

British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfers (BCCAT)
BC History Articulation Committee (BCHAC) Meeting Minutes
SFU Harbour Centre – 2200 RBC Dominion Securities Executive Meeting Room
Monday May 1, 2023

Simon Fraser University respectfully acknowledges the unceded traditional territories including, the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), sə́lilwə́taʔl (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations, on which SFU Vancouver is located.

Coquitlam College

- Patrick Best reported full classes – increased enrolment in AA program, and increased demand for history
- Dominic Dicarolo retired; Eliza McClenagan (Holocaust/Germanic Studies) hired
- Columbia is currently undertaking a degree review, operational review, and campus review ... new Vancouver campus opening
- in terms of international, Nov. 2022 change in allowable work hours impacted student attendance and focus in class; some students are less open to learning

Camosun College

- Chris Morier noted that Camosun only has two F/T faculty now; department is offering 18 sections per year
- online classes are filling first; in response six of 18 courses are going online in the upcoming academic year
- positive experience with dual credit last year, but not continuing this year
- College now has achieved a balanced budget
- film studio opened on the Interurban campus – partnership with Philippines
- shared campus in Langford – partnership between Camosun, UVic, and Royal Roads U
- overall, guarded optimism

UBC-Vancouver

- Leslie Paris is the new UBC rep to BCHAC and will serve for two years
- still many faculty on leave, replaced by sessionals – impacts on enrolment
- two retirements – Glen Peterson and Bill French – 1 new hire Alycia Hall (Black Atlantic/Diaspora Studies)
- new Dean of Arts, Clare Haru Crowston, is a historian
- UBC Indigenous Strategic Plan (2020) is being implemented – includes courses in the History Department

Vancouver Island University

- Katharine Rollwagen reported one retirement – Deanne Schultz – and one new hire, Murat Inan (Ottoman cultural history)
- enrolment back to ~2019 levels – 51 sections, 1400 students
- new courses – Introduction to Premodern Slavery; Travellers in the Premodern World; Modern Middle East
- Whitney Wood received a CIHR grant to focus on 20th Century public health
- Stephen Davies continues to curate the Canadian Letters and Images Project, now ~700 collections online, 200+ waiting for digitization
- Indigenization is a departmental priority, but currently unable to hire for a full time position; reluctant to hire at less than full time for this position

Columbia College

- Kathy McKay noted that History has just completed a program review and received a favourable report
- now three instructors teaching History courses; with 320 students registered during the winter semester
- offer five sections of pre-Confederation Canada/three sections of post-Confed; and the second-year level European, World, and Indigenous History
- allowable working hours increase also negatively impacted students at Columbia
- are focusing on Indigenization

Corpus Christi College

- Jessica Hemming reported that the St Marks merger is still underway, which will transform Corpus into a four-year university with a graduate program
- enrolment dropped during the pandemic, only modest increase after
- necessary earthquake refit has led to limited spending and a hiring freeze
- Corpus at five permanent faculty over all
- 13 history courses on the books but have only been able to run five of them (FINA/HIST Western Art & Architecture, Pre- and Post-Confederation Canada, and Medieval Europe I & II)
- Indigenization through new courses: Indigenous Peoples I & II, Race and Slavery
- new president, Dr Gerry Turcotte, started a five-year term on August 1, focused on Truth & Reconciliation and EDI initiatives
- St Marks has nine history courses, ran only four of them

College of the Rockies

- Marcel Dirk reported that a recent 8:30am Women in Canada course was one of the best courses he has ever taught
- Transfers to COTR have continued an eastward drift (transfers in from Alberta and Ontario)
- one COTR student will be transferring to UVic History
- administration is focused on laddering all courses into the College's BBA degree
- post-Confederation Canada and Environmental History have been cancelled leading to a layoff (under appeal) for Marcel Dirk

Douglas

- Cedric Bolz reported that HIST, POLI, and one international studies course have been merged into one department bringing the faculty complement to 12
- one 100% regularization: Carling Benniger
- renewed focus on Indigenization through consultations with Jennifer Anaquod, learning more to be able to move forward with Indigenization
- 0.5 hire to replace Robin Wylie who is working with FPSE, allowed the department to bring in Rui Zhang Asian/Labour History
- ongoing department review is now in the hands of the Associate Dean
- Douglas has a new Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, Carla Hotel, and new Associate Dean, Nicole Vittoz
- History club has been very successful
- third-year enrolment soft, possible impact of UBC articulation decision
- upcoming courses in Holocaust, Environmental History

