

BCCAT History Articulation Meeting  
Monday 6 May 2013  
Douglas College

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**Present:** Acsenda School of Management, Kathryn Skau; Alexander College (ALEX), Wayne Melvin; Athabasca University (AU), Jill Hunter; Camosun College (CAMO), Susan Johnston; Capilano University (CAPU), Towser Jones; College of the Rockies (COTR), Marcel Dirk, SECRETARY; Corpus Christi College (CCC), Niall Christie; Douglas College (DOUG), Gail Edwards; Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KWAN), Tracey Kinney; Langara College (LANG), Marjory Lang; Okanagan College (OC), Chris Clarkson; Selkirk College (SELK), Duff Sutherland; Thompson Rivers University (TRU), Tina Block; Trinity Western University (TWU), Darren Provost; University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBCO), Peter A. Russell; University of the Fraser Valley (UFV), Alisa Webb; University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), Jacqueline Holler, CHAIR; University of Victoria (UVIC), Lynne Marks

**Regrets:** College of New Caledonia (CNC), Sheldon Clare; Northern Lights College (NLC), Eva St Jean; Northwest Community College (NWCC), Hondo Arendt and Mia Reimers; University of British Columbia Vancouver (UBC), Glen Peterson; Vancouver Island University (VIU), John Hinde

**No Response:** North Island College, (NIC); Thompson Rivers University, Open Learning (TRU-OL); Luke Clossey, Simon Fraser University, (SFU)

**Guests:** British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT), Associate Director, Research & Admissions, Robert Adamoski; BCCAT, System Liaison Person, Robert Campbell; British Columbia Social Studies Teachers' Association (BCSSTA), Executive Secretary, Chris Moon

The chair called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

### 1. Welcome and introductions

The chair introduced herself.

The DOUG representative then extended a welcome to her campus, alerting everyone to the logistics of accessing the bathrooms and the internet.

Other representatives around the table introduced themselves.

The BCCAT Associate Director, Research & Admission explained BCCAT's Articulation Coordinator Christi Garneau will be leaving and her replacement is expected to be hired in September.

### 2. Adoption of the agenda

MOTION 20130506.1: To adopt the agenda: Moved CAMO, seconded TRU CARRIED
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### 3. Adoption of 2012 minutes

As last year's secretary, the chair reminded representatives minutes remain a draft until adopted at this meeting.

She went on to explain as a result of her attendance at the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) and at the behest of BCCAT that minutes be “short and sweet” individual institutional reports have been removed and the commonalities summarized. However, owing to its uniqueness, the BCSSTA report and discussion arising from it was kept in its entirety, including matters around the International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement programs.

TRU then made a correction to page 7, noting “Paul” should be “Tom” Saunders.

MOTION 20130506.2: To adopt the 2012 minutes as amended: Moved UFV, seconded CCC  
CARRIED

Later, during the TWU report, the representative noted his name was not recorded in last year's minutes.

Just before moving to the next agenda item, a number of last minute arrivals introduced themselves.

#### 4. Institutional reports

Following the instituted minute taking practice, the reports have been summarized for their commonalities and any significant outlying points of information.

Two institutions were represented for the first time at the meeting: Acsenda and AU

Budget cuts were the topic of greatest mention.

Some committee members (OC, SELK, and TWU) spoke of past years' cuts to their institutions.

Others (OC, KWAN, and CAMO) told of cuts borne by other parts of their institutions.

Still others described cuts ranging from 3% to 7%, resulting in faculty workload reductions (COTR), voluntary retirements (AU), less support for faculty (UFV), and cutbacks to sessional instructors (UFV and UVIC). CAPU's representative told of the deep cuts at her institution. Though none affected the history department, more are on the way there. In addition, KWAN, UFV, UNBC, and UVIC also foretold of future budget cuts.

CAPU, OC, and UFV also remarked about the funding cut process, feeling first, there is no communication from administration or consultation with faculty and expressing second, anger and grief at the loss of the collegial model.

Three committee members said their institutions did not face (LANG) and were not facing (OC, and SELK) any cuts for the past and upcoming year.

Enrolment figures were also discussed.

Fewer numbers were reported by OC, SELK, TRU, and UVIC.

