

## MINUTES

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### ATTENDEES:

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

WINSEMANN, Mike	BCCAT Executive Director-Interim
GRAEME, Angus (Co-Chair)	Retired President, Selkirk College
AROCA, Willy A.	Interim Dean, School of Hospitality, Food Studies & Business, Vancouver Community College
BIIN, Dianne	Director, Indigenous Education & Engagement, Selkirk College
COLLINS, Lisa	Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President, Students, SFU
DOMAE, Lisa	President & CEO, North Island College
HERRERA LIRA, Debi	Chairperson, BC Federation of Students
KAARDAL, Kevin	Retired Superintendent of Schools & CEO, Central Okanagan Public Schools
KIRKEY, Jennifer	College Instructor, Faculty of Science, Douglas College
KUNKEL, Titi	Vice-President Academic, Students, and International, Coast Mountain College
McCREDIE, Karen	Executive Director, EducationPlannerBC
McKEOWN, Stephanie	Chief Institutional Research Officer, UBC
McMILLAN, Grant	University Registrar, Trinity Western University
MITCHELL, Zena	Vice-President, Students, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
SIEDLACZEK, Kathy	Dean, Teaching & Learning, BCIT
SOMERVILLE, Michelle	Education Planning Advisor, Recruitment and Enrolment Management, Okanagan College

**REGRETS:** *John Chenoweth, Avery Hulbert, Sam Saini, Sunita Wiebe*

#### STAFF MEMBERS:

CHUN, Anabella	Committee & Technology Support Coordinator
DROPOI, Adina	Office Coordinator
HESLOP, Joanne	Student Transitions Project Manager
KOOK, Jennifer	Interim Director, Information Technology
KUO, Irene	Pathways Coordinator
McQUARRIE, Fiona	Special Projects Officer
TIKINA, Anna	Director, Research & Admissions
TING, Elle	Research & Projects Officer
YORKSTON, Valerie	Communications Officer

#### GUESTS:

FERRELL, Ben	Executive Director, Post- Secondary Digital Policy & Programs, PSFS
GUEST PRESENTERS	Ted James & Murray Baker

*NOTE: For definitions of acronyms used in these minutes, refer to this list of Common Acronyms used by BCCAT:*

<https://www.bccat.ca/pubs/Resources/CommonAcronyms2022.pdf>

# MINUTES

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## 1. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

*We acknowledge that we are gathering on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples including the territories of the xʷməƛk wəy̓əm (Musqueam) Skwxwúmesh (Squamish) Stójō and Selilweta? Selilwitulh (Tsejil Waututh) Nations;*

Angus welcomed the members to the meeting. He informed the attendees that audio recording would be turned on to assist with minute-taking. There were no concerns from attendees around transcript recording.

Angus also stressed it was an important meeting due to the impending fiscal year end and that there would be discussion around current and proposed budget, as well as new projects.

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## 2. PROPOSED AGENDA

The proposed agenda was approved as presented.

**MOTION:** To approve the proposed agenda as presented. K. McCredie/J. Kirkey **CARRIED**

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## 3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (December 8, 2025)

The December 2025 minutes were approved as presented.

**MOTION:** To approve the December 2025 minutes as presented. K. McCredie/J. Kirkey **CARRIED**

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## 4. COUNCIL BUSINESS

### 4.1 Provincial Issues and Developments

#### 4.1.1 Ministry Update

Ben provided a brief update, noting the following:

- Ministry was conducting fiscal year end activities and working with BCCAT to most efficiently use any surplus funds.
- Ministry was working closely with BCCAT and EDs from other Program Offices within the Ministry to identify long-term solutions to back-end administrative challenges. To that end, the Ministry was close to completing an amendment to the existing memorandum of understanding that the Ministry had with BCIT to continue hosting BCCAT. It is important to note that organizations such as BCCAT are built on robust foundations.
- Ministry was eagerly waiting to hear from Don Avison around the independent review of public post-secondary system.
- Government has centralized all IT services through *Connected Services BC*, a new agency within the Ministry of Citizen Services. The new operating model was expected to be released on April 1. The Ministry remains committed to figuring out how to provide a liaison function with PSIs to ensure services are being provided. Greg Iredale is the primary Liaison between *Connected Services BC* and the post-secondary sector.
- The Ministry has released the *Model Principles and Guidelines for the Use of Artificial Intelligence* resource, and it is available on the Digital Learning Strategy website.

