



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020

9:30am – 12:30pm (by video-conference)

Minutes (Approved)

EXPECTED ATTENDEES:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

FLEMING, Robert	BCCAT Executive Director [CO-CHAIR]
HAMILTON, Jim	President, Okanagan College [CO-CHAIR]
CARDWELL, Steve	Vice-President, Students, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
CRESPIN-MUELLER, Dorys	Executive Director, Integrated Planning & Effectiveness, Thompson Rivers University
DENTON, Kathy	President & CEO, Douglas College
DICK, Brian	Professor and Chair, Engineering, Vancouver Island University
HEMANI, Rummana Khan	Registrar, Simon Fraser University
KRAUSE, Gerda	Dean, Faculty of Science, Langara College
LOUIE, Brenda	Vice-Principal, Columbia College
McCAUSLAND, Elizabeth	English Instructor, Douglas College
McCREIDIE, Karen	Interim Executive Director, EducationPlannerBC
NAUGLER, Diane	Dean, Business and Applied Studies, North Island College
McCULLOUGH, Lisa	Superintendent of Schools, CEO, School District No. 48
O'MEARA, Tami	Dept. Head, Student Access and Support, and Counsellor, Selkirk College
RUSSELL, Carolyn	Director, Global Engagement, University of Victoria

REGRETS: Verna Billy-Minnabarriet, Steve Roe, and Laureen Styles.

STAFF MEMBERS:

ADAMOSKI, Robert	Director, Research & Admissions
DROPOL, Adina	Office Coordinator
KOOK, Jennifer	Manager, Technology Services
McQUARRIE, Fiona	Special Projects Coordinator
TIKINA, Anna	Research Officer
WINSEMANN, Mike	Director, Transfer & Technology
YORKSTON, Valerie	Executive Assistant to the Council & Communications Coordinator

GUESTS: **Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training :**

Jamie Edwardson, Executive Director, Corporate Planning, International and Quality Assurance Branch

NEXT MEETINGS (2020/21):

- Friday, October 2, 2020
- Friday, December 4, 2020
- Friday, March 12, 2021
- Wednesday, June 2, 2021

MINUTES

Related pages	Item/Speaker
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1. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS – Rob Fleming & Jim Hamilton (Co-Chairs)

JIM HAMILTON: I want to respectfully acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional lands of the Indigenous peoples who have inhabited and used the land since time immemorial. Personally, I am located today on the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) people.

ROB FLEMING: I respectfully acknowledge that I am located today on the unceded territory of the of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x̣m̄əθkwə́əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

2. PROPOSED AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (March 13, 2020)

The minutes of the March 13, 2020 meeting were accepted as presented.

4. BUDGET AND PROJECTS PLAN

NOTE: Motions were not required regarding the following as there were no changes to the budget and plan presented to the Council (and approved) at the March 2020 meeting.

4.1. 2019-20 Budget Update

4.1.1. 2019-20 Budget FYE Update

Rob Fleming gave an update on the final balances for the 2020 FYE budget, noting key points related to the new accounting guidelines and processes introduced this year:

- The anticipated operating budget overage is less than anticipated (\$29,200) as a result of the cancellation and/or streamlining of a number of projects and initiatives throughout the year.
- The shortfall will be covered by one-time funding from the Ministry, to address the transition in budget and reporting practices and requirements implemented during the fiscal year.

4.2. 2020-21 Budget & Projects Plan

4.2.1. Overview & Operating Budget

Rob Fleming referred members to correspondence confirming Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training (AEST) funding for the FY 2021 budget. This includes \$2,348,900 for BCCAT core operations, and, if needed, a further \$40,000 in one-time funding for carry-over contractual obligations.

4.2.2. Projects Plan

The projects plan was provided for information. Rob Fleming noted that there are no changes or updates to report.

Jamie Edwardson remarked that the Ministry recognizes the work of BCCAT as very important, and he expressed appreciation to Council members and staff for their ongoing support for the sector.

