

**BC History Articulation Committee**

**MINUTES**

**British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfers (BCCAT)**

**Selkirk College, Nelson, BC**

**Meeting date: 9 May, 2016**

**Present:**

Wayne Melvin	Alexander College	<a href="mailto:waynemelvin@shaw.ca">waynemelvin@shaw.ca</a>
Camosun	Susan Johnston	<a href="mailto:johnstos@camosun.ca">johnstos@camosun.ca</a>
Marcel Dirk	College of the Rockies	<a href="mailto:dirk@cotr.bc.ca">dirk@cotr.bc.ca</a>
Gail Edwards	Douglas College	<a href="mailto:edwardsga@douglascollege.ca">edwardsga@douglascollege.ca</a>
Alex Popovich	Kwantlen Polytechnic University	<a href="mailto:Alex.popovich@kpu.ca">Alex.popovich@kpu.ca</a>
Niall Christie	Langara College	<a href="mailto:niallchristie@yahoo.com">niallchristie@yahoo.com</a>
Eva St. Jean	Northern Lights College	<a href="mailto:estjean@nlc.bc.ca">estjean@nlc.bc.ca</a>
Hondo Arendt	Northwest Community College	<a href="mailto:harendt@nwcc.bc.ca">harendt@nwcc.bc.ca</a>
Howard Hisdal	Okanagan College	<a href="mailto:hhisdal@okanagan.bc.ca">hhisdal@okanagan.bc.ca</a>
Duff Sutherland	Selkirk College	<a href="mailto:dsutherland@selkirk.ca">dsutherland@selkirk.ca</a>
Takaia Larsen	Selkirk College	<a href="mailto:tlarsen@selkirk.ca">tlarsen@selkirk.ca</a>
Nicolas Kenny	Simon Fraser University	<a href="mailto:Nicolas.kenny@sfu.ca">Nicolas.kenny@sfu.ca</a>
Tina Block	Thompson Rivers University	<a href="mailto:tblock@tru.ca">tblock@tru.ca</a>
Steve Hicks	Trinity Western University	<a href="mailto:shicks@twu.ca">shicks@twu.ca</a>
Jessica Wang	University of British Columbia	<a href="mailto:Jessica.wang@ubc.ca">Jessica.wang@ubc.ca</a>
Ruth Frost	University of British Columbia (O)	<a href="mailto:ruth.frost@ubc.ca">ruth.frost@ubc.ca</a>
Chris Leach	University of the Fraser Valley	<a href="mailto:chris.leach@ufv.ca">chris.leach@ufv.ca</a>
Ted Binnema	University of Northern British Columbia	<a href="mailto:ted.binnema@unbc.ca">ted.binnema@unbc.ca</a>
Lynne Marks	University of Victoria	<a href="mailto:Lsmarks@uvic.ca">Lsmarks@uvic.ca</a>
Tim Lewis	Vancouver Island University	<a href="mailto:timothy.lewis@viu.ca">timothy.lewis@viu.ca</a>

**Guests:**

Chris Moon	BC Social Studies Teachers Assoc.	<a href="mailto:christopher.c.moon@gmail.com">christopher.c.moon@gmail.com</a>
John Belshaw	Thompson Rivers University (Open Learn)	<a href="mailto:jbelshaw@tru.ca">jbelshaw@tru.ca</a>

Recorder: Chris Leach, University of the Fraser Valley

**Welcome from Howard Hisdal, Chair**

Chair noted concern over enrolments; over last three years a decline of 22% although the rate of decline has significantly diminished.

**Meeting called to order: 9am**

**Agenda**

Amendment by Tim Lewis (VIU) Relevance of teaching fields/breadth areas

Motion to approve: Niall Christie (Langara); seconded Susan Johnston (Camosun)

**Minutes**

Amendments: None

Motion to approve: Wayne Melvin (Alexander); seconded Duff Sutherland (Selkirk)

### **Institutional Reports**

#### **Okanagan College**

Budget stable; enrolments slightly down.  
Old courses renewed with a recognition of Indigenization.  
New course: History of Warfare and Terrorism since 1945.