#### 4.1.2 Indigenous Education Update

Dianne shared that a letter from the President's Council was prepared in response to the Ministry review and it was also extended to Directors for Indigenous Education at different PSIs who also wanted to contribute. For her part, Dianne's recommendations included the need for supporting IAHLAs for credentialing and articulation by using the Ministry's resources, as well as a more collaborative approach overall. She also called for updates to the *Colleges and Institutions Act*, knowing that Indigenous representation should not be limited to First Nations only, but it should also include off-reserve and urban indigenous organizations to have a voice and a good representation within the post-secondary system. Finally, she asked for continued funding and support for students to ensure success in the system, making sure that PSIs are seen as community language learning sites. The Calls for Proposals from Ministry for developing new programs are appreciated and it would be great to

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implement and run some of them for some time to see whether they are successful. Don Avison connected directly with Dianne, as Indigenous Education is really on top of his list of priorities.

As the *Indigenous Citizenship* requirements are implemented at some PSIs, elders from Okanagan Nation have come forward to talk about family and genealogies. Conversations around citizenship verifications are being supported at college level, as there is still a lack of resources to conduct this type of verification process as larger universities do.

### 4.1.3 EducationPlannerBC Update

Karen provided an update on the EPBC engagement work, noting the following:

- With the start of 2026, EPBC embarked on a year of double celebration. In 1996, BC was the first province in Canada to launch a shared online post-secondary application designed to support students with their application process and increase efficiency in PSIs. In addition, in 2016, EPBC was launched under that brand, bringing together the application system, the transcript exchange system and online supports, including program listings. EPBC has earned a solid place in the sector, proactively launching new student supports, including *Find your Path*, and expanding its engagement portfolio. EPBC has also developed supports for the microcredential registry and the Future Skills Grant Network.
- Over the next few month, EPBC plans to launch two important initiatives:
  1. As part of the Digital Services Strategy facilitated by the Ministry and in collaboration with BCCAT, EPBC will be launching the *Course Record Transfer Credit System* (still looking for a better name). This system will allow students to view their transfer credit results for their entire transcript in one viewing. They can then compare those results across multiple institutions. This single view assessment will be provided by tapping into the transfer credit system via an API to BCCAT. The system was ready to launch in the coming days, pending the completion and approval of a PIA. Karen will be doing a demo of the system to the Registrars in early April, and there will be a session held at the upcoming *EPBC Connects* event.
  2. On behalf of all public PSIs in BC, EPBC will be launching a sector-wide applicant survey in partnership with Academica Group. The survey will be sent to every applicant who has applied through EPBC and will, for the first time ever, provide BC with a comprehensive look at applicant behaviour insights. The survey is ready to go, pending the completion and approval of the PIA.
- EPBC will be hosting its 6th annual *EPBC Connects* event. It will be held on April 29th and 30<sup>th</sup>. It's a free event, open to anybody in the post-secondary sector.

## 4.2 Executive Director Report

Mike informed the members that the Executive Director report was included in the Council package. He provided some verbal highlights of recent activities and developments at BCCAT.

### 4.2.1 Key Activities & Meetings

#### MINISTRY CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

- As part of an orientation practice in the new role, Mike has been meeting with many sector groups and program office leads, where the biggest topic of conversation was around the post-secondary review. Some of the groups have volunteered to share their submission, and Mike shared BCCAT's submission, which was also included in the Council package. Some of the submissions included unprompted mentions about BCCAT, the importance of the work that the Council does, and the importance of the BC Transfer System.
- Mike has attended two meetings of the Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB to date).

#### INTERPROVINCIAL/INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

- Met with the leads of ONCAT, CampusManitoba, CATNS to establish regular series of meetings between program leads for information sharing and networking.
- BCCAT staff have attended the ONCAT conference in Toronto in February 2026.

#### OPERATIONS

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- Mike was pleased to announce that Fred Jacklin, former Registrar at VIU, has joined BCCAT as Interim Director, Transfer & Articulation. Fred will start his term on April 1. BCCAT was planning to send an announcement to the sector later that week. BCCAT thanked Dr. Fiona McQuarrie who assumed the role of Acting Director, Transfer and Articulation while the hiring search was underway. Dr. McQuarrie will be returning to her role as Special Projects Coordinator.

#### 4.2.2 Ministry Correspondence

Mike informed the members that BCCAT has submitted its Sector Sustainability Review and Modernization Strategy letter to Don Avison on February 6<sup>th</sup>. He thanked Council members who provided feedback which helped with drafting and writing the letter. The letter was included in the Council package. BCCAT is looking at finding ways to have deeper partnerships between institutions so that they can collaborate and share and continue to build on the work that is already in place with articulation. BCCAT has not yet received a response.

The annual BCCAT Budget Funding Request to the Ministry for FY2026-27 was also included in the agenda package.

