

**ATTENDANCE****Education Council Members**

Natasha Mandryk (Chair)	Dennis Innes	Rahul Ranwa
Louise Dannhauer (Vice-Chair)	Emily Logan	Shirley Lew
Andy Sellwood	Emily Simpson	Stephanie Callaghan
Brianna Higgins	Lisa Beveridge	Todd Rowlatt
Dave McMullen	Marcus Ng	Vivian Munroe
David Wells	Nafiseh Tohidi	

**Regrets**

Anik Joy Varghese	Kseniia Osipova	Poorna Karthikeya
David Kirk		Balachandar

**Guests**

Adrian Lipsett	Dawn Cunningham Hall	Melissa Chirino
Cateno Vassallo	Emmanouil Daskalakis	Michael Coard
Claire Sauvé	Gary Mui	Nigel Scott
Clay Little	Hal Saxby	Rosie Gosling
Clayton Munro	Jennifer Kelly	Sheri Wiwchar
Dave Stevenson	Lucy Griffith	Taryn Thomson

**Recording Secretary**

Darija Rabadzija

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

**2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

- S. Callaghan acknowledged the College's location on the traditional unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwx̱ wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłw̓ ətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples who have been stewards of this land from time immemorial and extended the acknowledgement to the ancestral territories of all participants joining remotely.

**3. ADOPT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** THAT Education Council adopt the April 8, 2025 agenda as amended. D. Kirk's annual dean's presentation was postponed.

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

**4. APPROVE PAST MINUTES**

**MOTION:** THAT Education Council approves the March 11, 2025 minutes as presented.

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

**5. ENQUIRIES & CORRESPONDENCE**

- T. Thomson inquired about faculty lay-offs in the context of the recently approved enrolment plan. Some reductions were the result of the closure of the Language Instruction for Newcomers (LINC) department due to the loss of funding, and lower international enrolment following IRCC policy

changes. Other reductions occurred in areas with increased or stable projections in the enrolment plan, such as ABE Youth, Humanities and Culinary Arts.

- D. Wells explained that projected registrations are utilized for budgeting purposes, but as actual registrations may not meet projections, these numbers are not directly tied to faculty contingents.
- Adult Basic Education (ABE) has been undergoing reorganization to create an ABE Hub. For this reason, the number of faculty in Humanities and ABE Youth has not been adjusted in line with updated enrolment numbers over the last few years, until now. Culinary Arts programs are taught in blended domestic and international cohorts, and IRCC policy changes have introduced uncertainty around international enrolment. Once there is more certainty around fall enrolment numbers, the College will be in a better position to plan for the required number of cohorts and faculty support.
- It was suggested to continue discussing the enrolment plan at a future meeting.

## **6. BUSINESS ARISING**

### **a) Education Service Renewal Report & Institutional Response: Student Conduct & Judicial Affairs Office**

- D. Stevenson presented the Education Service Renewal Report for the Student Conduct & Judicial Affairs Office (SCJAO). C. Munro provided the institutional response, as outlined in policy 405 Education Services Renewal.
- Renewal findings included a growing caseload, increased focus on academic integrity issues, and growing complexity of student needs. The office will work on increasing awareness of its work and College policies, as well as differentiation between the SCJAO and Arbiter of Student Issues Office. Operational improvements will include a new database to support records management.
- There was a discussion about resourcing of this office, as well as work around academic integrity at the College overall.
- R. Ranwa left the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

### **b) Education Service Renewal Report & Institutional Response: Disability Services**

- S. Wiwchar and B. Higgins D. Stevenson presented the Education Service Renewal Report for Disability Services. C. Munro provided the institutional response, as outlined in policy 405 Education Services Renewal.
- Based on renewal findings, the department's action plan focuses on decolonization, Indigenization and reconciliation, including through strengthening relationships with Indigenous Education and Community Engagement; increasing utilization of clockwork software to streamline processes; and raising awareness of disability issues.
- There was a discussion about considerations to change the department name, which will require broad consultation. Members raised questions around processes for accommodations in work-integrated learning settings. This topic will be brought back for discussion.

### **c) Annual Deans' & Directors' Presentations – Part 4**

- L. Griffith provided the annual dean's update on the School of Trades, Technology & Design. There are plans to modernize trades training to improve student access to apprenticeships and Red Seal certification. Redesigned apprenticeships are envisioned to consist of 10 months of foundational training at VCC, followed by training in industry, complemented by continued regular sessions at VCC to provide support and mentorship.

### **d) Strategic Innovation Plan (SIP) – Academic Update**

- D. Wells provided an update on academic innovation initiatives in the 2022–2025 Strategic Innovation Plan (SIP), which is structured around five priorities: academic innovation; campuses of the future;

empowered people and inclusive culture; engaged communities; and operational excellence. The [2024 Accomplishments Report](#) was recently released and outlines SIP objectives completed in 2024, as well as accomplishments that support its priorities but were not part of the initial plan.