#### **Alexander College**

Enrolments up; even waitlists.  
International student enrolment increases.  
Considering the development of world history.

#### **University of Northern British Columbia**

Budget stable; enrolments down due to broader decline in humanities and smaller faculty/fewer sections.  
New course: History of Public Health.  
New hire proposed with emphasis on public history.

#### **Northwest Community College**

Institutional decline in enrolments and offered sections; same true of history.  
Development of video conferencing courses; 1 per term in history.

#### **College of the Rockies**

Institutional strategic planning complete; “rebranding” of the institution. Place of history ambiguous.  
History fulfils role of service discipline to programs like teacher education.  
Video conferencing course offered; effectiveness undermined partly by technological problems but student commitment seemed also limited in this format.  
New course: Environmental History.  
General concern that student commitment to school work waning; a particular concern for history with its reading and writing expectations.

#### **Kwantlen Polytechnic University**

Three retirements; declining enrolments.  
Shift to thematic and world history course offerings.  
Courses in film, food, martial arts, crime and religion, combined with renaming of old courses to attract new students.  
Success of history uneven from one campus to the next (e.g., Surrey better than Richmond).  
Concern that Kwantlen is underfunded compared to other non-research institutions.

#### **Simon Fraser University**

Overall enrolment decline at SFU Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; history quite stable.  
Recruitment and retention emphasized as enrolment strategy.  
Lower-level courses developed: History of technology and on global environmental history designed to satisfy BA breadth requirements. New team-taught courses: History of Capital; Crime and Punishment; Empire and Colonialism. Lower-level methods course developed.  
Access to 300-level courses simplified.  
Open House for high-school students: mini-lectures and presentations on professions supported by the study of history. Development of promotional videos and enhanced webpage for the department. Public lecture series by faculty.  
New position linked with the Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies and Cultures.

#### **Camosun**

Stable budget and enrolments.

Significant faculty turnover; only limited rehires for history.  
Development of dual credit courses between Camosun, Royal Rhodes, and local school district: e.g., World History post-45 taught in the school; district pays for the course.

### **University of British Columbia (Vancouver)**

Declining enrolments but seemingly stabilizing.  
Program student numbers stable but certain fields suffering: Latin American history down.  
Renaming of courses emphasizing themes.  
Full year courses replaced with single term courses. Single term surveys of Canada and US history offered to avoid content repetition in 300- and 400-level courses.  
New course: History of Capitalism.  
Role of history in other programs noted: International Relations Major.  
New hires in international relations, African history and Early Modern history.  
Concern over language difficulties faced by international and ESL students in history courses.

### **Northern Lights College**

Technical problems affecting success of video-conferencing courses especially with international students of which there are increasing numbers enrolled.  
Interest in developing a course on Canadian Capitalism and Migration.  
Dual credit program (college/high school) designed to develop skills of B-level students preparing for university; taught by high school teachers.

### **BC Social Studies Teachers Association**

Association for professional development of social studies teachers; hopes for greater links with universities.  
Conference in the fall: "Truth in Media"  
New school SS curriculum: K-9 rolled out this fall; 10-12 2017  
Shift away from content to "competencies" and "big ideas"  
Recommends the influential work by Peter Seixas, *The Big Six* that has influenced the new curriculum.  
New curriculum viewed at: [curriculum.gov.bc.ca](http://curriculum.gov.bc.ca)  
Grade 11 social studies discontinued (content moved to grade 10).

#### Discussion:

Concern expressed that no additional history courses are being proposed and that this will affect both recruitment of students into history programs and also that prospective teachers will be less likely to choose history courses and programs to support their career aspirations.

### **Thompson Rivers University**

Decline in enrolments due to reduction in offered sections not necessarily a decline in interest.  
New Canadianist hire.  
Special topics courses are proliferating but no new permanent courses are being developed.  
Concern expressed over automated scheduling software.

TRU OL (online) major in history revived.  
OL enrolments are up; vast majority are from out of the TRU catchment.

### **Trinity Western University**

Budget/enrolments/faculty stable.  
Slate of offerings stable; no new courses.  
Concern expressed over the preparation of international students for history courses, particularly language proficiency.