#### 4.2.3 Staff Report

The staff report was included in the package for information.

#### 4.2.4 Project & Activities Update

The projects were on track.

### 4.3 Annual Budget & Work Plan

#### 4.3.1 FYE 2026 Draft Budget Estimations

Mike provided a budget update to Council members on the current fiscal budget as of March 9<sup>th</sup>. He explained to the members that BCCAT was still anticipating invoices from contractors. BCCAT was preparing to file the quarter four documents to the Ministry in the first week of April 2026. BCCAT was trending towards a surplus, thanks in part to generated revenue from relationship with ONCAT, the pivot to change JAM from hybrid to fully online, the anticipation of a 4% increase in salaries, which did materialize, as well as an increase in both the BCCAT lease and administrative costs, pending the MoU agreement signing. BCCAT will provide a final update on the final fiscal year end surplus at the June meeting.

**MOTION: To approve the 2025-26 Draft Budget Estimations as presented. G. McMillan/D. Herrera Lira CARRIED**

#### 4.3.2 FY 2026-27 Draft Proposed Budget Work Plan

Mike presented the Proposed Budget Work Plan to the members. In terms of revenue, in addition to the Ministry funding, BCCAT was planning to claim the funding that was parked with the BC Credit Bank at TRU. BCCAT has a service-level agreement with the ONCAT partners to use the TCS that will bring in revenue as well.

**MOTION: To approve the 2025-26 Draft Budget Estimations as presented. K. Kaardal/W. Aroca CARRIED**

#### 4.3.3 FY 2026-27 Draft Projects & Activities

The *Draft Projects & Activities* document was included in the package for information, as it covers descriptions of all the projects for each activity area. Fiona noted a slight mix-up in the descriptions of the Transfer & Articulation Projects section.

### 4.4 Member Policy

Elle provided an update on the Member Policy, noting that the review process for 3A BC Transfer System membership policy was initiated by Council in December 2022, in accordance with BCCAT policy guidelines that recommend review every six years. A review committee was struck in 2025, following consultations with the Ministry of Post-secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS), sector associations and the Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB). The work of reviewing the policy focused on two key objectives. One objective was to clarify the membership criteria and categories, with particular attention to new degree granting private institutions and Indigenous-controlled, Indigenous-led, and First Nations mandated institutions that offer post-secondary programming. The other objective was to clarify procedures and documentation for membership applications. The review committee met five times, and an earlier draft of the revised policy document was shared with Council at the June 2025

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meeting. Since then, additional consultations have taken place with DQAB, PSFS and Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Associations (IAHLAs). Additional changes were made to incorporate that feedback and the procedures in the standalone document and were included for Council approval.

The most notable change was the addition of a third membership category, intended to expand membership and participation opportunities for First Nations mandated, Indigenous-controlled and Indigenous-led institutions offering post-secondary programming that is recognised for credit transfer by BC PSIs. Certain definitions were updated as well.

**MOTION: To approve the revised BCCAT Policy 3A Membership in the BC Transfer System as presented. J. Kirkey/K. McCredie CARRIED**

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## 5. ADMISSIONS

### 5.1 Admissions Committee

(Last Meeting: January 23, 2026)

Anna provided an update on behalf of Sunita.

The committee last met on January 23, and the meeting minutes were included in the agenda package. At the last meeting, the committee finalized the plan to add a third annual meeting in late May. That meeting was tentatively scheduled, and it will be online, to get an update on the projects that have been launched.

Two new members have joined the committee for a three-year term: Bruce McKay, Vice President Academic, CNC, and Dale Martelli, Department Head, Vancouver Technical Secondary School. Peter Geller was completing his term in March and he was willing to continue on the committee for another term.

### 5.2 Admissions Projects

Anna provided an overview of the following projects:

In terms of 2025-26 projects, *The Value Proposition for Post-secondary Education* was undertaken in-house by Elle Ting, and the preliminary results were presented at JAM. The project was expected to complete shortly. *A Review of Admissions Models at BC Public Post-Secondary Institutions* project will carry over into the new fiscal year. The researchers interviewed registrars at various institutions across the province.

In terms of 2024-25 projects, *Students' Affordability Considerations for Post-Secondary Access* was completed. The project examines how students navigate the decision-making process from a financial point of view and what types of information and data are available to help them shape decisions. The contractors, Ted James and Murray Baker, were going to join the meeting shortly to present their findings.

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## 6. RESEARCH

### 6.1 Research Committee

(Last Meeting: February 6, 2026)

Stephanie reported that the Research Committee last met on February 6, and the minutes from that meeting were not yet ready for distribution but the minutes from the October, 2025 meeting were included in the Council agenda package.

