



VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

June 8, 2021

3:30–5:30 p.m., Videoconference

ATTENDANCE

Education Council Members

Elle Ting (Chair)
Natasha Mandryk (Vice-Chair)
Ali Oliver
Brett Griffiths
Dave McMullen
David Wells
Heidi Parisotto
John Demeulemeester
Julie Gilbert
Lucy Griffith
Marcus Ng
Natasha (Student Representative)
Shantel Ivits
Todd Rowlatt

Guests

Adrian Lipsett
Andy Sellwood
Barry Tsang
Bonnie Chan
Clay Little
Dawn Cunningham-Hall
Deborah Lucas
Dennis Innes
Jane Shin
Jennifer Gossen
Lisa Beveridge
Phoebe Patigdas
Rebecca Bennett
Shirley Lew
Sonny Ho
Yulia Gracheva

Regrets

Blair McLean
Jo-Ellen Zakoor
Julia Skye Summers
Sarah Kay
Shane McGowan

Recording Secretary

Darija Rabadzija

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- E. Ting acknowledged that the College is located on the traditional unceded territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) and Tsleil-Waututh peoples, and extended the acknowledgement to the ancestral territories of all participants joining remotely.

3. ADOPT AGENDA

MOTION: THAT Education Council adopt the June 8, 2021 agenda as presented.

Moved by D. Wells, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

4. APPROVE PAST MINUTES

MOTION: THAT Education Council approve the May 11, 2021 minutes as presented.

Moved by A. Oliver, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

5. ENQUIRIES & CORRESPONDENCE

- There were none.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

a) Annacis Island Update/Feasibility Report Committee

- D. Wells and T. Rowlatt provided a status update. A meeting between VCC, BCIT and ministry representatives is scheduled for June 9. The feasibility working group is costing out a potential return of part of the HMT program to the Broadway campus.

b) Strategic Innovation Plan

MOTION: THAT Education Council recommends the Board of Governors approve the VCC Strategic Innovation Plan 2022–2025.

Moved by S. Ivits, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

- J. Shin presented the updated draft of the Strategic Innovation Plan, following robust consultations over the last weeks. Changes from the draft presented to EdCo on May 19 included updated language around environmental stewardship and the climate emergency, accessibility, and equity-deserving groups.
- The main change was to create two separate goals for reconciliation and JEDI+d (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion + decolonization). D. Wells spoke to the distinction between Decolonization/ decolonization. J. Shin thanked R. Noel and S. Ivits for their contributions. Minor edits may still be made to the draft before the final version is presented to the Board of Governors for approval on June 30. The next step will be implementation planning.

c) Affiliation Agreement with Stenberg College

MOTION: THAT Education Council approve the Affiliation Agreement with Stenberg College International (SCI) regarding the Optician Diploma program at VCC.

Moved by D. Wells and Seconded; 5 in favour, 8 opposed. Motion Defeated.

- A. Lipsett and R. Bennett presented the draft affiliation agreement with Stenberg College International (SCI) for the Optician Diploma program. The agreement was previously discussed at the May Education Council meeting, and feedback received. Drafts of the affiliation and rental agreements, as well as the signed licensing agreement, were distributed prior to the meeting via email.
- Education Council members raised several questions, which were addressed by A. Lipsett and R. Bennett:
- Study space available to VCC students at the SCI campus: A classroom-sized common study space with computers and desks will be freely accessible; an explicit statement was included in sections 17 and 18 of the draft rental agreement. R. Bennett will conduct a site visit in the summer, once pandemic restrictions are lifted. There were questions about the process, should facilities not meet expectations. Although this particular scenario was not discussed, SCI is willing to ensure the space is suitable to provide a positive experience for VCC students. The rental agreement is not permanent; an eventual transition to a VCC campus in the future would be more financially sustainable. The rental agreement includes a dispute resolution process, should there be concerns about the space. While the positive relationship with SCI and their willingness to make alterations as needed was acknowledged, it was recommended to capture this explicitly in the contract.
- Support for international students: Question whether there have been discussions with International Education (IE) since the last EdCo meeting around supporting the specific needs of international students, particularly regarding study space. A. Lipsett discussed student support with J. Gossen; students will continue to be encouraged to book appointments and connect with IE. Since the commute from SCI's campus to VCC is only about 30 minutes by SkyTrain, students will have access to VCC services in person during business hours, in addition to phone and email support.
- Support for faculty: Concerns about a full-time program being taught by CS instructors, rather than unionized faculty. Lower levels of compensation and support may increase stress for instructors, impacting educational quality for students, particularly in view of the needs of international students.