- Emerging topics in academic innovation include rapid development of new programs, prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR) and assessment-based credentials, modernized apprenticeships, and simulation.
- As the timeline of the initial SIP is coming to a close, a SIP refresh is being planned. There was a discussion about the process and the level of consultation and involvement of the College community.

#### **e) Duolingo Test Recalibration**

**MOTION:** THAT Education Council approves the revised Duolingo scores for placement into EAL/ESL Pathways courses.

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

- D. McMullen presented the proposal. Since 2020, the Duolingo English Test has been one option for students at VCC to have their English language proficiency assessed. In 2021, the Duolingo minimum scores were recalibrated based on the recommendations of faculty, a review of other institutions' policies, and an evaluation of student outcomes. Minimum scores required for entrance into EAL/ESL Pathways courses were adjusted at that time. Pathways courses typically combine the skills of listening and speaking (LS) or reading and writing (RW).
- In July 2024, Duolingo expanded the score report to include single scores in each of the four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This provides a more accurate reflection of an individual's skills, which can lead to more accurate placement in skills-based courses. Based on an examination of 32 students' test scores and outcomes in Pathways courses, the proposal is to adjust the minimum required placement scores. This proposal is supported by faculty in the Assessment Centre and EAL Pathways. There are currently no considerations to utilize single-skill scoring for other programs.

#### **f) Concept Paper: Construction Electrician Foundation Certificate**

- L. Griffith presented the concept paper for the new Construction Electrician Foundation Certificate program, planned for January 2026. This program will focus on electrical theory, electrical code requirements, wiring methods, and safety practices essential for careers in the field. The program can be delivered at either the Downtown or Broadway campus, and the plan is to include hands-on training on the construction site of VCC's new Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation.
- There was a discussion about resource and space requirements. The program does not require a large footprint or capital expenses and can be delivered in classrooms, as the units students will be working on are quite contained. VCC is well positioned to deliver this training due to its strong industry partnerships, and there is high student demand, with waitlists at other institutions.
- There are some connections to existing and future programs in the School of Trades, Technology and Design, including in Electronics Repair and Wind Turbine Maintenance. There were some questions about labour market demand for construction electricians; L. Griffith will follow up. Members discussed gender equity considerations and the importance of suitable tools and equipment.

### **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **a) Curriculum Committee**

##### **i) New Course: MATH 1001 & Course Update: MATH 1100**

**MOTION:** THAT Education Council approve, in the form presented at this meeting, the new course MATH 1001 Calculus Connections Lab and revisions to MATH 1100 Calculus 1, and recommend the Board of Governors approve the creation of MATH 1001.

**Moved by T. Rowlett, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)**

- L. Dannhauer took over the chair during discussion of item 7ai. N. Mandryk presented the proposal for new course MATH 1001 and related updates to pre-requisites for MATH 1100. First-year calculus courses have low success rates despite the high MATH 1100 pre-requisite of a B in Pre-Calculus 12. The high pre-requisite creates a barrier to entry, while not adequately improving the likelihood of student success in MATH 1100.
- Following a co-requisite remediation model, the department is proposing the new support course MATH 1001 to accompany MATH 1100. Students with a 'C' or higher in Pre-Calculus 12 can take MATH 1100 and 1001 concurrently. MATH 1001 reviews pre-calculus concepts and problem-solving in a calculus context, allowing "just-in-time" review and a focus on reorganizing pre-calculus knowledge.
- The Registrar's Office had concerns that the inclusion of MATH 1001 as part of the pre-requisite for MATH 1100 could affect VCC's transfer and articulation agreements for MATH 1100. Following further discussion with the department, these concerns were addressed. It was agreed to update the pre-requisite wording slightly to "Pre-Calculus 12 with a 'B' grade, or equivalent (completion within the last five years or concurrent registration in MATH 1001 is recommended); or Pre-Calculus 12 with a 'C' grade and concurrent registration in MATH 1001."

## ii) Program Update: Building Manager Short Certificate

**MOTION:** THAT Education Council approve, in the form presented at this meeting, revisions to the Building Manager Short Certificate program content guide.

**Moved by T. Rowlett, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)**

- H. Saxby presented the proposal to adjust the course list in the Building Manager Short Certificate program. Instead of having to complete BLDG 1201 Contract Law in the Built Environment, students will have the choice between this course and BLDG 1206 Introduction to Building Operations and Risk Management. Continuing Studies has a partnership with the Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society (ACCESS) and the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society, and the partner organizations recommended this change.
- It was noted that this 8-credit program does not comply with the updated Granting of Credentials policy, which generally requires a minimum of 9 credits for a short certificate. There were no changes to credits at this time, but this question will be revisited during the upcoming program renewal. Curriculum Committee and Education Council had no concerns about this approach.