4.3. 2019-20 Annual Review

Val Yorkston introduced the content for this year's Annual Review. This report, "Transfer Stories: Supporting Student Journeys", highlights key projects and developments alongside a variety of stories and quotes from students, administrators, and others. The theme throughout focuses on the value and ongoing importance of working together in support of student mobility.

-> **MOTION:** To accept the prepared content for BCCAT's 2019-20 Annual Review, "Transfer Stories: Supporting Student Journeys" for publication.

G. Krause / S. Cardwell CARRIED.

The Annual Review will undergo design and layout shortly, with a view to publishing it in a few weeks, along with an infographic summary.

5. COUNCIL BUSINESS

5.1. Provincial Issues and Developments

5.1.1. Ministry Update

Jamie Edwardson provided a brief update on current Ministry issues and developments, including the following:

- Emergency funding support for students (a one-time investment of \$3.5 million) to address financial pressures presented by COVID-19.
- Launch of Here2Talk, free counselling service to address mental health needs of post-secondary students
- Emergency supports for Indigenous students, including \$1.5 million to supplement the Indigenous Emergency Assistance Fund.
- Development of Safe Operating Guidelines to inform occupational safety practices at post-secondary institutions

5.1.2. EducationPlannerBC.ca (EPBC)

Karen McCredie provided a brief overview of key issues and developments:

- EPBC recently hosted an online Question and Answer session for parents, which was very well received.
- The EPBC website is undergoing a few enhancements, including expanding listings of trades and continuing education programs. As well, users are now able to search programs by learning method, and courses taught online temporarily are also flagged. Meanwhile, plans are underway for a major redesign.
- To date, 15 public post-secondary institutions have joined the transcript exchange facility.
- EPBC is very involved with the ARUCC National Network project (see item 10.1) and will be participating in a potential pilot project.

Rob Fleming also noted that BCCAT and EPBC are exploring opportunities to collaborate on promotion of the EPBC and BC Transfer Guide sites.

5.1.3. Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB)

Rob Fleming gave a brief update, noting that DQAB has been meeting online in recent weeks. As part of the annual reporting process, BCCAT has been providing data regarding private institutions with programs authorized under the Degree Authorization Act.

5.2. Staff Report to Council on External Activities

Members briefly reviewed the staff report.

5.2.1. BCCAT's COVID-19 Response

5.2.1.1 System Support (Update & Discussion)

Rob Fleming noted that BCCAT staff members have focused on system support in response to COVID-19 developments in recent weeks. He referred members to:

- BCCAT's "System News" page (<http://www.bccat.ca/systemnews>) - a centralized page offering resources and information on BC post-secondary developments. The page is updated regularly as news emerges regarding changes in policy or practice to address COVID-19 challenges.
- A two-page update (<http://www.bccat.ca/pubs/Resources/SystemNews2020May.pdf>) outlining BCCAT's activities in addressing system needs due to COVID-19.
- Collaboration with BCcampus and articulation committees to share resources on alternate ways to offer lab components of Science courses.
- Contact with BCCAT counterparts in Alberta/Ontario jurisdictions, to share information on current developments and decisions such as granting Pass/Fail grades. A spreadsheet is being put together which will serve as an internal resource document.

There was extended, substantive discussion regarding concerns about modes of delivery for lab courses, especially regarding transferability of courses that are now being delivered online. Rob noted BCCAT's long-standing position that typically, the method of delivery should not affect articulation decisions.

Members agreed that it would be helpful if the Ministry could issue a letter confirming that existing transfer agreements should be honoured.

-> ACTION: Jamie agreed to take this message back to the Ministry, and Rob Fleming will raise the issue at the upcoming meeting of the Seniors Academic Administrators' Forum (SAAF).

Fiona McQuarrie noted that this relates not just to lab-based courses, but to any course or program for which the face-to-face component is key. It was generally agreed that BCCAT has a role to play for issues like this, especially in terms of communication of concerns and implications for transfer.

Members also discussed online proctoring tools. eCampusOntario is also working on solutions for Ontario institutions. A few different options were forwarded, and it was noted that BCNet may be in a position to offer recommendations or to facilitate for institutions interested in opting in.

