

## BIOLOGY ARTICULATION COMMITTEE

May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

University of Victoria

### Notes from: Provincial BC Deans' of Arts and Sciences Meeting

Friday April 19, 2024

#### 1. BCCAT Update

A. SLP vacancies: Anthropology, Sociology, Computing Education, Philosophy, Creative Writing, Visual Arts, Chemistry.

B. BCCAT publications on EDI/decolonization admission practices:

<https://www.bccat.ca/resources/CFP2022EDIAdmissions.pdf>

C. Also see:

<https://www.bccat.ca/reports/EDI2022.pdf>

<https://www.bccat.ca/reports/REASStudentData2023Info.pdf>

#### 2. BCcampus Update

A. BC Post-Secondary Digital Literacy Framework

<https://bccampus.ca/topics-of-practice/digital-learning/>

Related comments presented by Tracy Roberts, BCcampus Director of Learning and Teaching

Signature BCcampus moves are being offered in support of the new framework: events and workshops, open materials, committees and groups.

Forthcoming micro-credential related to PIDP.

The OER repository is now live. A bunch of materials that anyone can use. Digital Literacy Materials for Post-Secondary Educators.

Upcoming Learning Events: Facilitating Learning Online (FLO) offerings: assessment, AI, inclusive learning environments.

B. Jo Chrona presentation at RRU on November 5, to celebrate her new book: [Wayi Wah! Indigenous Pedagogies: An Act for Reconciliation and Anti-Racist Education](#) (2022).

#### 3. International Students (Round-Table Discussion)

A. IRCC is working on a Recognized Institutions Framework (RIF).

B. Provincial Attestation Letters (PALs): Ontario allocated approx. 90% to publics/ 10% to privates. BC allocated 55% to publics/45% to privates. Despite the differences, the “Ontario effect” is being

felt in BC by many institutions. The Canadian “brand” has been negatively affected by the Federal Government announcements, policy changes and two-month hold on student visa applications and enrollment at the beginning of the year.

C. UBCO Policy 131 addresses advance notice of course textbooks.

Purpose and Goals: This policy is designed to: 1) Provide a degree of financial protection for students with respect to Digital Assessment Tools. 2) Set a cap on compulsory, digital, non-tuition, non-textbook assessment costs incurred by students for an individual course. 3) Set a cap on the overall percentage Digital Assessment Tools can play in students’ grade breakdowns for an individual course. 4) Provide a framework for an eventual permanent Digital Assessment Tools policy.

#### **4. Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills**

Comments from Greg Stone, Executive Director, Strategic Policies and Initiatives Branch.

A. New Dual Credit Policy. Broadening out applicable programming to explore different subjects, including academics. Should revitalize dual-credit in the Arts and Sciences.

B. Expecting a provincial election this fall.

#### **5. Five Pathways to Indigenization at COTR**

Participating in Indigenization involves a galaxy of meaning. If not prepared/informed, could do harm. COTR has adopted a systemic approach.

1. Cultural Safety and Anti-Racism (e.g., universal design)
2. Decolonization
3. Incorporate Indigenous Voices and Content
4. Integrate Indigenous ways of knowing, being, growing
5. Indigenous pedagogy.

How are the pathways embedded? Individualized nature to all this. Program review and course review.

Deans and EdCo encourage faculty to think about these pathways. There needs to be a conversation every five years. Hmm. Seems a bit loose. Intensive workshops for management council and executive team. Also included in performance evaluations.

Resources provided for the pathways.

Faculty asked and required to engage.

Could invite students to engage as well.

## 7. AI and Academic Honesty

A. KPU has a restorative justice option/pathway in its academic integrity policy. Instructors and students can agree to go this route.

Restorative justice is about acknowledging and amending harms. Student acknowledges wrong done. Some effort to repair harm. The idea is that restorative measures emerge through dialogue.

See KPU's academic integrity policy ST2.

B. AI specialist: Sarah Eaton from the University of Calgary. Highly recommended. [Sarah Elaine Eaton | UCalgary Profiles | University of Calgary](#)

## 8. Research at Small Colleges

A. Context

Setting up an Research Ethics Board (REB) can be a daunting prospect.

The relevant document is the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans—TCPS2 (2002) [https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique\\_tcps2-eptc2\\_2022.html](https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique_tcps2-eptc2_2022.html)

This document can be daunting. It does not provide nitty-gritty details on implementation. Allows for flexibility. Institutions are encouraged to establish policies and procedures based on the TCPS-2 principles.

Suggestion: focus on Chapter 6, which deals with governance of research ethics review. In particular, see Section A: Establishment of a Research Ethics Boards.

B. Key Take-Aways

Each institution is responsible for its own research. Some smaller institutions work with larger institutions that already have an REB.

Chapter 7 speaks to conflicts of interest.

In Canada, there is no national accreditation requirement for research on human subjects. Establishing an REB is a matter of adhering to the high-level principles in the TCPS-2.

Setting up an REB is the responsibility of the highest body within an institution.

Larger institutions that qualify for federal research grants are expected to follow the TCPS-2. Smaller institutions like us are encouraged to follow the TCPS-2. For example, our REB members should complete the TCPS 2: CORE-2022 Course on Research Ethics. Samantha May has done this. AC researchers should/could also be expected to complete this course.

The secretariat does not provide detailed information on implementation. But it can provide information on high-level

When it comes to accreditation, a Human Research Standards Organization has put forward SOPs: <https://www.hrso-onrh.org/standards/published-standards/>. There is also the Network of Networks: <https://n2canada.ca/resources/>. Yet the point noted above holds true: there is no national accreditation requirement.

## 9. Wheel of Timely Topics

A. Post-Covid, is it okay to have science courses with labs that are entirely online.? Even at TRU-OL, the vast majority of labs are in-person at end of term. Yet Athabasca has been using *at-home* labs very successfully over a number of years. Important to distinguish between *at-home* labs and *on-line* labs.

B. During the pandemic, physics labs generally lent themselves to at-home labs more so than labs in other disciplines.

C. See Douglas College virtual reality project on a tour of the solar system. [Exploring the galaxy: A journey into Computing Science and VR education - Douglas 360° \(douglascollege.ca\)](https://www.douglascollege.ca/learning/technology/vr-education)

D. Faculty person at SFU encourages the creation of a student conference every year. Each year takes a slightly different format. Mark Deggan.

<https://www.sfu.ca/wll/news-events/news/2024-world-literature-student-conference.html>

<https://www.sfu.ca/fass/news/2021/10/honours-students-literary-discovery-and-ambitions-pushed-to-the-limit.html>

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