New development
 - Declining revenue from sources; demand has gone up due to harmonization; funding has gone down

Q&A with Angela

- **Q:** Is there an option for someone to write a B Level Exam?
A: No B exam; just write Red Seal; Angela will ask exam department for follow up
- **Q:** Concerns over Red Seal Challenge – how many times can someone write the exam? We would like to see that there's a pass/fail from ITA; like a transcript. Want to know if exam has been attempted before.
A: Want to know if exam has been attempted before; 2nd attempt should be a different exam; how many attempts can someone have; Angela will check with ITA assessment committee and follow up. Number of reattempts is up to national committee. If you get less than 50%, redo training; higher than 50%, able to redo test.
- **Q:** It's difficult to navigate ITA website – is there a better way to set up Red Seal exam?
A: Will talk to website developers.
- **Q:** Is there an A-level exam?
A: No. Will have a discussion with the assessment committee.
- **Q:** Can you put a foundation, A- and B-level outline on the ITA website?
A: Will take back to website developers and see what she can do.
- **Q:** Will B-Level be phased out within 5 years?
A: Don't know where we're at for that – will speak to executives.
- **Q:** Can we recommend number of hours at the end of technical training? Would ITA stand behind us on that? Can we include a minimum number of hours?
A: We would leave that up to the institution.
- **Q:** When we look at our challenge Red Seal tests, what is the national standard for pass/fail percentage, and how many times are other institutions allowing their students to write the test? If no standard, can we make our own? Can we implement time between tests if the student fails?
A: Student should stay with whoever they started with. Will update letter with number of attempts.
- **Q:** Is there a way to avoid reporting of “fake hours”? Can we have a challenge test for entry requirements?
A: Not any further forward with how they're going to approach that – will check with policy department.
- **Q:** Could the employer have to sign off on the check list? Check list will take liability off of instructors.
A: Will have to check.
- **Q:** Is the MPAW exam is the same as the Level A exam?
A: No, it's not the same. Old Level A exam was developed but never deployed. The MPAW is a must-pass exam.
- **Q:** Why do they have to write a Red Seal exam without work experience rather than just having a Level B exam?
A: Because we thought we were going to close B. Depends what comes out of the consultation mentioned earlier.

- **Q:** Are there any set hours before Level 1 and 2?
A: No. Can't make it a requirement, but can be recommended 1000 hours for each level.
- New foundation exam was distributed.

Presentation by Trent Konrad and Maggie Santos, CWB

- Memory sticks with catalogues of Acorn products were distributed.
- Acorn was created to provide educational institutes with world class, up-to-date resources.
 - A framework for learning – Lego blocks
 - Train students to work nationally, across a broad cross section of industry
 - Vendor-neutral curriculum
 - Based a lot of material on a national standard
 - Modern, centrally-managed and always up-to-date
- Acorn supports the re-equipment of apprenticeships, Red Seal/NOA, and CSA/CWB, AWS and ASME ticket requirements.
- 235 courses offered separately or within 27 pre-defined programs.
- Can custom-create content/books out of any content that is owned by institution.
- How can Acorn better support the BC curriculum?
 - Resources
 - Print based
 - Licensing bookstore
 - Alignment
 - Levels 1-3, B, A
 - MPAW
 - CWB educational courses
 - Cost
 - Service-backed industry; not in it to make money, but can't give content away for free
- **Roundtable discussion:**
 - Can we have Line D and Line E items in content within one section; all the content from Levels 1-3. We will give them a formal letter asking for that; a couple modules across all the colleges.
 - There are a few gaps and minor things that need to be touched up within the content; willing to pilot those couple sections so we can move forward.
 - Instructors will have access to gradebooks, student activity, through online portal; student will have to actually be active or the activity will not be logged; instructors can go in to exam history and see what questions students were correct or incorrect.
 - \$1780 institutional fee to keep material up to date and access to support (one year).
 - Updates and changes are made quarterly; update page is on the website.
 - Administrator rights can control what content is seen by students; can block students from completing exams at home.

- Access for one year is problematic; students can take many years to complete training between jobs. Material can be downloaded and kept forever by students; can be edited to be accessible for four years, but cost is unknown at this point.
- Can students buy material directly from CWB rather than through training facilities? It is possible, but will have to talk to management first.
- Maybe we set a higher initial cost and allow students to have access to content for five years, rather than lower cost and only one-year access.
- We can print content from Acorn through an independent print shop; or is it cheaper to have everything loaded on tablets?
 - VIU is implementing tablets this Sept.; all students must have same model of tablet for troubleshooting ease.
- Maggie Santos demonstrated the 30-day demo for Acorn.
 - Any support inquiries go to Maggie; she typically get to them within 24 hours; best to send her a direct email rather than through the contact page on the Acorn site.
 - Instructors or proctors administer final exam.

Next Meeting

Suggestions for location are Dawson Creek and Prince George; will be determined at a later date.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.