5.2.1.2 Discussions with BC Registrars' Association and Ministry of Education (MOE)

In recent weeks, BCCAT staff have been focused on system support with regard to issues raised by the current COVID crisis. (See bccat.ca/systemnews and bccat.ca/pubs/Resources/SystemNews2020May.pdf for updates.) One example is collaboration with BCcampus regarding sharing resources on alternate ways to offer lab components of Science courses, and providing system access to an inventory of discipline-specific educational resources for online labs.

Rob Adamoski reported on recent BCRA discussions regarding grading and high school transitions. He shared a presentation on the Ministry of Education's (MOE's) K-12 Learning Priorities which was shared at the Transfer & Articulation Committee at their meeting the week before.

Lisa McCullough noted that vulnerable K-12 students who are able to have synchronous contact with teachers on a regular basis appear to be doing well and, overall, teachers appear to be adapting to delivering online teaching. She expressed the concern that students may actually be overwhelmed with the current workload.

5.3. 2020-21 Projects & Activities Chart

The Projects & Activities Chart was provided as an overview of the status of projects in this year's project plan. Most new project contracts are in the process of being finalized.

6. TRANSFER & ARTICULATION

6.1. Transfer & Articulation Committee (Last Meeting: May 29, 2020)

Diane Naugler (Committee Chair) gave a brief overview of discussions at the last meeting of the TAC. She noted that members appreciated seeing the MOE's presentation on K-12 Learning Priorities (see item 5.2.1.2 above). There was also considerable discussion about planning for JAM 2020 which led to a decision that this year the event should be held online.

6.2. TAC Projects & Issues

6.2.1. Unarticulated Courses bccat.ca/pubs/reports/UnarticulatedCourses2020.pdf

Mike Winsemann referred members to this report, which looks at the extent of unarticulated courses and courses at differing year levels in the BC Transfer Guide. It offers careful analysis and recommendations for institutions going forward.

7. ADMISSIONS

7.1. Admissions Projects

7.1.1. Academic Dual Credit (ADC) Students bccat.ca/pubs/reports/DualCreditStudents2020.pdf

Robert briefly walked through highlights of this report, which focuses on the experiences and performance of academic dual credit (ADC) students. He noted that the study shows that transition and participation rates of ADC students are very good, and that ADC students perform well in post-secondary. Their ADC experience increases their interest in post-secondary, and their confidence as well.

Members noted the importance of this topic, and suggested that a one-page infographic may be helpful to set out key findings.

-> ACTION: BCCAT staff members will look at the possibility of developing a related infographic for publication.

8. RESEARCH

8.1. Research Projects

8.1.1. Credits to Graduation

Report: bccat.ca/pubs/Reports/CreditstoGraduation2020.pdf

Summary: bccat.ca/pubs/Reports/CreditstoGraduation2020sum.pdf

Anna Tikina presented an overview of this report, which compares the total number of credits completed for a baccalaureate degree by direct entry and transfer students at several large BC public universities. Findings indicate that both groups collect more credits than are required for a wide variety of reasons. Future research could look at student motivations, and credits for specific pathway programs.

9. TECHNOLOGIES/WEBSITES

9.1. Transfer Credit System (TCS) Update

Mike Winsemann reported that the new “Atomic” TCS is expected to be ready to launch shortly. The system recently underwent user-testing, and proves to be more efficient and a number of key enhancements to improve usability.

The TCS Suite project is currently on hold, due to the COVID crisis. The plan is to work on providing an interface for international agreements in BCTransferGuide.ca over the next few months, with a view to re-launching in September.

9.2. BCTransferGuide.ca Update

Work is underway to provide a kind of “guided tour” for users, to address questions regarding how to use the course search mechanism, or to explain nomenclature, etc. As well, a helpdesk service, “COMM100” is in development.

10. INTER-PROVINCIAL/INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Rob Fleming provided brief updates on the following:

10.1. ARUCC National Network Initiative www.aruccnationalnetwork.ca/

10.2. Groningen Declaration Network – Signatories www.groningendeclaration.org/

11. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST – *A variety of relevant news articles were provided for information*

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14. ADJOURNMENT