Northern Lights College

- Rob-Roy Douglas noted that enrolment stable in the 4 sections of History offered at NLC
- domestic enrolment seems to be increasing, but small sample size
- 0.5 position to hire Hugh Gordon (teaching across north – developed public speakers series)
- new dean is focused on asynchronous online offerings and NLC Education Council is discussing eliminating on-site invigilation
- creates difficulties regarding AI and raises the possibility of the complete elimination of all human interaction

University of the Fraser Valley

- Adrianna Bakos noted that she has completed her term as chair as the department is undergoing a generational shift – Daniel Kwan, Chris Leach, and Robin Anderson retired; Ian Rocksborough-Smith, Eiji Okawa, and Aleksandar Jovanovic have been hired
- enrolments are stable but not as robust as pre-pandemic; some section cancellations
- seemed to be back on track in the winter, and over-full for summer; for the foreseeable future, teacher education programs will be fuelling enrolment in Canadian History surveys
- launched innovative microcredential – “Introduction to Digital Stories and Oral History” – but necessary institutional support is not in place to continue
- Indigenous history requirement was introduced in Fall 2022 – expansion of lettered courses – themes
- new courses will be developed by Okawa and Jovanovic; also adding a course on death and dying, and ‘gaming the past’
- as of January 2023 full renovation of History space – now have real seminar room, with tech, and available to students for activities

Alexander College

- Sebastian Huebel reported that AC is now at 1650 students, a +47% increase
- students are still largely from South Asia, intending to complete a two-year diploma in Arts
- now five instructors, two tenured; hope to add a Canadian-Indigenous hire
- 20% of course offerings are online
- launched two new courses: Indigenous-Settler Relations, and Indigenous Histories of the Global South (Fall 2023)
- “War and Memory Conference” – Nov. 10, 2022 – focused on showcasing student work
- International students working F/T is an increasing problem – as is the increased use of AI
- more in-class exams, essays, and coursework in response

Thompson Rivers University

- Wilson Bell noted that this was the first full year for Nick Hrynyk – his Queer Activism course is now approved as ongoing course, large waitlist
- TRU has also hired a new Americanist, Alana Toulin (US Urban History/Food Consumption & Production), from Dalhousie
- numbers are fine on a per course basis, but an increased number of time releases for current faculty have reduced the total number of offerings – equivalent of three faculty teaching
- struggle to offer all of the courses needed for the History Major

- currently reworking major based on program review – shifting from a geographic focus to thematic; Canadian survey revamp may move away from pre- and post-Confederation periodization to better reflect Indigenization
- new Provost, Gillian Balfour, is focusing on jobs training for all new hires; likely means no History positions
- TRU's annual student conference is going well

Okanagan College

- Shao-kang Chu noted that OC's numbers are up substantially (+37%)
- the college has been recruiting heavily from northern India and Punjab
- a limited term appointment is being sought for the Vernon campus (five courses over two semesters)
- Howard Hisdal has developed a new course in the History of Space Exploration which was approved by OC's Education Council in early May. The course should be offered in January 2024
- the college experienced a massive cyber-attack which has had an impact across entire term – only Moodle still reliably available

Selkirk College

- Takaia Larsen reported that History did not experience a pandemic rebound, so enrolment remains down; international numbers have dropped too
- Selkirk History has three part-time faculty because of section releases and commitments to other programs in the College
- new 20th Century World courses (100/101) include global Indigenous histories
- History has been leading in Indigenization – PD activities, contributing to the process
- Circle for Inclusive Indigenous Education provides consultation on all new courses
- Selkirk has a new leadership team: including the President, Maggie Matear who came to Selkirk from Yukon, and two new VPs
- bargaining process is underway, fiscal restraint will no doubt have an impact
- 100 new residence spaces opening – 50 in Nelson and 50 in Castlegar – hope to partially address acute housing crisis in the region
- closely following the Rick Desautel case and its implications for Sinixt descendants