Zareen Naqvi, Executive Director of Institutional Research and Planning, at SFU, has stepped down from the committee due to retirement. Tracy Carmichael, Director of Institutional Research, JIBC, has indicated her willingness to serve another three-year term as her first term nears completion in July.

The Committee also discussed priorities for the next fiscal work plan. Two projects were suggested for inclusion: *Survey of Mobile Students 2026*, which would follow the previous surveys conducted in 2012 and 2019, and *First-Generation Students Transfer*.

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The Committee also reviewed the draft research strategic direction document, which would complement the annual operational research plans and may eventually form part of a broader BCCAT strategic plan. The document is expected to come forward to Council for consideration at a future meeting.

## 6.2 Research Projects

Elle walked the Council members through the following research projects:

1. Elle is working on *Administering Three-Year Degrees: A Review of Drivers, Policies and Practices*, which is an exploration of development and use of three year vs. four-year degrees in Canada and elsewhere. The final report was expected to complete within the following weeks.
2. The *Laddering Short Post-Secondary Programs: Practices and Perspectives* project aims to offer examples of program laddering below baccalaureate degree and beyond traditional pathways such as Associate Degree to Baccalaureate. The contractors completed the final draft report, which was with the committee reviewers.

The projects for the work plan for the new fiscal year are:

1. *The Survey of Mobile Students* project is meant as a health check of student mobility in BC and is an opportunity for thousands of learners to share their experiences and perceptions regarding transfer. The survey was last conducted in 2019.
2. The *First-generation students and transfer* project focusses on learners who are the first in their families to pursue post-secondary studies. This subgroup of learners is of interest because they're more likely to have multiple intersecting equity-deserving identities. They have less social capital to search and apply for and enroll in post-secondary, and they face cultural barriers that interestingly continue to negatively impact their persistence and completion rates.

The Contemporary Issues projects close to completion are:

1. *Transferring Accommodations in the Institutional Setting: Challenges & Opportunities*, which is led by UFV. The project focuses on how well current accommodation related transfer practises align with the needs of post-secondary learners with disabilities and examines the tools and strategies that these students use to transfer their accommodations between institutions. The literature review has been completed, and the final draft report was expected shortly.
2. The *Advancing Cross-Discipline Credit Recognition Pathways in BC* project is led by VIU. The literature review has been received. The project aims to identify a cross-discipline credit recognition framework to facilitate conversion of credit across trades and academic programming. This framework will align with SkilledTradesBC standardisation and certification processes.

This year's Contemporary Issues Call for Proposals saw keen interest from many applicants. After careful consideration by the Research Committee, two proposals were recommended for the Council 2026/27 funding:

1. *Advancing Educational Access for Canadian Armed Forces veterans and reservists*. The project is led by Kevin Wainwright, UFV, and will examine how BC's post-secondary system recognizes, translates, and mobilises CAF (Canadian Armed Forces) vets and reservists, military training, leadership experience, and occupational competencies through laddering, advanced placement, and PLAR.
2. *Mobility, access, and retention among 2SLGBTQIA students at teaching-focused institutions in BC*. This project will examine how visible and intersectional inclusion on campus impacts queer and trans learners as a protective factor in decisions to attend, stay at, or transfer to an institution.

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## 7. TRANSFER & ARTICULATION

### 7.1 Transfer & Articulation Committee (Last Meeting: January 30, 2026)

Fiona provided an update on behalf of Sam. The last TAC meeting took place on January 30. The meeting minutes were not ready for distribution. The minutes from the September 2025 TAC meeting were included in the Agenda package. The main agenda items at the January meeting were discussion of the budget and the work plan for the coming fiscal year.

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Articulation committee season was around the corner. BCCAT has assigned staff to the meetings where the dates have been announced and there are still many committees who have not settled on a meeting date. BCCAT will assign staff to those meetings as those notifications come in.

There are two new members of TAC: Robert Roy Douglas, Instructor, University Arts and Sciences, NLC, and Vance Mattson, Instructor, Philosophy and Sociology, COTR.

The annual articulation committee kickoff meeting for the articulation committee chairs and meeting organisers was going to be happening online in a few days' time. Fiona informed the members that BCCAT is piloting a standardised record of attendance that minute-takers will be asked to fill out. With more than 60 committees, it has been a challenge to record the attendance information when there are many variations on how that information is listed. BCCAT uses the attendance data to track attendance, not just within individual years, but across years with the intention to facilitate and encourage institutions with lack of attendance to start sending representatives again.

