

Sociology and Anthropology Articulation Committee

May 4, 2012, Meeting Minutes

Action Items:

- Michel Bouchard and Deb Bartlette volunteered to form a subcommittee to follow up on liability issues in field schools, producing a catalogue of best practices in field schools, and inviting internationalization departments to the next articulation meeting.
- Bob Ratner and Yidiz Atasoy will form a subcommittee to investigate and report next year how different institutions are responding to the immigration block to bring students from certain countries and to deal with international students who refuse to return to their homeland seeking refuge in Canada.
- Doug volunteered to organize a session on pedagogy in CASCA and/or BC studies discussing the issues we have spoken about here; i.e. issues with field schools in a workshop, round table discussion, or any such format.
- Tad will check dates and see whether he can organize one such session in BC studies. He would also include local or North American field schools vs. International ones.
- Ron will follow up on how many departments are moving towards interdisciplinary and cross listing courses and this may pose challenges to articulation.
- Doug, Ron, and Norm will collaborate as a subcommittee on the transfer innovation project (inter-institutional collaboration around movement of students across institutions—students being able to take courses in a couple of universities at a time).
- Francis will look at hosting us next year in Camosun, if this doesn't work, VCC (Darcie) is plan B (without lunch).

In attendance:

- Becky Wigen, Anthropology (UVic)
- Bob Ratner, Sociology (Alexander College)
- Darcie Olijnek, Sociology (VCC)
- Deb Bartlette, Dean of Applied Arts, System Liaison Person (SLP), (Yukon College)
- Douglas Hudson, Anthropology (University of the Fraser Valley)
- Eric Tompkins, Sociology & Anthropology (CNC)
- Fiona McQuarrie, BCCAT, Special Projects Coordinator
- Fiona Whittington-Walsh, Sociology (Kwantlen Polytechnic University)
- Francis Adu-Febiri, Sociology (Camosun College)
- Joey Moore, Sociology (VIU)
- Laurel Whitney, Sociology (Capilano University)
- Lisa Cooke, Anthropology (TRU)
- Lori Barkley, Anthropology (Selkirk College)
- Maureen Bracewell, Anthropology (Capilano University)
- Michel Bouchard, Anthropology (UNBC)
- Mónica Sánchez-Flores, Sociology (TRU)
- Norman Easton, Archeology (Yukon College)
- Ron McGivern (TRU)
- Sabine Stratton, Anthropology (Kwantlen Polytechnic University)
- Tad McIlwraith, Anthropology & Sociology (Douglas College)
- Victoria Castillo, Archeology (Yukon College)
- Yidiz Atasoy, Sociology & Anthropology (SFU)

Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes:

- a. Motion passed to have agenda approved (M/S Norm/Sabine).
- b. Motion passed to approve Minutes from May 6, 2011 (M/S Francis/Becky)

Old Business:

- a. Update on Pre-majors Initiative signoffs (Joey Moore, VIU)
 - Many institutions are starting signoffs, and this is confusing as every institution has different procedures.

Discussion:

- Fiona M. is dealing with all of the signoffs. A form will be sent around after the meeting. Everyone should look at the tables and make sure they are up to date and also there is an institutional signoff sheet that should be sent around. Fiona M. will circulate the list of institutions with status.
 - The pre-major initiative is a way to justify the need for courses in every institution.
 - Registrars say they admit students to institution, but it is the departments' role to record what students go to the flexible pre-major. BCCAT does not need to approve, this is an inter-institutional agreement produced in articulation meetings.
 - It would be useful to advertise flexible pre-major to get students to know about this possibility.
 - It is important for institutions to figure out internally who does the transfers.
 - We need to come up with a model of how students will transfer.
- b. Field School subcommittee report on May 2011 meeting outcome (Laurel Whitney, Capilano University):
 - The question of how to fund field schools was discussed. In Capilano for example, they don't have a clear formula (the department funds part of it, the students fund a big part of it and their internal dept. of International Education funds another part.)
 - Liability is a big issue, it's hard to get a field school approved by any institution because of this. If something happens to a student in a field course, the professor is legally responsible, waivers are not necessarily accepted.
 - Mentoring is important as field schools represent lots of work as a faculty member. It is important to have mentors to see how this is done by someone else with more experience.
 - When institutions don't provide support for field trips, it becomes challenging to offer them. For example, Laurel spends a lot of time recruiting.
 - Also, there is little provincial government support for this kind of initiatives; giving the international experience to our students is not seen as part of internationalization at a provincial level.
 - However, there is demand for these field schools. Queens, for example, has an international field course as a compulsory part of their degree, so they're asking for faculty in Canada to propose field courses. Students choose institutions on the basis of which one is going to provide them the experience of a field trip.
 - A conference on field trips (October 14, 2011, Capilano College) was held and there were participants from Douglas College, Camosun, VIU, Capilano and SFU, it was small and intimate.

