

GEOGRAPHY ARTICULATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL on ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFERS (BCCAT)

Vancouver Island University (VIU), Nanaimo, BC

May 3, 2019

Present:

Committee Name	Institution Name
Shannon Fargey (Chair)	University of Victoria
Colin Mills	Langara College
Geoff Mann	Simon Fraser University
Clifford Raphael	College of New Caledonia
Gordon Weary	Coast Mountain
Maxwell Ofosuene	Trinity College
Trisha Jarrett	Camosun
Terrance Day	Okanagan College
Crystal Huscroft	TRU
Sarah Paynter	Douglas College
Brendan Hunt	Columbia College
Katie Burles	College of the Rockies
Michele Patterson	Vancouver Island University
Mark Cerigoj	Coquitlam College
Pam Shaw	Vancouver Island University
Glen Thielmann	High school rep
Claire Hay	University of the Fraser Valley
Parthi Krishnan	Kwantlen Polytechnic College
Allison Lutz	Selkirk
Loch Brown	UBC

Recorder: Brendan Hunt, Columbia College

1. Welcome (8:30am) Michelle Patterson (VIU) and Shannon Fargey (UVic)

2. Approval of Agenda and any Additional Items

Moved by Parthi, seconded by Glen

Motion: to adopt the Agenda with additions

3. Approval of minutes of the Articulation Committee meeting of May 4, 2018

Moved by Cliff, seconded by Maxwell (motion carried)

Motion: to accept the Minutes as presented/with amendments as noted.

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes (if any)

Action Items from 2018 Meeting

- a. **ACTION:** Committee (Teresa/Claire/Chris/Glen) to bring mini plan (template, recommendations, how to guide) back to group
- b. **ACTION:** Teresa pilot assignments where her upper level students would develop module for use in high school. Will share back to group.
- c. **ACTION:** Jeanne to liase with Hannah Wilson/Sabha Ghani about participating in grade 11/12 curriculum process. Will share back to group.
Update: Has been successful.
- d. **ACTION:** All to circulate call for participation (see email on listserv) in reply to Hannah Wilson amongst colleagues in institution. Contact Hannah Wilson directly.
- e. **ACTION:** Revisit 1st year geography courses and requirements for transfer at next year's meeting.
Update: Added to 2019 Meeting Agenda (Shannon Fargey)

5. Reports

- a. BCCAT
- Shannon Fargey provided highlights on behalf of Ruth Erskine
- b. Ministry of Education Representative
- c. High school liason (K-12 Curriculum Q&A as it relates to Geography Education – Glen Thiemann)
Pedagogical shifts, different ways of assessing and methods of assessing students from the new curriculum. Reduction in number of social studies courses being taught. Geography being pushed off from the core academic courses in high school. The wording is important so students understand what a geography class covers. We can make connections to introduce geographical issues to high school students such as visiting speakers.

6. Discussion Items/Topic

a. UBC Okanagan – New Bachelor of Sustainability discussion (Bernard Momer presenting)

Introduced with 4 concentrations to bridge the arts and sciences. Want flexibility in the number of courses available, so program introduced.

Q (Allison): Open to block transfer?

A (Bernard): Yes, send him the courses you have and we can articulate.

Q (Trisha): Pre-requisites required for the chemistry concentration?

A (Bernard): At least CHEM11 according to admissions

Q (Parthi): There is movement towards process-based thinking. Why isn't GIS2 not included as an elective for Environmental Analytics concentration (only GIS1 is an elective)?

A (Bernard): Difficult to agree on one set of electives since concentrations developed by different departments.

Q (Parthi): For Environmental Humanities concentration, why not GEOG431 (Resources Management) as well as an option for an elective?

A (Bernard): Pre-req's may be an issue here and we are still working on this. Will check and get back to Parthi.

ACTION: Bernard will send the group the survey.

b. First Year Geography Courses and Requirements for Transfer

Q (Shannon): What should UVic's 1st year requirements be? 2 or 3 1st year courses? Also proposing Intro to Geomatics course which may influence decision on what is appropriate.

A (Loch): 2 1st year geography courses at UBC; difficult to reduce number of courses since would decrease staff numbers. Need a core skill set and cohesive set of courses for human geography and physical geography.

Discussion: UBC having 2 1st year geography courses is a barrier to transferring students. Could have transfer students be able to take a 2nd year geography course at UBC after already having 1 course elsewhere (Terry).