## **7.2 TAC Projects**

Fiona provided an update on the following projects:

1. The *Assessing the Resource Requirements and Benefits of Participation in the BC Transfer System* project was being reviewed by two peer reviewers from the TAC committee. Fiona was waiting for feedback from one of the peer reviewers.
2. *Understanding Barriers to Transferring Credit for Transfer Students in BC* project is a project that Fiona presented on at JAM. Fiona finished collecting the final set of data, which was the questionnaire data, and which was collected from transfer credit contacts and from articulation committee chairs.

The goal with both projects was to have them ready to take to the TAC meeting at the May meeting, and to have them hopefully approved and published.

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## **PRESENTATION - *Affordability of Post-Secondary in BC: Context and Post-secondary Professionals' Perspectives.***

Ted James and Murray Baker provided an informative presentation to Council members on their findings for the project *Affordability of Post-Secondary in BC: Context and Post-secondary Professionals' Perspectives.*

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## **8. TECHNOLOGIES/WEBSITES**

### **8.1 Transfer Credit System (TCS)**

#### **8.1.1 TCS AI Environmental Scan**

Jennifer informed the members that in the past few months, BCCAT's AI Consultant has conducted environmental scans of the BCCAT Technologies, looking at how BCCAT could use AI in its upcoming projects, such as the microcredential assessment project. BCCAT is also thinking about the Coursedog API. The AI consultant is conducting a review, keeping in mind BCCAT's upcoming fiscal year projects, as well as the current, traditionally designed applications. BCCAT is currently working closely with the BC Credit Bank and the Microcredential Assessment Working Group and thinking through how to use AI not just as an additional layer on an application, but with an eye to better serve the BC Transfer System. In the first quarter of the new fiscal year, BCCAT plans to get AI ready and then later test it against its subject matter experts.

### **8.2 ONCAT Project**

BCCAT has been working with ONCAT partners around ONTCS. The tool was launched; Ontario is using it. BCCAT intends to continue to serve ONCAT's jurisdiction in a meaningful way with the classic application and maintain the right balance of doing enhancements that serve both jurisdictions without taking away from future proofing and time and resources towards modernised applications.

### **8.3 TCS Pathways Update**

The pilot was wrapping up in March. UVIC finally got their stage three for the Engineering Common Core with VIU. Some of the program Profiles that BCCAT planned to put in the Proof of Concept, are no longer offered at the PSIs. People are still keen to use

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the tool. BCCAT is currently working with the next group of partners, TRU, OC and CNC, as they look forward to creating partnerships. The tool is still limited in scope in what patterns it can currently input, which can also create some tension. BCCAT plans to redesign the tool with the AI in mind as well.

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## 9. COMMUNICATIONS

### 9.1 2026 BCCAT Transfer Awards

<https://www.bccat.ca/about/awards>

Val informed the members that BCCAT has put together a 2025 Awards highlights reel which is now available on the Youtube channel. The video presents an overview of BCCAT's Transfer Awards, and the four deserving 2025 awardees. As well, a "Transfer Stories" video is being processed to feature Maggie Reagh (Lifetime Achievement Awardee) and her remarkable story about the "English for Academic Purposes – EAP for Credit" initiative.

Val also noted that preparations are underway to launch the 2026 Transfer Awards. Council members were encouraged to look around at their colleagues and associates worthy of a nomination, and to help spread the word.

### 9.2 BCCAT Webinar Series

BCCAT is working on putting together a webinar series. A short survey was sent out to all BCCAT contacts to get an idea of what kinds of topics were of interest. The purpose of the series is to shine a light on key aspects of BCCAT work and its involvement with the BC Transfer system. The top two most popular topics were the TCS and transfer technologies and AI, followed closely by research and student mobility.

Val was working through the details of setting these series up. Once ready to launch, BCCAT will send out a notice to its contacts.

### 9.3 Engage e-Newsletter

(Subscribe to receive regular updates: <https://www.bccat.ca/about/news/#Engage>)

The *Engage* e-newsletter is the main conduit for sharing BCCAT news and updates. Val encouraged members to subscribe and share.

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## 10. IN THE NEWS

Click here to view recent news articles of interest:

<https://mailchi.mp/b63550133d12/gd0mdypkrv-6751966>

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## ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

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## NEXT MEETINGS & ADJOURNMENT:

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COUNCIL	March 16, 2026
TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION	May 22, 2026
COUNCIL	June 8, 2026
ADMISSIONS	September 26, 2026
COUNCIL	October 5, 2026

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RESEARCH	October 9, 2026
COUNCIL	December 7, 2026
COUNCIL	March 15, 2027