It was noted that compensation would equal that of other CS instructors in health programs. There are different supports available to all CS instructors to enable them to deliver delivery quality programs (assistance of program coordinators; development opportunities; review processes). CS has experience with full-time programming in ECCE.

- Use of the VCC logo by SCI: Risk of confusing students, particularly in view of competing health programs at both institution, and concern about maintaining VCC's excellent reputation. The licensing agreement includes a clause (#21) regarding appropriate use of the VCC logo, which would enable VCC to take steps against inappropriate use. There were discussions about SCI possibly including the VCC logo on documentation provided to students being referred to VCC, but this has not been formalized.
- Transferability of courses between SCI and VCC: Question about ensuring SCI students transferring to VCC meet VCC's program admission requirements. Some private institutions have different standards for equivalencies. The affiliation agreement (section 6b) outlines that transfers are subject to VCC policy; previous admission to SCI would not exempt a student from VCC's transfer processes.
- Provision of disability accommodations: Student services will be provided by VCC, except in emergencies (first aid) if no VCC employees are available. As there is no provincial funding for international students, the cost for accommodations would fall to VCC. Discussion about the College's legal duty to accommodate, up to a point of undue hardship.
- Support for Indigenous students: While most students will be international, there may be some domestic Indigenous students. CS would connect with IECE regarding orientation and support for these students, as for other CS programs. Question about cultural humility and competencies in the program, and support for decolonization and Indigenization of the VCC curriculum and learning activities. New National Alliance of Canadian Optician Regulators (NACOR) competencies around cultural humility were incorporated into the curriculum.
- Consultation with students/SUVCC around off-site delivery of a two-year program: There has been no consultation with student groups.
- The initial vote on the motion was six in favour, seven opposed. Due to the close result, the vote was repeated. The motion was defeated with eight opposed, five in favour. The question was raised whether the proposal would still move forward to the Board. It was noted that the agreement includes an element of course equivalency, and therefore requires joint approval by EdCo and the Board. A member suggested amending the motion to provisional approval for two years, after which the agreement would be revisited. It was noted that the motion was defeated, and the item could be brought back to EdCo. E. Ting will follow up with A. Lipsett and R. Bennett regarding next steps.

d) Planning for the New Normal in Teaching – Return to Campus & Governance Implications

- E. Ting reported that as part of EdCo Planning Day, members participated in an activity around the return to campus, blended learning, and governance implications. The transition will be a longer process, and the importance of clear, system-wide communication of the College's vision and plan around blended learning was emphasized. Another key discussion point was the importance of evaluation and feedback to improve practices.

e) CS Non-Credit Courses

- A. Lipsett presented the annual update on non-credit courses in Continuing Studies. In 2020, 46 new non-credit courses were launched; the 10% alumni discount was available for the second year running. Fully online, asynchronous LERN offerings were trialled to gauge demand for this type of programming; these accessible offerings fit in well with the Destiny One online registration system launching in July. Azure courses started last summer; uptake has been lower than expected, and CS will explore shifting the focus from individual students to medium and larger-sized organizations looking for technology training. Areas to explore further include niche offerings in business, as well as building service worker (BSW) training, which has seen increased demand.

f) EdCo Planning Day Debrief

- A half-day planning session was held on June 3. E. Ting thanked R. Noel and Elder John Sam for leading a Circle, following the discovery of 215 Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation children buried at a former Indian Residential School in Kamloops.
- S. Ivits presented on the work of the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Committee (EDIAC), followed by a conversation about blended delivery, co-facilitated by E. Ting and A. Sellwood.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Curriculum Committee

i) New Program: Optician Diploma

- As the affiliation agreement with SCI was not approved (item 7c), T. Rowlatt suggested holding off on the curriculum until an agreement is in place. There were no objections. The item was withdrawn.

ii) New Program: Asian Culinary Arts Advanced Certificate

MOTION: THAT Education Council approve, in the form presented at this meeting, the curriculum for the Asian Culinary Arts Advanced Certificate and three new courses, and recommends the Board of Governors approve the credential.