## iii) Program Update: Graphic Design Diploma

**MOTION:** THAT Education Council approve, in the form presented at this meeting, revisions to the admission requirements in the Graphic Design Diploma program content guide.

**Moved by T. Rowlett, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)**

- T. Rowlett presented the proposal on behalf of S. Albert. The department would like to remove the interview and portfolio requirement for first-year admission (but not advanced entry) to the program. This requirement presents a significant barrier to ensuring a diverse student population, especially for high school students or other applicants who may not have a portfolio to submit. An environmental scan showed that similar programs at other institutions do not require portfolios. Following the Curriculum Committee meeting, the proposal was updated to also remove the letter of intent and resumé requirement.
- Curriculum Committee discussed potential impacts on student success, with removal of the portfolio as a means to gauge student interest and existing skills in this creative field. The department felt that the first term provides the fundamental skills students need to succeed. Outcomes will be monitored over the next year to evaluate if adjustments are needed.

#### **iv) Program Update: High Performance and Custom Engine Technician Diploma**

**MOTION:** THAT Education Council approve, in the form presented at this meeting, revisions to the program content guide for the High Performance and Custom Engine Technician Diploma and 17 new courses.

**Moved by T. Rowlett, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)**

- G. Mui and M. Coard presented revisions to the High Performance and Custom Engine Technician Diploma, which was recently renamed from Automotive Service Technology Diploma to align with a CIP code that is eligible for post-graduation work permits.
- The proposed updates align the program with the requirements of SkilledTradesBC (STBC) as well as the U.S.-based Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) standards. 17 new course outlines were created to update course numbers and credits. There were some enhancements to content to better reflect the high-performance focus and ASE requirements.
- Curriculum Committee requested small adjustments, which were completed. The effective date was moved to January 2026. Board of Governors approval is not required, since there is no impact on total program contact hours, total credits, or total cost of the program and related courses.

#### **v) Program Update & Name Change: Automotive Logistics and Service Operations - Zero Emission Diploma**

**MOTION:** THAT Education Council approve, in the form presented at this meeting, the revised program content guide for the renamed new Automotive Logistics and Service Operations – Zero Emission Diploma, revisions to six course outlines and three new courses; and recommend the Board of Governors approve the program name change.

**Moved by T. Rowlett, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)**

- C. Vasallo and L. Griffith presented the proposal. The Automotive Parts and Service Management Diploma was revised to align with a CIP code that is eligible for post-graduation work permits (CIP 52.0203 - logistics, materials, and supply chain management). This focus on logistics is reflected in the proposed new name for the program, as well as in updated program learning outcomes, revised course outlines and three new courses. The program is part of the suite of offerings connected to VCC's future Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation. The curriculum covers both traditional technology and use of zero-emission technology in logistics.
- Curriculum Committee had a longer discussion about the inclusion of "zero emission" in the program name and requested some edits to more explicitly embed zero emission logistics in the curriculum documentation. This conversation continued at Education Council.
- Members requested some additional adjustments to the program purpose and program learning outcomes to clarify that "zero emission" refers to both handling of electric vehicle (EV) parts, as well as the focus on zero emission/environmentally sustainable logistics and supply chain processes and decision-making.
- It was also suggested to review the alignment of evaluation plans in the management-focused courses (APSM 2107, 2204, 2206) to reflect the higher level of learning outcomes in these courses.

#### **b) Policy Committee**

- L. Dannhauer reported that a number of educational policies are up for review. Efforts are underway to prioritize policies for review and determine next steps.

### **c) Education Quality Committee**

#### **i) Curriculum Development (CD) Fund 2025–26**

- L. Dannhauer reported that a total of \$400,000 in curriculum development funding was allocated to 28 projects. There was a diverse range of proposals, including for course redevelopment, new programs, micro-credentials, decolonization efforts, and cross-departmental collaborations.

#### **ii) Program Renewal Report & Action Plan: Music Degree & Diploma**

- E. Logan presented the renewal report and resulting action plan for the Music Degree and Diploma programs. A key recommendation from the renewal was to create a combined four-year program.

### **8. CHAIR REPORT**

- N. Mandryk reported that the planned launch date for the significantly revised Dental Hygiene Diploma program was moved from September 2025 to September 2026, pending Board of Governors of approval.

### **9. STUDENT REPORT**

- M. Ng reported on SUVCC's recent carnival events to celebrate the end of term.

### **10. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

- The next Education Council meeting will be held on May 13, 2025, 3:30–5:30 p.m.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

**APPROVED AT THE MAY 13, 2025 EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETING**

**Natasha Mandryk**  
**Chair, VCC Education Council**