Steady numbers were reported from AU, CCC, CAMO, CAPU, KWAN, UFV, and UNBC.

Recovering enrolments were noted at TWU.

Growing, strong, and rising enrolments were counted at DOUG, LANG, and UBCO.

Course enrolments continue to follow recent trends with students generally moving away from Canadian surveys towards “sexy” Canadian topics as well as European, Asian, and World histories. The CAMO representative also noted history of religion was a hot topic at

her institution.

DOUG, attracting students from Physical Education, and KWAN, getting those going on to the Professional Development Program, helped increase their numbers.

With these budgetary and enrolment pressures, it is not surprising hiring has been affected. KWAN, with a position split fifty percent with Asian Studies and to be finalized by the end of the month, and LANG were able to announce full time positions will be and have been filled. (Congratulations, in the latter instance, to one of our own, Niall Christie!)

TRU said its most recent hiring was a replacement for a retirement several years ago.

CAPU said it expects to hire for a position in spring of 2014.

Otherwise, history departments are faced with difficulties.

UNBC cannot advertise for a vacant position, but could only fill it with a term.

Replacement coverage for sabbaticals is not guaranteed at UBCO and UFV and needs to be fought for at UNBC.

Retirement replacements are not guaranteed at UVIC

UFV and UVIC are also struggling to maintain work for their sessional instructors while the CCC replacement will likely remain a sessional.

Finally, UBCO's committee member explained the incongruous situation of being judged by UBC rules, including supervising graduate students, when there are none.

Intriguingly, four institutions—AU, SELK, TRU, and TWU—all made mention of changes in upper administration.

New course offerings can be gleaned from the departmental reports spreadsheet.

It should be noted in TWU's entry a correction needs to be made as HIST 390 Special Topics will not be offered.

Four institutions also reported being either creative with their offerings or finding other student audiences. SELK will replace First Nations history, which had a declining enrolment, with a BC history course and move to a night class to attract another group of students. TWU has turned to summer and online offerings. Both DOUG and UNBC are finding their respective History of Childhood and Family (along with a proposed History of Medicine) and History of Childbirth courses have appeal to students in the Health Sciences/Child, Family and Youth and Nursing programs.

Three institutions—DOUG, TWU, and UFV—spoke of being at different points in the process of learning outcomes creation. This topic sparked greater discussion detailed below, but here the increased workload of attuning course outlines to program and institutional learning outcomes was the focus of the discussion.

A finished program review at UFV and the start of another at DOUG were also mentioned. UVIC also announced it has undertaken a long overdue curriculum review, outlining for committee members how first, second, third, and fourth year courses will be arranged.

Some singular items of note:

The new member of the committee from Acsenda, the name of the degree granting part of Sprott Shaw College, noted its Bachelor of Business Administration would be using a history course(s) as one of its electives.

DOUG has articulated three third year courses, but since students have been having transfer difficulties with them, the committee representative is hoping the issues can be resolved.

KWAN's committee member was pleased to announce the first graduate of its BA program got in directly to graduate school.

TRU's attendee characterized the institution's PHP Conference a great success and encouraged others to have their students attend.

TWU reported on the close, but unsuccessful unionization drive by faculty.

After the conclusion of the institutional reports, the BCSSTA Executive Secretary made the final report of the morning.

He showed the group three websites: <http://bcssta.wordpress.com>, <http://bcssta.wordpress.com/10-2/>, and <http://historicalthinking.ca/> and read from a fourth: <http://www.ipolitics.ca/2013/05/03/committee-decision-to-study-history-curriculum-flabbergasting-ndp/>. Respectively, the websites provided background on the BCSSTA, highlighted the annual conference's keynote speakers, explicated the big six historical thinking concepts being used in class lesson plans, and offered a response to the federal government Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage undertaking a review of the country's history curriculum.

This last topic prompted some discussion from those assembled about reasons behind the review, including an appeal from the UVIC representative to speak out against it.

Connections were also made to changes made to the National Library and Archives' mandate, the code of conduct imposed upon librarians and archivists as well as government scientists, and the name change to the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

In continuing his report, the BCSSTA Executive Secretary also highlighted his organization's professional development workshop conference on the European Union held at Capilano.

