

# Sociology

## MINUTES

### BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL on ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFERS (BCCAT)

Capilano University – Birch Room: 126

May 9, 2025

Present:

Member Institution	Representative	Email
Alexander College	Samantha May	s.may@alexandercollege.ca
Acsenda School of Management	-	-
Athabasca University	-	-
BCIT	-	-
Camosun College	-	-
Capilano University	Sean Ashley	seanashley@capilanou.ca
Coast Mountain College	-	-
College of New Caledonia	Marc Sinclair	sinclairm4@cnc.bc.ca
College of the Rockies	Vance Mattson	mattson@cotr.bc.ca
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Corpus Christi College	Nathan	nelawa@corpuschristi.ca
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Emily Carr University of Art & Design	-	-
Farleigh Dickinson University	Adam Rudder	arudder@fdu.edu
Fraser International College	-	-
Justice Institute of BC	-	-
Kwantlen Polytechnic University	-	-
Langara College	Sharlie Eicker / Negin	seicker@langara.ca. nsahebjavaher@langara.ca
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Quest University	-	-
Royal Roads University	-	-
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University of Northern BC	-	-
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Vancouver Island University	Sylvie Lafriniere	Sylvie.Lafreniere@viu.ca
Yorkville University	-	-
Yukon University	Shawkat Shareef	sshareef@yukonu.ca
GUEST NAME	Cap U - Elder Rose	
GUEST NAME	Cap U – Sean’s helpers: Kelsey Perry Manpreet Kaur	
GUEST NAME		
GUEST NAME		

Recorder: Marc Sinclair – College of New Caledonia

Welcome and territorial acknowledgement from Sean Ashley.

Sean introduced Elder Rose Nahanee.

Elder Rose – Welcome to Cap U. Elder Rose told a story about degrees, their importance, and asked where people store them.

(Elder Rose delivered a nice narrative introduction)

Elder Rose offered a prayer.

#### 1. Introductions/welcome

- Roundtable introductions stating name and institutions.

#### 2. Approval of Agenda and Any Additional Items

- Any issues transferring into Simon Fraser University
- Impacts of E-books (transition from print to online resources) for online classes (ie. Open book exams)

#### 3. Roundtable focusing on the positives

- General themes/talking points/highlights (for more detail, please see individual institutional reports)

- i. Issues addressing student access accommodations (30% of students require accommodation); lower level sociology requirements changes; BCCAT system is amazing; introducing more interdisciplinary learning opportunities (sociology/history); NIC – new course creation – diploma development; new strategic plan – incorporation of land and place into 15-year vision; course creations (Critical Race Theory – highlight of sociology degree); institutional changes as a consequence of changing when students declare majors (from upper to lower level); Sociology 205 (field experience course) – looking at accessibility, disability and mobility; another area – sustainable cities; improving pathways from 2 year colleges to 4 year institutions; some institutions (Dean's) highlighted early retirement rather than layoffs; experiential course on research for a community organization – food sustainability; anthropology/sociology merger to relieve overall stress on two disciplines; merger encourages thinking about different ways to deliver courses – two profs different disciplines delivering on same content; new courses (Race, Culture and Multiculturalism); some program growth; course development (Age and the Culture of Capitalism) – smaller class sizes; incorporation of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion exercises to make things more practical; VCC has a new Associate of Arts Degree in Psych (earliest launch 2026); includes both VCC 1st year SOCI courses: SOCI 1(1100) and SOCI 2(1200); plus, a new 2nd year Sociology of Families (SOCI 2250). Additional SOCI courses for this Degree is still under proposal and development. New course ideas - Society and Violence etc. College wide cuts to LINK, English, ABE.; some program cancellations in favour of "meta-majors" – concentration streams (History and Politics, Environmental Studies, Health and Society, Hispanic Studies) – opportunities to be more responsive to professional needs of students; incorporation of decolonization and indigenization into course objectives; importance of bringing in Indigenous peoples, knowledges, and pedagogies into curriculum; human services certificates – with field placement options, are multidisciplinary; new courses – Sociology of Soccer, Sociology of Adornment; Sociology of Disaster; declining enrolments; new courses – Sociology of Human Rights; institutions looking for new pathways for existing programs; program advisory committee consultations – new courses – sociology of drugs and addictions; problems articulating international courses (that spans too many disciplines); Douglas new degree designation - Sustainability and Social Innovation (SASI) – environment, government, leadership focus; alternative grading system – "ungrading" (self-evaluation combined with instructor feedback;