- Michele: Two 1st year recruitment courses are available to get students excited about geography, which are always at full enrollment. We should make it easy as possible for students in non-geography majors to take geography courses. Assessing necessity for specific pre-requisites.
- Trisha: Losing connection between high school and geography courses in hydrology or geomorphology.

c. K-12 Modernization (Shannon presenting)

Physical Geography12 at UVic is accepted as an academic 12, not a science 12 since not including specific terms "labs" and "field work".

Glen: Reduced standards in post-secondary schools. The new curriculum has brought about increased grade inflation, important courses are being replaced with more entertaining courses. Many students currently feel unprepared for university geography courses.

Parthi: There is a mismatch between K-12 and university.

Katie: High school teachers have the same concerns as we do. We can support high school teachers based on our concerns.

Q: Is MoE aware of this unpreparedness and doing anything about bridging this gap? (Maxwell)

A: Academic success is not likely a priority of action items for the MoE (Glen)

Q: Are our expectations not matching student standards for world-ready skills? (Colin)

Q: Can we adopt a University 101 course as a credit course for increasing academic rigor? (Terry)

A: Had this in the past but it was under-enrolled and was then dropped (Michele)

Discussion: Should we rethink at the institutional level how we deliver to better support what students have experienced in high school? Have a University 101 course worth 3 credits and it has been hugely successful (Claire)

Loch: Loss of public funding. There has been no increase in resources despite increasing enrollment. This is challenging to provide support.

Sarah: Had greatest success with flipped classes, all working at different paces. Can identify which students are excelling in the class and who needs more support.

Geoff: Students are more politically charged now than ever. They are keen to be better citizens.

LUNCH BREAK (12-12:45pm)

d. Articulation of online Physical Geography Courses (Claire presenting)

Online, therefore not a traditional lab component and doesn't transfer as a lab science course.

Colin: There is no compromise to Weather & Climate online course since entirely the same online vs. in-class; all labs 'digitized' for online use.

Shannon: No issue seen with transferability since same learning objectives and all labs are digitized.

Q: Has there been success with hybrid courses? (Sarah)

A: 'Blended' courses with face-to-face labs and online lectures don't work since students were not prepared for labs.

e. Open Educational Resources (Claire presenting)

Discussion: What do you need to consider for using open educational resources? Lots of advantages of using textbooks but issue of accessibility (cost) for students. (Claire)

- Allison: Open access licensing to avoid copyright
- Crystal: Call for interest for a 3-day textbook sprint for instructional designers to develop modules and case studies for 1st year physical geography course that will be using open educational resources. This provides money towards field trips/studies.
- Loch: Natural Hazards course available to share with others.
- Terry: Direction of the subject of Physical Geography has changed; issue of spacialization; a different type of science that is evolving.
- Claire: Unhappy with the Christopherson textbook. Currently using Gervais' "Living Physical Environment" text in place of "Geosystems".
- Sarah: Sharing and collaborating is key to improving our materials.
- Loch: Difficult to share our materials due to large file sizes.

ACTION: Claire to explore opportunities for a shared drive and opportunities for provincial funding for collaboration.

Trisha: Opportunity for a workshop day for the textbook sprint and collaboration, perhaps during articulation meeting next year and over a longer period of time.

ACTION: Michele can coordinate with Shannon on the human geography side.

ACTION: Let Sarah know if you want course materials for Geography of Canada.

- No one signed up for this during meeting

ACTION: Let Loch know if you want course materials for Natural Hazards.

- Shannon, Katie, Claire, Crystal, Trisha, and Brendan signed up for this during meeting

ACTION: Let Crystal know if you want textbook ideas for Physical Geography (chuscroft@tru.ca).

- Shannon, Katie, Claire, Gord, and Trisha signed up for this during meeting
- No one signed up for textbook ideas for Human Geography

ACTION: Let Terry know if you want to share a lab library.

- Katie and Claire signed up for this during meeting

f. University-Biosphere Reserve Partnerships (Pam presenting)

Omitted.

g. Articulation list serve (Allison presenting)

Updated list serve list.

h. GIS Ambassador Program

Valuable resource for GIS - esri provides teaching resources as a GIS Ambassador for K-12 using ArcPro. Can request an ambassador in your area to come and give a talk to your class on GIS. Teaching materials are supplied for ambassadors.

i. Other

None

7. Presentation of Institutional Reports

(Please see reports - only highlights presented here)

Colin - Attempted bombing of campus in April, student caught and in jail. Registrar dealing with \$7million in lost revenue from students claiming it is not a safe campus to study on. Anyone can record what you say so beware.

