BCCAT Visual Art and Design Articulation Meeting

OFFICIAL MINUTES
Wednesday, May 7th, 2014

Host institution:
Emily Carr University of Art and Design
1399 Johnston Street, Granville Island
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6H 3R9, 604-844-3800

President and Vice-Chancellor Ron Burnett welcomed committee members to the meeting.

Chair Gregory Ball called the meeting to order. Deana Holmes acted as Secretary for both days’ meetings.

Approval of 2013 Minutes (Selkirk College) ........................................... Approved with minor edits

Approval of the Agenda ......................................................... Approved with the following additions:

- Opportunity to talk about Government’s announcement about changes to education.
- Discuss repercussions of Capilano decision.

Ruth Erskine, Articulations Coordinator, BC Council on Admissions and Transfers:

Ruth shared that Articulation Information Centre is on the website. This includes Provincial Review of Associate Degree programs, and updates and Block transfer information in the BC Transfer system.

She stated that Learning Outcomes are being written and ESL Benchmarking Project is in progress.

There is funding available for innovative projects. If members are interested, their project(s) need to be in by the end of May 2014.

An International Student Survey is in progress and has been reworked and will be sent to institutions in the fall.

There is a study that is looking at the movement of mature and non-traditional students in BC. That will be released in 2015.

Marketing and outreach activates are taking place including an advertising campaign.
Ruth then provided a presentation that was an overview of the history, instructions, roles, and current issues within the BC Transfer System. Within the presentation, complex student mobility patterns and challenges for diverse learners were explored.

Ruth then noted the role of Articulation Committees. During discussion, it was stated that other provinces are trying to emulate practices from our system which is apparently the most advanced in Canada. She stated that the system is current and flexible and looks forward to joining with other provinces as the process develops.

The floor was opened to questions. In response to a question of whether there is available an Art and Design student flowchart that would map where students are going within the province, Ruth responded that she would need to look into that.

**Action:** Ruth Erskine will look into whether there is available an Art and Design student flowchart that maps where students are going within the province.

Anthea Mallinson asked what stance BCCAT is taking in addressing department closures, and further wanted clarification on what the Articulation Committee can do to help ensure continued instruction. Anthea provided an update on what has transpired since the closure of the Studio Arts and Textile Arts programs at their institution. Ruth asked that specifics be emailed to her so she may confer with her colleagues.

**Action:** Anthea is to email to Ruth Erskine the ideas that Textile Arts has had regarding continuing under an affiliation with TRU-OL so that Ruth can confer with her colleagues before forming a response.

Discussion ensued regarding the implications of programs being cut; of private and public institutions and of what each can and cannot offer. Discussions of advocacy and support occurred.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

Dr. Gregory Cran from North Island College was introduced. Gregory is recent to the position of System Liaison Person. Gregory discussed the role of colleges and universities and how things are changing and of how recent government announcements impact how we do business. He sees the need for more cross-over, and the need to re-imagine what we are and what we do. He asked - How do we make the value of fine arts more apparent?
Roundtable:

1. **Ashok Mathur**: UBC-Okanagan, Creative Studies Program
   - Indigenous Studies update – what UBC-O is trying to do is to create a new model. One course is coming out of visual art, which could be used as an art history credit. This is an intensive two-week course which brings in indigenous artists from across the country. Ashok hoped that those assembled can consider intensives as an option. From a previous 1-credit system, a 3-credit undergraduate model is an improvement and gives more transferable options. Running as an undergraduate and graduated pilot, capped at 20 students. The prerequisite is senior students, but if they’re exemplary, exceptions can be made. There is potential to develop Indigenous arts programs and to access/utilize them. This course is based in the En’owkin Centre.

2. **Kristina Thornton**: Columbia College
3. **Alexandra Angvinland**: Art Institute of Vancouver
4. **Helena Wadsly + Milos Campbell**: Langara College
5. **Darlene Kalynda**: Thompson Rivers University
6. **Anthea Mallinson**: Textile Dept at Capilano University (One of 3 visual art programs)
7. **Sibeal Foyle**: Kwantlen Polytechnic University
8. **Kim Stewart**: College of New Caledonia
9. **Tetsuomi Anzai**: University of Fraser Valley
10. **Joseph Hoh**: Camosum College
11. **David Wells**: NEC Native Education College
12. **Stephen Foster**: UBC-Okanagan Visual Art
13. **Fern Helfand**: MFA UBC-O Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies
14. **Daniel Laskarin**: Visual Arts, University of Victoria
15. **Roque Berhtiaume**: Northwest Community College
16. **Diyan Achadi**: Emily Carr University
17. **Laura White**: Selkirk College
18. **Roberta Frey-Chale**: College of the Rockies
19. **Christine D’Onofrio**: UBC Vancouver
20. **Susanne Sampson + Linda Perron**: North Island College
21. **Gregory Ball**: Vancouver Island University

22. **Northern Lights College**:
    - Gregory Ball read a summary from Jennifer Bowes containing information about the closure of the Visual Art program at Northern Lights College to those assembled. The committee discussed strategies that could be of assistance then decided to continue conversation on Thursday.
Attachment to Minutes:

1. Vancouver Island University (Visual Art and Graphic Design)
2. Northern Lights College
3. University of the Fraser Valley
4. University of Victoria
5. Camosun College
6. Selkirk College
7. Kwantlen Polytechnic University
8. Native Education College
9. Art Institute of Vancouver
10. Columbia College
11. University of British Columbia
12. North Island College

Northern Lights/Capilano/Government Funding:
- Anthea Mallinson, Capilano – There are links on the Capilano webpage with information on current status and court judgements.
  - Court judgement: The media focus on this has been helpful. Letters of support are important but, ultimately, everything has come down to law.
  - The Supreme Court costs had to be paid by Administration. Administration wants to appeal.
    - The decision to discontinue the program did not comply with the University Act.
    - The Board must seek the advice of Senate before any discontinuation can happen and must create an Educational Policy for discontinuing courses, including those discontinued in 2013.
  - The case could create precedence for all BC academic institutions. The inclusion of that policy language was likely included by the Supreme Court to cause Capilano to comply.
  - In the past, the Senate Academic Program Committee and Senate Budget Committee were combined into one acting committee and had clear protocol for performance indicators and process for addressing programs not meeting expectations. When the committees split, the key performance indicators disappeared. This led into a break in the system.
    - A question was raised asking if Northern Lights has a similar policy. Gregory Ball will ask Jennifer Bowes of Northern Lights.

Action: Gregory Ball to ask Jennifer Bowes if Northern Lights has a policy similar to Capilano’s.

Tour and Graduation Exhibition - Emily Carr University of Art and Design Facilities
Patrick Foster, Vancouver Island University - Patrick provided a summary of the VIU Graphic Design program. This is a 4-year BA Major. This is a new faculty in the process of re-thinking the program and updating the curriculum using a multi-disciplinary approach. This has led into a restructuring of the grading matrix which Patrick summarized to the committee.

**Fine Art Grading Standards Discussion:**

- VIU Graphic Design are going to be exploring a Pass/Fail system. GD faculty want students to focus more on the feedback rather than the grade throughout the term/course/project. Patrick stated that Research shows that a Pass/Fail system allows students to focus more on their project than the specific letter grade. GD instructors will be giving feedback and using the grading rubric which will also maintain grades for each project, to be able to support the giving of a letter grade. At the end of a term, students will be given a letter grade that corresponds to the level of feedback provided.

- Discussion on grading systems ensued. Grade inflation remains a key topic. Meaningful assessment should occur earlier in the term so students can adjust/adapt in order to improve and better achieve outcomes across the term.

- Have a grading matrix discussion in class to explain what it means – to both students and faculty is crucial. Some institutions, like Camosun and Emily Carr, invite the class to apply their own words to the grade matrix at the start of the course. This helps to negate challenges and increase understanding of what is expected.

- There is a challenge of maintaining grade distribution while not disadvantaging students who are moving towards graduate study. There is a disparity between the grades of students coming out of the Sciences and of students coming out of Fine Arts programs. There seems to be pressure to increase grades for students applying to graduate school.

- Ideally the final evaluation is the least informative; students should have a clear idea of where they stand throughout the course.

**Professional Development/ Thematic Discussions plus other Topics of Concern:**

Thematic Discussion - *Creative Economy – What is the Role of Arts in the Community?*

Topics of concern dominated the discussion; The Creative Economy, the Role of Arts in the Community, and other matters became tabled due to the importance of overriding matters.
Topics of Concern

- The was some discussion and concern regarding the recent announcements made by the BC Government affecting funding and re-structuring of educational delivery models.

**Motion:**

*That representatives work with colleagues at and across our respective institutions towards articulating an informed understanding of what Visual Arts and Design programs teach our students, the manner in which the students’ learning and our research practices contribute to the creative economy, and the importance of that economy.*

.......................................................... Passed unanimously.

- Northern Lights:
  - Gregory read updates, provided by Jennifer, regarding the closure of Northern Lights Art program. Discussion ensued.

  **Motion:**

  *That Northern Lights College reconsider its decision to terminate its visual arts program, considering the recent British Columbia Supreme Court’s decision regarding program terminations at Capilano University, the significance of the visual arts contributing to the creative and diverse economy, and the importance of offering programs of visual arts throughout the province.*

  .......................................................... Passed unanimously.

Planning for 2015 BCCAT Articulation Meeting:

The committee agreed to rotate their meetings between the Lower Mainland, the Island, and the Interior.

Next Articulation Meeting: North Island College in Courtney, May 11 + 12, 2015

Thematic: The **Visual Economy: Professions, Practices, Pedagogy, and Purpose**

Election of Chair:

A nomination was put forth for Daryl Jolly. Discussion ensued.

  **Passed. Daryl Jolly will be the incoming Chair.** The outgoing Chair, Gregory, has agreed to mentor Daryl into the position and to join him at the upcoming joint annual BCCAT Meeting in November.

Review of Action Items

**Action, All Committee Members:** Email grading matrix/info to Susanne Sampson, NIC
The committee thanked Gregory for two excellent years as Chair.

Meeting Closed