History removed as core component of BA.

### **Langara College**

Budget and enrolments stable.

More international students; shared concern over language proficiency and the impact this has on their success in history.

Currently completing a program review; as part of this, the History Department is taking the opportunity to communicate more explicitly to the administration what “extras” faculty do (e.g., research). Student survey positive about the program; students want world history.

Outreach: Dunbar Community Centre public lectures series.

### **Douglas College**

Enrolments up from a decline last year.

History a key component of other programs: International and Intercultural Studies; also Asian Studies.

New courses in African and Middle Eastern history; also an expansion of 3<sup>rd</sup>-year courses.

Local, public, and regional history course offerings and applied history (e.g., link to the New Westminster Archives) being developed.

Implementation of a college initiative to assist students to complete degrees and diplomas in a timely manner with the introduction of DegreeWorks software.

### **University of Victoria**

Several areas have strong enrolments but 200-300 level courses are down as are European history courses.

Retirements not replaced with new hires.

Public History MA developed.

Professional Development Workshops successful.

Concern expressed over ESL students and their performance in history. Problem noted over the inconsistency between professors on how to accommodate (or not) ESL students.

Departmental fundraising effort for Syrian refugee family was successful and enhanced esprit de corps in the department.

### **University of British Columbia (Okanagan)**

Enrolment increases, noted at the lower-level which is positive.

Retention strategies deemed crucial in order to increase number of program students.

No Canadianist in department; need for a new hire.

Faculty of Management seek a split appointment with history.

Curriculum Review immanent; preparing for external departmental review.

History of Religion (200-level) popular.

History of Technology embedded in Media Studies BA.

### **Vancouver Island University**

Enrolment and faculty stable; recent hires: Medieval/Early Modern and World History.

However, program students in decline; recognition that history is increasingly a service discipline or supported by student interest.

Many new courses: World, medieval, Death and Dying in Early Modern Europe, Public History, Indigenous Peoples and the Law.

Canadian Letters and Images Project expanded and revised: new interactive website; audio readings of letters by actors/celebrities.

Hosting BC Studies in 2017: “Un-Settling BC”; May 4-6, Nanaimo Campus.

Hosting BC History Articulation, May 8, 2017.

### **Selkirk College**

Budget stable supported partly by tuition increase.

Increase in international student enrolments; overall enrolments stable but lower than 10 years ago.

Learning Outcomes emphasis in new course development.

Arts expanding.

Summer Institutes include significant history content.

Concern expressed over UBC (O) offering sections in Nelson.

An appeal made that historical and basic scholarly skills not be compromised as a means to expand enrolments.

### **University of the Fraser Valley**

Faculty and budget stable; enrolments stabilizing from downward trend.

Majors down; minors stable.

Outreach: Professional Development day for regional high school teachers hosted by the History Department and the Teacher Education Department; emphasis on new curriculum and historical thinking; very successful.

History prominent in new Peace and Conflict Studies program.

Course development in World History (100-level), biography, and online offerings.

Concern expressed over a threatened administrative reorganization of the Arts and how course cancellations are managed.

Discussion:

Camosun faculty do not “owe” sections that are cancelled (do other tasks to satisfy workload); other institutions’ faculty “owe” sections although Kwantlen is challenging this.

### **Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

#### **1. UBC (V) 200-level Course requirements and concerns over articulation**

UBC assured the committee that their policy regarding 200-level course content was driven by concerns over student preparation for 300- and 400-level courses. The policy (better described as “guidelines”) emphasizes skills and methods.

These guidelines are not imposed on UBC faculty course development (simply encouraged) and will not be used to determine transferability of courses to UBC from other institutions.

Discussion:

Alexander College: Approved of the guidelines as they defined the expectations of UBC for transfer students.

Douglas: Concerned over block-transfer of Associate of Arts diploma students. UBC replied that block-transfers would not be affected by their 200-level policy.

Kwantlen: Noted that UBC writing expectations were sometimes more modest than those from smaller transfer institutions.