Geoff – biggest challenge is enrollment (stagnant). Don't have the faculty to increase more courses. Current plan is to enlarge first and second year courses. Students like the Bachelor of Environmental and Global Systems program because it includes systems.

Cliff – Retiring in May 2020. Seeing increase enrollments, mainly through international students. Need to find a replacement for Cliff's position. Potential expansion of geography program.

Allison – 75% of students are international. New geography instructor. Starting an integrated 2-day project with Living Lakes Canada for biotic ecology and hydrology. Cutting Geomorphology course with a first year Biology course due to reduced enrollment.

Gordon – Hydrology course attractive since field based course for a full day every week. Was 0% international 2 years ago and now majority is international. 4 full-time faculty positions available on Terrace campus, 1-year contracts. College branded based on the field course.

Maxwell – President retiring, hired a new president starting in July. Constructing a Business building soon. 3 new courses introduced for GIS and Environmental Economics and Policy.

Trisha – Enrollment decreasing last few years. Issues of quality of 1st year courses, large proportion of domestic students not comfortable with increasing proportion of international students. Looking for a new hire for a 50% position.

Terry – Lots of new students (both international and domestic). New courses including Geography of Emerging Economies, Geography of Beer, and Environmental Impact Assessment. Uncertain of direction want to take the college.

Crystal – General Education Objectives make college stand out. Slight drop in domestic students but general increase in enrollment. Lots of international student interest in geomorphology/hydrology and GIS. Increase enrollment in 2nd year Statistics (Geographic Methods) course.

Sarah – Huge waitlist for 2nd year stats course. Growth in enrollment, adding 1 or 2 courses per year. Offering Iceland field school for 2 weeks. Partnering with Peter Hall at SFU for urban studies. Scholarship provided for urban studies (STEPUP), which may lead to more enrollment. Higher rates of academic dishonesty from domestic students than international students based on recent study.

Brendan – Associate of Arts Degree in Environmental Studies, including potential new courses in Physical Geography and GIS. No other colleges represented here don't have a Reading Break – Columbia College is the only one, but having it could lead to issues of students leaving to India and returning late. International students survey results showed what our students want from a college experience.

ACTION: To provide group with study.

Katie – steady increase in international enrollment. Geography of BC course being put online.

Michele – Assessment work done this year for numbers going from 1st year to 2nd year level geography courses. Looking at which pre-req's can drop to reduce barriers. Bringing in grade 12 students to take courses. Retention is the focus.

Loch – Mostly on the rise in enrollment but becoming stagnant. Trying to build out the GIS side of the department. 2 new faculty starting.

Mark – Rely entirely on international students. High interest in geography courses. Max'd out with space in the college. Improvement in academic quality since increased standards.

Claire – 2 hires starting in September. Lots of turnover occurring over next 8 years, losing half of faculty to retirement. Will need to relook at what a BA in Geography will look like, to make sure it is different from Environmental Studies. New faculty with a new Dean. Moved from a Department to a School of Geography (no Department Head; full-time Director replacing). Not retaining students after 1st year.

Parthi – Despite increase in lower level student enrollment, higher level enrollment reduced. Looking to develop BAsC in the physical geography side. Typically near 100% international students. Undergoing transition is the greatest challenge.

Shannon – Success with Field Schools. Numbers are increasing. Program numbers are stagnant. Offering broader classes such as Geography of Today that overall increased enrollment. Geocaching has been extremely helpful in Field School. Undergrad Advisor retiring in June, Sr Lab Instructor position in physical geography available. Curriculum Review undergoing, removed 6 courses in program.

8. Next Meeting

Location: UBC

New Articulation Chair: Michelle Patterson (VIU)

Date: TBD; likely May 7th (mid-day) and additional time for workshops (May 8th) and field trips

2021 possibly at College of the Rockies

Meeting adjourned at 2:53pm

Moved: Maxwell

Seconded: Sarah

BCCAT Contact: Ruth Erskine, Committee Coordinator

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