Discussion:

- There should be some kind of inter-institutional consortium to top off numbers/enrolments, and also to cooperate in funding for field trips. Exchange programs are not revenue generators. Risk assessment looms large, SFU for example, has a strict procedure and we have to think about how to get around it.
- Costs of international field trips may be prohibitive to students. Classes really appreciate and get a lot from local field schools within the province.
- UNBC has become field school friendly and this has to do with their practical Dean that has set up procedures and streamlined how to do this. It is important to have people at the administration level that are supportive of field schools. Michel will be happy to share the information of how they do this in UNBC.
- There are liability issues for archeological digs out there, even day digs, Sabine makes students to do their digs on campus. (forensics: burying a whole pig and digging to see the decomposing procedure, liability issues with disease though)
- Many institutions have internationalization divisions but it is hard to get money from them and we may get a rep from them to come to our articulation meeting next year.
- Internationalization and liability issues come from the provincial level (auditors and the people to whom our institutions report have asked to be clear on these issues)
- It is also important to look at how transfer credits will work in field schools.
- Also, it was discussed that there are problems with getting visas for students coming from Muslim countries. For example, SFU has blocked students coming from certain countries (Yemen, Iran, Egypt, etc.) as the Canadian embassy puts them on a slow track for visas; it was asked if BCCAT can do something about this. Also, SFU does not allow field schools to problematic places. Other departments also pose their own issues (e.g. SFU's dept. of Muslim studies cannot organize field schools in those countries).

New Business:

- a. BCCAT institutional report (Fiona McQuarrie)
 - Major activity: enabling initiative for sending and receiving students, process that comes out of the last 5 years with change of status in many institutions and movement of students through the system.
 - Sending and receiving system needs to be adjusted for all institutions to be able to send and receive students; they will be advised on what this means for them.
 - By 2013 all institutions will be able to send and receive. Reservation: whether they will suddenly be faced with lots of requests if they change their status. Process is overdue and we are pleased to see this happen.
 - Pre-majors are being investigated in many BC universities in all departments and all institutions are dealing with it. Economics is starting and BCCAT has a number of departments that will look into it.
 - There is a call for proposals. No deadline for these applications, they will take them on as they come.
 - BCCAT will fund courses that will allow for students to move around institutions.

- There is a list of transfer and articulation projects in handout provided by BCCAT.
- BCCAT will have a handbook on how to articulate by the end of the year (2012).
- BCCAT will have a Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) on November 4th, 2012.
- Student transition projects: will be available in website of BCCAT if people want to find out details.
- Website will be based on words and images that students can choose to figure out their interests and what institutions/disciplines meet these criteria (will be up and running in the next couple of months).
- BCCAT has 8 ½ staff (Fiona is the half) Christi Garneau is the main coordinator of articulation committees; there are new people in BCCAT as people have retired.

Question:

What are the criteria to be able to get a pre major? What about funding in terms of course release?

Answer:

- It depends on the discipline and whether this would be convenient
- In early childhood education, for example, students can take courses in different institutions and some take leadership with specific courses on which to specialize.

Question:

Does BCCAT have a liaison with high schools formally?

Answer:

- No, there are articulation meetings where high schools attend because they may provide courses that are valid for college. Departments approve of this (this is the main contact)

Question:

Representatives in registrars' offices who deal with the pending transfer credit evaluation system requests have lost sight of their obligation to the articulation pan-institutions. Can BCCAT send a reminder of these obligations? Sometimes requests get sent to departments and are lost.

Answer:

- This may be an internal issue.
- It is important to deal with how certain courses do not harmonize; issues come up especially with indigenizing the curriculum.
- We don't have representatives in articulation meetings of institutions that often appear in the list of pending transfer credit evaluation system requests (e.g. College of the Rockies), so this may be why they are in this list so much. An important topic for discussion in the future would be to check that every institution in BC sends representatives to the articulation meetings.
- Case by case articulating may help solve issues

- b. System Liaison Person Nomination: Deb Bartlette, Dean of Arts at Yukon College.
- To provide insights and information to our committee on the basis of their bigger experience with respect to system wide perspective
 - To represent this committee to the system
 - The position was unfilled for 6 months in BCCAT they discovered that only a third of articulation committees have SLPs (Deb is volunteering because it is extremely important to have an SLP in BCCAT)
 - Motion passed to accept Deb as SLP (M/S Doug/Norm).
- c. Science based courses (Sabine Stratton, Kwantlen Polytechnic University)
- Sabine has had to put together a human osteology course, and would like to know how to get this kind of course transferred (3 credits in spite of extra lab hours).
 - Because of the way lab hours are counted, there are transferability issues; she would like to work around the 5 credit modality in SFU and would like to know how to deal with it.

Discussion:

- The SFU 5 credit course has traditionally been transferred like that
- They have a course in osteology in Uvic and it is taught by someone in the medical school.
- This issue may be solved with lab assistant

Institutional Reports:

- Norm has an archive with institutional reports submitted for this articulation meeting.

Summary:

- Cross listing issues for transferring courses is an issue that will occupy this committee.
- Political issues: faculty retiring but not being replaced.

Elections and next meeting:

- Francis will discuss with his institution (Camosun College) if they can host the sociology and anthropology articulation meeting in 2013.
- It was discussed to dovetail the meeting with a conference in May next year (BC studies, CASCA).
- Darcy will also discuss with her institution (Vancouver Community College) to see if they will be a venue for the next articulation meeting (they will not provide lunch though).
- Motion passed for Ron to serve as acting chair of this committee until next meeting when there can be an election (he may go to an admin. position soon) (M/S Becky/Norm).