4. Sean – Fiona from BCCAT was running late so her update was moved until later

- a. Other business arising
  - i. Ebook discussion for online courses moving to Moodle
  - ii. SFU transferability issues
  - iii. The impact of Trump on research agendas (moved to Moodle)
  - iv. Issue of transferability of first year classes – Added to agenda

5. BCCAT Report – Fionna MacQuarrie

- a. Articulation meetings are a place for BCCAT and also a place of solidarity across disciplines

b. More than 60 articulation committees.

i. BCCAT encourages in-person meetings with online options.

ii. Concerns with cutbacks and international enrolments.

1. Some concerns about tariffs and potential impacts on programs.

iii. BCCAT one of the best transfer credit systems in the world.

1. Helps efficiency and provides students options and flexibility.

iv. JAM – Brings together participants.

1. Next year Jam is Nov 6 and 7 (Vancouver).

a. November 6 is online

b. November 7 is hybrid

a. Switching to Pheedloop platform

b. Every session from last year's jam is on the BCCAT youtube channel.

i. Sean to circulate email about JAM

c. Some pushback from institutions sending attendees.

a. This is stated in Articulation Research Guide

i. Sean will circulate guide through email

d. Research – BCCAT – See Website

a. Overview of practices

b. Recent version of transfer student demographics from 2019-2023

c. BCCAT doing review of policy of institutional membership

i. Draft review being circulated to stakeholders to approve hopefully for fall.

d. TCS allows institutions to send and receive requests. Ontario is adapting BC's system for their use. Running by June/July. This software has the capability to link systems from BC and Ontario for transfer credit evaluation

6. Added item to agenda – Intro Sociology

i. Some intro courses in Sociology are full year, split into two courses, or offer a one semester course

1. Important to consider student needs first

2. Fiona – BCCAT – BCCAT does not police transfer agreements but there is an expectation that institutions will act in accordance with what is posted.

- a. Some preliminary investigations by BCCAT on how AI might assist with transferability, but issues like this illustrate how messy the process can be
  - i. AI doesn't win the robot revolution this time

7. Discussion Topic: Impact on International Student Policy on Faculty and Programs

- a. US signed order to defund department of education
  - i. Canada is not so dissimilar at a time with indigenization coupled with budget cuts
- b. How can sociology communicate what we do to the broader community? Bringing sociology to the public to better communicate what we do
- c. Three sector trends: 1) Avoiding layoffs through retirements (but there were silent layoffs of sessional), 2) Quality of education – making instructors teach online when the mode doesn't match their teaching style, 3) Accessibility Services are threatened because of budget cuts
  - i. Re (3) – How can instructors use this as a pedagogical opportunity, so students do not have to use accessibility services
    - 1. Accessibility is a human rights issue
  - ii. Roles of administrators and the government in current budget cuts – How did we get here?
  - iii. How many schools are renaming their DEI programs? (As a response to Trump)

8. Discussion Topic: Challenges around AI

- a. Online classes and AI
  - i. In-person assignments as potential solution
- b. Hybrid in-person and online classes (2 hours on campus and two hours online)
  - i. Hybrid model provides an opportunity to get to know students, and make interactive quizzes etc.
    - 1. Online provides attendance challenges in some cases
- c. AI Expert from retreat
  - i. Assume that students are using AI for online assignments – avoid this by face-to-face assignments
  - ii. Direction was to incorporate AI
- d. A solution might be to be teaching the ethics and errors of AI
  - i. Group assignments/accountability (if one cheats everyone does)
  - ii. Tutorials on how to ethically use AI (lead an exploration on how to use AI)

9. Collecting student writing samples (when students suspected of AI use)

10. What do we want to accomplish with students? Reading, writing, critical thinking, and analytical skills.

- a. How do we get students on the same page as us?
- b. How can we rethink the knowledge, skills and abilities that people can demonstrate? How can we move forward by assessing more than cognitive and affective abilities by shifting to things that are more skills-based?

11. Election/Re-Election of Chair

- a. Dr. Sean Ashley – Chair
- b. Marc Sinclair – Vice Chair

Passed

12. Next meeting:

Location: Yukon College – In-person meeting

Date: May 8, 2026

13. Potential meeting dates for 2027

- a. Adam Rudder – FDU
- b. Mike - UFV

Meeting adjourned.