Langara College

- Niall Christie reported that Langara's History/Latin program review is ongoing. Political Science is also under review – History and Political Science will create a unified action plan

- data gathering was intended to see how the area is doing – but administration has made clear that no new resources will be forthcoming – approach to program review seems to be *pro forma*; student requests and department needs from 2016 are still unmet
- History enrolments are up slightly, AA enrolment is dropping, parallel with the increase in International enrolment
- catastrophic lack of preparedness among some students, not limited to International
- administration has unilaterally mandated an increase in the proportion of international students to 50% in all classes
- students who just need a seat to meet external requirements are forced into classes they can't possibly succeed in, leading to increased DFW rates, increases in cheating, and increases in desperation
- community lecture series returned to Dunbar Community Centre and Brock House. Theme for 2023 was "It's the End of the World as We Know It"; expanded to the Hastings Community Centre – very popular
- bargaining just ended without requiring a strike vote, as admin eventually persuaded to give up on more egregious demands (e.g. right of veto over department chairs, making it more difficult for temporary faculty to become permanent)
- refocusing Indigenization to a department-led approach, as admin's approach is largely tokenistic

Simon Fraser University

- Sarah Walshaw began by thanking History Manager Judi Fraser for collating SFU's data and supplemental information
- two retirements for the department Andrea Geiger and Mary Ellen Kelm
- Willeen Keough has begun a phased retirement – means that three searches are ongoing: Black Americas, Muslim Studies, and Indigenous North America
- department only offers one online class; question about the impacts on pedagogy
- Mark Leier is considering the development of a microcredit class focused on skills
- SFU's GenEd program (writing, quantitative, and breadth requirements) is undergoing a complete reevaluation; changes may be coming in which SFU History courses are rated as W or B credits
- Indigenization is focused on the classroom and curricular updates; considering a joint major in History and Indigenous Studies, but questions about further increasing demands on Indigenous faculty
- questions about how History can contribute to the new SFU medical degree – structure would facilitate a contribution from History

Lasalle College

- Daniel Kae reported substantial increases in Lasalle's AA program, similar challenges around the expansion of working hours for international students
- the issue of language preparedness has arisen; problems with TESL / IELTS seem to set students up to fail
- Lasalles offers two history courses – World Civ I and II (European+ History surveys) (60 students are enrolled)
- New 100,000 sq. foot facility underway
- overall the college has seen substantial enrolment increases, but not back to pre-pandemic levels

Coast Mountain College

- Dina von Hahn noted that CMC's course on Imperialism has been updated to indigenize the curriculum; Theresa Tremblay will work on indigenizing other History courses when she returns from leave
- the college has had success with field-based and experiential learning ... a field-based History of BC in June ran with 13 students, 9 International and 4 Canadian
- CMC has been unable to hire historian for Prince Rupert – all courses are taught by sessionals – problematic without continuing faculty (TBAs impact enrolment)
- Terrace enrolments are steady – in past years the vast majority of students were bound for UNBC Bachelor of Education; in 2020 multiple sections of post-Confederation were offered
- the shift towards international enrolment has led to the introduction of new pedagogical approaches – more coaching, less lecturing, more focus on work in class
- scarcity of housing and high working hours have been challenges but the students do gain some benefits as they interact with local communities

UVic

- Kristin Semmens became the undergraduate coordinator in January; Jason Colby is the Chair
- enrolment is trending up slightly
- the program has introduced new required courses for the History degree: HIST 100 History, Power, and Justice and HIST 201 Methodology – already seeing a positive impact, including the creation of a cohort of History students beginning in the first year
- recent budget cuts hit Humanities the hardest; History lost five sessional sections
- Dr Patrick Lozar (Indigenous History) left the department in 2022; planned replacement for 2025
- Dr Adebisi Alade (African History/Environment) joined the department; and in 2024 a position will be advertised in Black History – aim to create a Black History cluster

- new collective agreement is now in place – tenure stream will include the associate level – faculty of Humanities will gain an Associate Dean Indigenization