His organization hopes to do more of this sort with other universities, colleges, professors, and instructors throughout the province.

Likewise, he offered the group opportunities to conduct workshops at the BCSSTA annual conference.

The committee was also alerted to curriculum changes coming down the line. Though not yet finalized, the plan is to reorganize the teaching of social studies from a chronological to a thematic approach and to push Canadian history down from Grade 11 to Grade 10.

In his final point, he made the members aware of the Ministry of Education's website: <http://www.bcteacherregulation.ca/>

The meeting then took its lunchtime break to enjoy the hearty repast laid out on groaning tables by DOUG.

## **5. Business arising**

### **a. Listserv update**

The listserv administrator circulated a sheet, asking representatives to make any needed amendments—dropping or adding those from their institutions—to it.

He then went on to reiterate the reasons shared in an earlier email for shifting the listserv from BCCAT to Google.

The shift to a Group was smooth, though the perennial problem of replying to individuals resulting in replying to all continues to plague the listserv. Subscribers should, as a result of the listserv administrator's warning, be judicious when responding.

Finally, the listserv administrator assured the meeting he will continue to serve despite his change in institutional affiliation.

## **b. Funding for Articulation travel**

Another perennial issue was then discussed.

The chair explained the situation surrounding representatives not attending from NLC and NWCC, details of which have been shared on the listserv and in the Supplement to the Department Reports.

The CAPU representative then explained a quota had been imposed upon sending its representatives, but alleviated by assistance from the Dean. He, in attendance in his other role as BCCAT System Liaison Person, further explained the help rendered.

BCCAT Associate Director, Research & Admissions noted the Council has been alerted to the issue. As he explained, attendance at Articulation is mandated, but not funded. Matters have been further complicated as an amount for articulation travel is no longer earmarked in institutional budgets. He went on to inform representatives that a detailed study on articulation attendance has been conducted. Though still being worked on before being present to stakeholders, its findings have shown articulation attendance has been level with no drop off in rural college attendance. Indeed, the only time attendance has dropped is when articulation has been hosted in a rural locale.

Tele- or video-conferencing was suggested by the AU representative, but difficulties having several sites calling in were explained by the chair as a roadblock to considering such arrangements.

Matters of costs also arose, with the DOUG representative breaking down the sources where monies had come from for this year's meeting and the BCCAT System Liaison Person sharing some committees charge representatives to attend articulation in order to help defray costs.

Questions arose about neither UBC nor SFU sending representatives to this meeting. The secretary explained the information they had sent or not sent to him about their attendance. Still, several representatives felt their presence was necessary and suggested, if they were not going to come, then they be asked who will attend in their places.

The chair then declaimed she would exercise her prerogative to contact them and explain the importance of sending representatives to the articulation committee meeting.

## **c. Departmental reports**

Noting the responses to the departmental reports had become disparate as representatives were answering them in their own fashion, the secretary appealed for representatives to look at the considerations posted to listserv and engage in a discussion there so responses provided to future reports would be standardized for the spreadsheet.

## **6. BCCAT update**

The BCCAT Associate Director, Research & Admissions explained he was present at this meeting to assist the usual representative sent to articulation meetings.

He distributed materials and made the following references to them.

### **a. Pending TCES requests**

Complimenting History Articulation Committee representatives for the comparatively short

list, he nonetheless asked them to follow up on the outstanding courses requiring transfer credit equivalency consideration.

## B. Articulation resources and related matters

He then turned his attention to other developments at BCCAT.

JAM was a great success with its regular keynote speakers and presentations.

BCCAT will be launching a much improved and interactive Articulation Information Centre. The review of associate degrees is on the minister's desk, but was not addressed before the election writ. Recommendations include fine-tuning associate degrees and making them fit into the evolving system. The BCCAT System Liaison Person told the group of his own Associate Degree and explained how other jurisdiction, particularly the United States, see the degrees in terms of their being terminal degrees, associated with the trades, tied to funding, and having reverse transfer credit possibilities.

Attention was then drawn to funding opportunities under the Transfer Innovation Projects. Two research and transition projects were singled out for greater description.

