

Minutes for The BCCAT English Articulation Committee's

Annual Meeting, May 2020

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the English Articulation Committee moved online for an asynchronous meeting instead of the usual face-to-face meeting hosted by a member institution. The EAC's chair, Linda Harwood (Selkirk College) quickly created the Moodle course, "BCCAT's English AC," which is housed on the KPU Online Learning Site: <https://onlinelearning.kpu.ca/my/>. The participation period was left open to maximize participation.

ATTENDEES:

BCCAT representative	Ruth Erskine	BCCAT
Systems Liaison Person	Steve Roe	Northern Lights College
Committee Chairperson	Linda Harwood	Selkirk College
Committee Members	James Gifford	FDU
	Jolene Loveday	VCC
	Larry Perras	VCC
	Michael Weber	VCC
	Elle Ting	VCC
	Ray Rahimi	Ascenda
	Kristine Kerins	Camosun College
	Nicola Maher	Columbia College
	Bruce Lord	Columbia College
	Paul Huebener	Athabasca University
	Amber Petersen	College of the Rockies
	Derek Soles	Alexander College
	Drew Lyness	Yukon College
	Tiffany Potter	UBC-V
	Loren Gaudet	UBC-V
	Toni Smith	VIU
	Marian Gracias	BCIT
	Sara Pearson	TWU

MINUTES

Eight issues were discussed, listed here in order of highest to lowest number of posts:

1. **Online courses and new workloads** (5): Columbia College dropped their class size cap from 25 to 20 for their English classes. VCC did not. The concern was over predictable instructor burnout and pay reductions resulting from recoding of courses as "online" rather than as "remote" or "hybrid" with reasonable caps.

2. **English placement testing (4):** In addition to the usual metric tools, Ascenda and VCC are also using Duolingo to varying degrees of success.
3. **New courses (2):** Selkirk College will be offering a new course on graphic novels at the second-year level (ENGL 209) and its course outline was shared. FDU offers a similar course (LITS 3153 to be recoded as LITS 2112.) FDU offers a unit on graphic novels in its newly recoded ENGL 3384 (now LITS 3323 as of Fall 2020.)
4. **Moving online: The “pivot” and online exams (2):** VCC and Selkirk used Moodle and Zoom to run final exams.
5. **Plagiarism software (2):** Selkirk switched from Turnitin to the less expensive Unicheck for the upcoming academic year. Ascenda uses Turnitin for all assignments.
6. **COVID-19 and Institutional Responses (2):** For those students who did not make the sudden transition to online learning, some institutions extended the date for withdrawal. For Selkirk, it was extended to May 15, 2020. At Columbia College, it was extended to the end of the winter semester, and they also started a Laptop Assistance Plan as well as a Tuition Installment Plan. At FDU, the date to withdraw was also extended along with the option for students to choose a P/F final grade instead, which was the most popular option, especially among top students who wanted to avoid getting a “B.”
7. **Academic integrity issues and contract cheating (1):** Athabasca University discovered that “educational consultants” were targeting permanent resident students through WeChat). “The consultant completes the registration process for the student, often using fraudulent contact information, and then sets the student up with a hired ‘tutor’ who authors or co-authors the student's essays, sometimes within actual group classrooms tailored to a given course.” Athabasca has since altered their registration process by asking each new student if they registered for a course for themselves as well as if their contact information is correct and if they are planning to work with a hired tutor. Athabasca has also “posted additional information about supporting academic integrity on the front page of the course, highlighting the inappropriate use of hired tutors” and “have inquired to the administration about whether we can receive alerts when multiple students register with the same email address or contact information, when multiple students use the same IP address, and when students submit assignments at the same time as one another. However, logistical and privacy implications may make these steps unfeasible.”
8. **Online teaching tips for composition courses (1):** VCC reported using Zoom’s breakout room function (with the file-sharing option activated) for peer-editing assignments.

NEXT MEETING: May 7, 2021