College of New Caledonia

- Sheldon Clare reported three instructors teaching at CNC; Sheldon teaches the main History workload; one instructor has a Philosophy focus; one sessional taught pandemics and other courses
- George Davison retired; Sheldon planning to take educational leave in 2024/2025
- most courses are offered in a face-to-face format
- strong relationships with surrounding First Nations – many supports for Indigenous students (residence, resource centre)
- College promotes the trades and health sciences; Arts promotion dependent on faculty outreach
- increasing challenges as the College emphasizes International students; by 2025 half of CNC students will be International, driven by low domestic enrolments
- facing lack of preparedness; challenges of language testing systems leading to advocacy of testing at CNC; \exploitative approach drives student cheating
- increased DFW rates – impact on academic credibility

Fraser International College

- Liam O’Flaherty reminded the group that FIC is SFU’s pathway college for International Students
- as such, the College is 100% International students; Liam and Ivan Drury offer two Canadian History courses HIST 102 Canada since Confederation and HIST 204 The Social History of Canada
- FIC now offers an AA degree
- Jeremy Brown (SFU) has taken over from Mark Leier as course coordinator
- classes are in person; numbers dropped during Covid, now coming back

UBC-O

- Julien Vernet announced that Colin Osmond, a new hire in Indigenous history, will be joining the department on campus in September 2023
- department is developing new History program learning outcomes and undertaking curriculum mapping to differentiate expectations at each level of the program
- post-pandemic numbers are okay; some courses remain online; Honours program (yearlong and thesis based) is rebounding

- History Course Union has been re-established, and is now expanding, Margaret Carlyle put a great deal of work into rebuilding the student course union

Fairleigh Dickinson University

- Adam Rudder reported that FDU's BA in Individualized Studies had a significant History component, but the future of the degree is in question
- Humanities offerings are increasing to include a Minor in History, and a concentration – Minor would possibly link to a major (but this would require some coursework in New Jersey, FDU's home base)
- predominantly international students; now even more active recruitment of International students
- tuition has been a challenge – now streamlined so that FDU tuition per credit is comparable to SFU to increase appeal to domestic students
- focus on international recruitment has created a similar set of problems to those that have been discussed
- hoping the AA will renew focus on history
- curriculum mapping underway

North Island College

- Ryan Blaak began by noting that the NIC campuses include the territories of 35 First Nations in the region
- have made real progress in building relationships with elders
- Dan Hinman-Smith and Ryan Blaak are the only two historians
- Humanities program review is underway
- program review has reached the external review stage
- similar challenges at NIC – Humanities are not prioritized – need to work against focus on the “job at the end of the degree”
- working on a realistic approach with certificates that ladder into other programs
- History classes are well-subscribed; offering Canadian and BC History (Ryan) and European, World, and Liberal Studies courses (Dan)
 - o Canadian is async online because the format is working well; in general NIC is shifting back to face-to-face
- unpreparedness of International students also a problem
- college will have a new residence building in ~2025

BCSSTA

- Lindsay Hutchison reported that senior Social Studies options are still showing good enrolments; now 10 different options and students can choose multiple electives
- remains a challenge to bring STEM students into SS electives
- students now require four credits of Indigenous-focused work for graduation (could be ENGL and/or SS – BC First Peoples / Contemporary Indigenous Studies)
- new assessment system will focus on meaningful ongoing communication and assessment on a proficiency scale from K-9; in grades 10-12 proficiency will be converted to a percentage – self-assessment is also a component of the new assessment system
- pandemic fallout has seen increased mental health struggles; absences; skills and preparedness slightly lower
 - o different challenges facing the many BC school districts
- record attendance at BCSSTA annual conference last year – 2023 conference takes place on October 22

Kwantlen Polytechnic University

- Tracey Kinney reported that the History Department is doing very well; new hires are developing courses and History enrolment has rebounded strongly since Covid
- transition to thematic concentrations is largely complete (over two program review cycles)
- expect to see courses on piracy and witchcraft heading out for articulation over the next year
- summer semester 2023 is waitlisted across the board
- one third of all courses are still online at KPU; for History that means each instructor teaches one online course in each of their teaching semesters
- substantial concerns over International preparedness linked to unreliability of IELTS bands; considering other forms of testing and currently launching a pilot of Accuplacer
- challenges are too substantial for bandaid fixes – students need for-credit preparatory courses that are not corequisites
- KPU is diversifying its International recruitment in an effort to ameliorate some of the current issues

Business Arising from the Institutional Reports

The Chair opened the floor to discussion and the following issues arose:

- CNC reported pressure to pass students, but evaluation remains in faculty hands

- Camosun – any student can withdraw to the very end of the term, possibly an effort to replace F grades with W grades
 - o KPU has institutionalized the same withdrawal policy, but W grades have implications for funding, etc. so many students stay in courses to the very end
- assessment at the high school level? some committee members reported that students are unequipped to sit a timed three-hour exam
- how can we help with the transition from high school to university?
- CNC has no exams for history – journals, reflections, ongoing 2-3 journal entries each week (midterm and final); increases class attendance, increased reading – to build historical research skills, to write well, to understand logical reasoning
- many faculty are still using exams but in hybrid form – questions in advance, and then written in class; and 1/3 not provided in advance; questions raised about takehome exams
- TRU – moved away from exams entirely in first-year courses; 3rd and 4th never had them
 - o because of AI possibility of oral exams, away from research papers
- move away from provincial exams in high school meant a move away from exams altogether – focus on historical thinking skills, but away from writing component because of varying levels of preparedness
- remember that some students are more successful on timed exams
- use of primary source analysis – with specific directed approach; included in final and a research paper – more creative approaches: create the source, then analyze the source
- two-year colleges feel need to meet standards of transfer institutions, but unclear what those standards are – wide diversity of expectations of transfer students
- FDU – challenge of getting students to read; small components, laddered – leading towards oral exam (small classes) auto-ethnography ... make the focus on the student – not giving up on research paper!
- UBC – second-year courses, focus on skills, require 6 credits at year two; laddered: library assignment, proposal, paper, rewrite – finals still used (better for students who aren't strong writers) ... concession to AI – three themes provided, but not the actual questions
- Dina: focus on the student's interest – curated exhibit of personal items – connect to themes of the course, analysis of images – writing is built in to the artefact analysis; in-person finals
- SFU: public-facing applications of History – alternate histories, hands-on assignments, walking tours – research, literature analysis, reflection on research and choices that were made
- UFV – menu of choices, speak to student strengths – still has a final – learning contracts, include deadlines
- NIC experiments with the un-essay – starts with personal meaning/connection – and tie to something creative, annotated bib., number of sources, etc.
 - o no final – approach the term as a process, portfolio element (using Perusall)

- UVic: many of these options require a smaller class size – favour open book exams, requires inclusion of course content; less focus on memorization, more connecting to material
 - o blurring boundary between paper and exam in class
- FIC: The reality facing some colleges is that very few students, particularly international students, will do HIST major/minor;
 - o The challenge of crafting courses designed for ‘history’ for students who may never take another History course;
 - o Courses sometimes need to be adapted to classes that are 100% international students and in particular students who are also majority non-Arts/Social Sciences/Humanities majors – redesigns sometimes include eliminating traditional History exams and papers and replacing them with other forms of assessment – eg. >20% participation; more presentations, collaborative writing projects, etc.
 - o What impact might this have on articulation, if any?
- (TRU): courses are designated writing intensive, so impacts articulation assessments; that said, new pedagogy may mean rethinking
- Selkirk: receiving its first course-in transfers – approaches? – COTR uses BCCAT system directly, others work through a transfer office – focus on learning outcomes
- assumptions of two-year colleges, understand the challenges facing K-12, start with the students we have and work from there
- in high school student skills vary widely across the board, conversations with educators show many different challenges

BCCAT Update – Rob Fleming

Rob Fleming updated the committee on a number of BCCAT initiatives and provided a series of links for further information. The links are appended to the bottom of the BCCAT report.

- transfer system technology changes– reciprocity tool will suggest possible matches based on previous articulations
 - o new dashboards – institutional and departmental (registrar’s office)
 - o widget to allow schools to add TCG to the KPU website ... contact: Mike Winsemann
 - o expansion to Cdn, US, and Int’l equivalencies (+80,000 agreements)
 - o Future Ready Skills: will expand bloc transfer possibilities
 - o website refresh – request for feedback
- research: Covid and impacts on registrar’s offices ... question of equitable access
 - o infographics on student mobility
 - o data collection practices for EDI
 - o student perspectives on Covid impacts
 - o November 2/3 JAM – hybrid again