First, for the *Survey of Movers*, the BCCAT Associate Director Research & Admission explained the methodology employed, highlighted some of the initial findings—many students know the institution they were transferring to and designed their programs accordingly and students moving between research and teaching universities found their experiences complicated by a lack of smooth transfers and of support at the institutions—and said while there were interesting findings in the summary report, BCCAT will be digging deeper into the data.

Second, the *Student Mobility Model* was discussed. He was excited about the possibilities offered to drill down to the discipline level and to show the flow of students.

Those interested in taking a closer look were encouraged to work with their respective Institutional Research Departments to get at the password protected data for both these projects.

A sheet listing this information, along with websites' addresses, was distributed at the meeting.

A great amount of discussion occurred coming out of BCCAT's upcoming background paper about learning outcomes.

Its focus will be on their implications on articulation processes and transfers between institutions.

The BCCAT Associate Director, Research & Admissions related his own experience with them and other institutional representatives shared in the discussion.

One commonality to come out of these discussions was the movement by many universities to devise institutional learning outcomes, then align them with programs' learning outcomes, and then follow down to the course level. At institutions where this three pronged process has begun, it is felt each learning outcome contributes a part to the larger learning outcomes.

Another point of discussion was a question as to what is driving the move toward learning outcomes. Educated guesses: they were a trend occurring around the world, an impending directive from government/ministry, a continuation of the prescribed learning outcomes of the secondary system, and an accreditation demand (undertaken by SFU and CAPU) of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities

Two areas of concern developed during this discussion. First, some representatives wondered about how learning outcomes would be measured with the question posed if any

institution had tried. The KWAN representative admitted her institution had undertaken the process, asking questions of students and getting some thoughtful answers from them as to where they had started and where they are now as global citizens. Second, some representatives saw problems arising from adopting learning outcomes. These problems included course outlines containing boilerplate statements (overcome in some cases by lists of approved verbs instead of weasel words), learning outcome categories being unimportant, courses being taught to the test, increasing student grade challenges, potential funding implications, and clubbing the humanities with them. A few representatives spoke in favour of the values of learning outcomes, especially in showing and quantifying what history courses deliver to students.

In its discussion of learning outcomes, the assembled group was asked about the role learning outcomes played in the articulation process. The general sense was they were not the only criteria assessed as other elements (types/numbers of secondary sources for the course reading, assignments required, and the like) were just as important.

Nevertheless, learning outcomes interested the group.

Suggestions were made about the wisdom of studying them.

One was for a wiki to be set up for institutions starting out in the process to learn best practices from those further along in the process.

This idea transformed into a desire to study what history as a discipline is doing in setting, learning outcomes.

Consequently, it was the will of the Committee members and the suggestion of the Associate Director, Research & Admissions to see if funding could be found for such a study. To accomplish this goal the following motion was made.

MOTION 20130506.3: The incoming chair be directed to contact Fiona McQuarrie, BCCAT Special Projects Coordinator, to determine if a Transfer Innovation Project would be a possible funding source for a study into the learning outcomes being put in place for history courses and programs. Moved UVIC, Seconded CCC  
CARRIED

## **7. Election of incoming secretary (2013-2014) Call for nominations**

According to tradition, this year's secretary, the COTR representative, becomes next year's chair.

In a departure from previous long time practice, but in line with the 2012 History Articulation Committee meeting, a volunteer quickly came forward when the call for nominations went out.

The UFV representative was then acclaimed and will fill this position.

## **8. Date and place of next year's meeting**

Attention then turned to determining these particulars for History Articulation 2014.

Suggestions were made before the group was reminded of NLC 's listserv offer.

It was accepted.

The backup location will be UFV.

Since KWAN potentially will be hosting the next BC Studies conference, the group was made aware Richmond could be the location for 2015.

Concerns about springtime conditions in northeastern BC led some of the group to propose

a later than usual date, though it was suggested it not be after May 19, 2014.  
The incoming chair will check with NLC to firm up the date.

Motions of thanks were tendered to the outgoing chair, the DOUG host, and secretary.

## 9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was accepted by the group.

### MOTIONS

MOTION 20130506.1: To adopt the agenda: Moved CAMO, seconded TRU  
CARRIED

MOTION 20130506.2: To adopt the 2012 minutes as amended: Moved UFV, seconded CCC  
CARRIED

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