Douglas: Noted that course proposals at Douglas must include transferability notation specifying specific institutions.

UNBC: Concern over UBC single term US and Canadian lower-level surveys; will traditional two-term surveys be transferable? UBC replied that they would.

Discussion drifted into general comments on writing and reading expectations and the need to maintain standards.

#### **2. Discussion on Alisa Webb’s written report from Joint Articulation Meeting 2015**

Chair raised concern over gender enrolment split in history (70% female enrolments). Asked committee if this was a shared concern and whether there should be an effort to increase male enrolments.

Discussion:

Several noted the ethical problem of addressing this and recommended that it not be pursued for further discussion.

Chair noted from Webb's report that articulation committee meeting minutes need to be processed quickly and be brief.

Suggestion that articulation committee chair sits for two years as opposed to one failed to draw a motion.

### **New Business**

#### **1. John Belshaw presentation on the Online Canadian history resources from TRU BC Campus Project and Open textbooks.**

Open textbooks available from several sites. See "BCcampus OpenEd" for finding aid by discipline.

Open textbooks are free and customisable by instructors; continuous access for students along with many support materials; SFU prints the Canadian survey history for \$16.

Kwantlen a significant user of Open textbooks.

Enrolments increase with low-cost or free textbooks.

Discussion Summary:

Q: Will BCcampus support (fund) the writing of new textbooks?

A: High traffic subject might get support (Canadian survey text already available)

Q: Customising the texts is not difficult but will this affect transferability.

A: It shouldn't

Reviewers of the Open Texts on BCcampus are paid \$250.00

#### **2. Northern Lights College: Is the traditional three-hour, exam period, final examination still relevant? Is it open to abuse by cheaters, especially in the online environment? Is it fair on international students?**

Discussion summary:

In lieu of using the last class for exams, exam period use is better; does not rob from time used for content or usurp student attention from other classes.

Final exams can enhance student skill development.

Concern over increasing anxiety over final exams:

- high schools allow re-writes while universities tend not.
- international students anxious over exams as many foreign education systems put great worth in exams and use the results for streaming.
- Exams are often more a measure of language skills than command of content/ideas; exams can favour dominant class/culture.

Solutions include keeping the grade value of the exam low and ensuring that the exam is built into the design of the course – preparation for the exam is done throughout the term including providing the exam questions well before the exam.

Problem: concerns over plagiarism have increased the use and importance of exams as a controlled evaluation method. Also, too many accommodations might undermine academic standards.

#### **3. Vancouver Island University: Are teaching fields/regionally defined breadth areas still relevant?**

Discussion summary:

Breadth requirements defined by regions and/or fields are still used to manage student progress through programs and to manage enrolment (e.g., encourage support of weaker fields) but fields are changing.

More thematic and world history being developed to suit student interest (see institutional reports).

Concern that eliminating breadth requirements will lead to student course selection that favours certain instructors and limits exposure to varied content and methods.

Sending institutions concerned about the transfer implications of breadth requirements at receiving institutions. Awareness of these requirements deemed vital for colleges.

#### **4. Alexander College: Raised the issue of ESL students and their struggles in doing history.**

Discussion summary:

Concern over the ethics of taking high tuition fees from international students but not providing them the support needed for success. Not just an issue for history; a systemic problem and one that affects all ESL students, not just international students.

While this is a social justice issue academic standards must be maintained; knowledge of the expectations and support must be made available before students enrol.

Institutional support does exist (e.g., VIU faculty can opt to work in the Writing Centre in lieu of teaching a section or as volunteers).

Ministry of Education needs to know that enhanced support for international and ESL students is required. Suggestion that this be a topic of further discussion next year.

#### **Appointment of new Chair for 2016-17:**

**Chris Leach (UFV)**

#### **Election of new Secretary for 2016-17/Chair 2017-18:**

**Tina Block (TRU)**

#### **2017 Meeting**

**Location: Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo**

**Date: May 8, 2017**

#### **2018 Meeting:**

**Location: College of the Rockies, Cranbrook**

**Date: TBA**

Thank you to Duff Sutherland and Selkirk College for hosting meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 2:25pm