- Profile and performance report – course level – revisit 2024
 - international students after two years – data problem because of the absence of a PEN
- appreciation from Ministry for all the work done by articulation committees
- Ministerial level: digital learning strategy – T&L
 - Future Ready Skills (announcement 2/5) – pathway opportunities

<https://www.bccat.ca/pubs/Resources/ACUpdate202304.pdf>

<https://www.bccat.ca/articulation/projects>

<https://www.bccat.ca/Media/NEWBCCAT/pubs/Resources/ResearchPlan2022.pdf>

<https://www.bccat.ca/pubs/Resources/CFP2022IndigenizingResearch.pdf> (April 27)

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/post-secondary-education/institution-resources-administration/digital-learning->

<strategy#:~:text=The%20Digital%20Learning%20Strategy%20outlines,of%20Post%2DSecondary%20Education%20and>

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/post-secondary-education/institution-resources-administration/digital-learning-strategy/digital_learning_strategy.pdf

International Issues:

The committee discussed a variety of challenges facing both International students and History departments

- high failure rates; questions around the reliability of agencies arranging testing
- even where courses are geared towards International success, students are taking other Arts electives at the same time
- Corpus has additional testing that may require students to enter bridging ENGL and MATH courses
- UFV has UNIV 101 – problematic to increase credit requirement for AAs and diplomas – but students haven't been prepared and then still aren't ready to move onwards
- reluctance on part of admin to add requirements
- FDU – students test in and have two-tier pre-university program; course and a lab – still need more than what is provided
- differences of opinion regarding what is required / what students need to know
- CMC – difficulties talking to students about integrity given institutional policies that bring in unprepared students and allow them to fail
- Alexander – unpopularity of non-credit preparatory courses – mandating ENGL 100 in first year – running EDUC 100 study skills, as well as research, writing, and citation skills workshops (writing & learning centre)
- disappearing students – in very large numbers

- impacts of mental health holdover from Covid; communication struggles
 - o suggest group office hours; return to soft-skills development, empathetic teaching

The Rising Use of AI

- Langara: redesigned assignments to minimize possibility of AI assignments
- check the Word document properties
- generate acknowledgements that ask students to recognize everyone involved in the process of creating the assignment
- TRU treats AI as part of academic integrity process; KPU does too
- are we at odds with the larger culture that has adopted AI as a useful tool?
- Columbia – complete reinvention of every assignment is untenable every single semester
- can use AI in senior courses – deconstruct, critically analyze a piece of work generated by AI

- the question of accommodation requests was also raised
- UVic has seen a massive increase in accommodation requests – including exam and seminar participation accommodations; other representatives noted a similar increase as we emerge from Covid
 - o inclusivity, recognition of mental health challenges of lockdown / balanced against what is possible to accommodate
 - o conversation around the increases – is there a baseline accommodation?
 - o what happens when faculty can't accommodate – worth asking faculty association what supports are available; massively increasing workload associated with accommodations places severe stresses on faculty

Re-periodization of Canadian History Survey Courses

- Langara has reconfigured its modern history courses – recognizing the length of the 20th century, moved Second World War into first half; KPU made a similar change
- re-periodization as a part of Indigenizing
- Corpus suggested earlier / later Canadian History
- recognition of the need to add post-1945
- UBC approaches Canadian history through 'moments' (second-year course)
- general concern about the impacts on articulation if departments unilaterally move from the established pre- and post-Confederation structure
- TRU: 'stay tuned'

Requirements of Current Teaching Programs:

SFU: <https://www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/2023/summer/programs/teacher-education-pdp-professional-development-program.html>

UBC: <https://teach.educ.ubc.ca/admissions/apply/academic-requirements/>

UFV: <https://www.ufv.ca/teacher-education/find-your-program/bachelor-of-education/>

Thanks and Adjournment

Attendees expressed thanks to SFU and Sarah Walshaw for hosting the group. Niall Christie volunteered to take on the Secretary's role for the upcoming year; Tracey Kinney moves on to Chair – no objections were raised.

Location/date of next meeting: May 6, 2024 North Island College*

The meeting adjourned at 3:21pm

*UBC-V has indicated that they are not able to host BC Studies in 2024 and so the committee gratefully accepts the offer of NIC to host the BCHAC meeting next year.