Moved by T. Rowlatt, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

- T. Rowlatt presented the proposal for the new Asian Culinary Arts Advanced Certificate, which builds on the existing certificate program. This 14-week program offers advanced training in East and South-East Asian culinary techniques. Curriculum Committee discussed the proposal twice, and requested edits to expand learning outcomes, specify the types of cuisines, and clarify language around business management skills. These changes have been completed. L. Griffith commended S. Ho and B. Tsang for their work in designing this unique program.
- D. McMullen voiced concerns from the Registrar's Office about course ACUL 2202 being worth 14 credits; students who do not succeed in one part would need to repeat the entire course. He recommended repackaging the content into several shorter courses. T. Rowlatt responded that this was discussed extensively by Curriculum Committee. While acknowledging the RO's concern, the committee was comfortable with the current structure; the integrated way in which the course is taught does not lend itself to splitting up content into smaller components. In addition, there were no concerns about transferability, since there is no equivalent program.

iii) Program Update: Health Care Assistant Certificate (EAL Cohort)

MOTION: THAT Education Council approve, in the form presented at this meeting, revisions to the Health Care Assistant Certificate (EAL Cohort) program content guide and three courses: ELSK 0701, ELSK 0702 and ELSK 0703.

Moved by T. Rowlatt, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

- T. Rowlatt presented revisions to the program in response to requirements of the BC Registry of Health Care Assistants and Community Workers; changes mostly focused on aligning English language components with the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLBs).

iv) Minor Curriculum Changes

- T. Rowlatt presented the biannual update on minor curriculum changes approved by Curriculum Committee. He noted that some changes to areas that would technically be considered major changes were treated as minor if the changes were not significant. EdCo members had no concerns about this approach.

b) Policy Committee

i) D.3.6 Admissions

MOTION: THAT Education Council send, in the form presented at this meeting, D.3.6 Admissions policy and procedures out for community feedback.

Moved by N. Mandryk, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

- N. Mandryk presented revisions to policy D.3.6 Admissions, which was merged with C.2.1 International Students on Study Permits (item 7bii). The Registrar's Office and International Education collaborated on this revision. Education Policy Committee suggested only some minor wording changes.

ii) C.2.1 International Students on Study Permits (to be rescinded)

MOTION: THAT Education Council send C.2.1 International Students on Study Permits policy and procedures out for community feedback.

Moved by N. Mandryk, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

- As this policy was merged with D.3.6 Admissions, the proposal was to post the policy for feedback before its rescission.

c) Appeals Oversight Committee

- L. Griffith reported that the committee has not met since the last EdCo meeting; the next meeting will be in September. A small working group including N. Mandryk is developing a process for paper appeals; N. Degagne is working on draft documents.

c) Education Quality Committee

i) Gap Analysis Working Group Recommendations

MOTION: THAT Education Council adopt the VCC Quality Assurance Process for Externally Accredited or Reviewed Programs.

Moved by T. Rowlatt, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

- T. Rowlatt reported that one of the recommendations from the 2019 Quality Assurance Process Audit (QAPA) was to perform a gap analysis comparing VCC's program renewal process with accreditation processes completed by VCC programs. A working group evaluated six accreditation processes in comparison to program renewals. There were very few gaps related to instruction, curriculum and student outcomes. Some gaps were identified around support services, and instructors and staff. The areas with the largest gaps were related to program administration, physical learning environments, department resources and succession planning, as well as online learning environments and educational technology.
- Based on these findings, the group recommended a process for departments to identify and address gaps as programs go through accreditation, with support from a smaller subcommittee of EQC.
- As the working group also made recommendations for program renewals at VCC, EQC is reviewing both program renewal and annual program review processes. T. Rowlatt thanked working group members L. Griffith, H. Parisotto, J. Gilbert, and P. Fahim.

8. RESEARCH REPORT

- E. Ting reported that the last REB meeting before the fall will take place on June 18. Regular regional REB conferences were cancelled again this year. Three REB members will take an online course on Indigenous research data ownership, control, access, and possession.
- E. Ting was elected Vice-Chair of BCARIN.

9. CHAIR REPORT

- E. Ting reported from the Academic Governance Council meeting on June 1; the discussion focused on third-party proctoring, a topic the CTLR is working on. The AGC will meet again in October. EdCo members were encouraged to submit questions and comments for discussion.

10. STUDENT REPORT

- P. Patigdas reported on SUVCC activities over the summer, including social media campaigns around Indigenous History Month and Pride Month. Online wellness events for students will continue, such as yoga and dance classes.

11. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

- The next Education Council meeting will be held on September 14, 2021, 3:30–5:30 p.m.

MOTION: THAT Education Council adjourn the June 8, 2021 meeting.

Moved by A. Oliver, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

APPROVED AT THE September 14, 2021 EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETING

Elle Ting
Chair, VCC Education Council