

History Articulation Meeting

6 May 1994

Malaspina University College, Nanaimo, B.C.

Call to Order: 9:30 a.m.

Chair: Donna Lomas East Kootenay Community College

Secretary: Patricia Roy University of Victoria

Attending:

Frank Abbott	Kwantlen College
John Belshaw	Cariboo University College
Rocque Berthiaume	North West Community College
Clarence Bolt	Camosun College
George Davison	College of New Caledonia
Patrick Dunae	Malaspina University College
Ian Dyck	Simon Fraser University
Robin Fisher	University of Northern B.C.
Bonnie Huskins	U.C. of the Fraser Valley
Towser Jones	Capilano College
Marjory Lane	Langara College
Frank Leonard	Douglas College
Bob McDonald	University of B.C.
Eric Nellis	Okanagan U.C./Open Learning Agency
Simo Nurme	North Island College
Elizabeth Peerless	Douglas College
Tom Roulstone	Northern Lights College
Bill Sloan	Selkirk College
Andrea Smith	Langara College
Duane Thomson	Okanagan University College

Regrets: Stephen Straker University of B.C.

The meeting began with a moment of silence in memory of Peter Weber of North West Community College

Those present introduced themselves.

1. **Agenda:** Moved, E. Nellis; seconded, W. Sloan: that it be approved as circulated.
Carried.
2. **Minutes of 7 May 1993:** Moved, E. Nellis; seconded, C. Bolt: that they be Approved as circulated with a correction in the statistical report noting that Capilano had a maximum of 21 sections.
Carried.
3. **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

Some discussion took place about travel funds for Articulation meetings. The Chair reported that the Ministry does not specifically earmark travel funds in College budgets;

therefore, Colleges must allot resources. It may be necessary to find an alternative to meetings such as teleconferencing.

Moved, G. Davison; seconded, A. Smith:

- a. That the Articulation Chair write to the Council with a copy to the Ministry expressing our desire to retain funding for our regular annual meetings;
- b. That individual representatives remind their Colleges that Articulation is part of the Ministry's Terms of Reference for Colleges. **Carried.**

4. Correspondence

- A. The chair reported that the B.C. Council on Admissions and Transfers has reminded Articulation Committees that their terms of reference do not include political issues.
- B. The motion of last year concerning travel funds for North West Community College succeeded; the College is represented at this meeting.

5. Chair's Report

- A. Among the subjects discussed at the articulation chairs' meeting in January was the transfer of students from one college to another. This creates problems for transfer credit and a need to articulate courses among the colleges. Students move to try to improve their G.P.A.'s and their chances of admission to a university. Until all institutions adopt a percentage system of grading, problems will occur.

An extended discussion ensued. W. Sloan suggested that the colleges try to track their students. E. Nellis observed the universities may have to articulate their courses with the university colleges. E. Peerless noted that about 20% of college students transfer from the universities, mainly to get "applied" courses. D. Lomas remarked that emphasis on the G.P.A. means students choose courses with grades in mind.

Although opposed to a standardized grading system, E. Nellis suggested exchanging grading information such as the distribution of marks. He stressed that this should be done unofficially and informally. D. Lomas reported that research funds may be available for a study of grading, student achievement and transfers and recommended putting grading on next year's agenda. F. Leonard noted that it will be necessary to work out ground rules. E. Nellis said we should be clear on standards and volunteered to make a study. P. Dunae mentioned that his colleagues have a statistical program which may be helpful in doing this.

- B. The Council meeting also discussed a proposal to include world issues in relevant programs.
- C. Over 40 A.A. degrees were granted last year. The numbering of 100 and 200 level courses poses problems since students must have a minimum number of each. The chair warned that this may be a problem to consider in the future.

6. Institution Reports (See also the statistical appendix)

Malaspina U.C. is making a new permanent appointment in Canadian history. The College has been debating the general degree vs. liberal studies. History is likely to follow English in introducing a Majors program.

Northern Lights College is in a steady situation.

Capilano College is in a steady state but will be hiring a one term leave replacement.

U.B.C. added Glen Peterson (20th Century) and Steven Lee (the Keenleyside Chair in Canadian External Relations) this past year and is now appointing one, and possibly two, new 20th century Europeans with special interests in gender studies. There will be a new course on gender in Europe.

In his letter of regret, Straker proposed considering the creation of a regional or provincial independent Accreditation Board. Such a Board, he suggested, would help ensure that institutions have the resources necessary to provide the education and training they try to offer.

Kwantlen is growing and hopes to make a new appointment.

Simon Fraser has experienced modest growth. First year registration is down but upper level courses are overcrowded. As one means of coping with the problem, the department has removed the ceiling on one 300 level course; it has 225 students. The department is also trying to break the close tie between contact hours and credits and in some cases has done so unofficially to create more spaces for upper year students.

A replacement has been made in Early Modern Britain and a new person will teach a course on the Second World War.

Langara College reports no expansion. Spring enrolment was down but the summer semester is full. There have been registration problems arising out of automated registration and this required the dropping of some pre-requisites.

Much time has been spent on reorganization because of the separation from Vancouver City College. The administration is promoting the integration of Arts and Science and career programs.

The completion of a new building in 1995-96 should relieve overcrowding of classrooms and offices but will not provide for additional enrolment.

Camosun College's only real change is a redistribution of resources within the department.

Selkirk College reports a stable situation.

Open University has reached a "critical stage" and is probably at its optimum size. Its uniqueness is disappearing as technology allows other institutions to offer Distance Education. About 30-40% of its students actually complete and those who do are very good.

Okanagan University College has a Majors program in place. The equivalent of 18 full year upper level courses are available. Forty students are registered in 3rd Year and 24 should graduate this month. The number of first and second year sections has been reduced. There are wait lists for these courses and for Distance Education. The Department would like to make two more full time appointments to reach its optimum size.

Northwest Community College's History program is in a state of flux because of the death of Peter Weber. The College is advertising for a full time historian who can teach one other subject. Carl Mackenzie offers work in African and Caribbean history.

Cariboo University College has had a good year. The Majors program is underway and 13 students should graduate this year. A second year course in Medieval Europe is planned and new upper year courses in Canadian will be added. Registration is high and the campus is expanding. It may be necessary to impose admission standards. The Library collection is small.

College of New Caledonia has more courses and students than ever before. There is a new course on South and South East Asia. Arrangements have been made for cross registration with UNBC. The course offerings are complementary and there is co-operation at the departmental level.

University College of the Fraser Valley has a new American historian, a new Asian survey course and five upper level courses. UCFV hopes to make one or two appointments in Asian and East European history. The department is preparing a brochure and would appreciate samples.

The College has introduced a "Scholarly Release Fund" through which faculty members may compete for time to do research. A "Wednesday Forum" allows faculty members to present and discuss colloquium papers.

Both the College as a whole and the department are drafting a Strategic Six Year Plan. The College has expanded its administration and appointed several new deans. The college has set up a spring semester on a cost recovery basis with higher tuition fees, no student loans, and priority registration in the fall. It has been controversial.

Douglas College appointed one new historian this year and will offer two new courses in Medieval History in the fall. The problem of library resources is being resolved and the basis for a permanent collection at Haney has been laid. The college itself is being reorganized.

North Island College has a small library budget and several campuses. History may be included in the Native Transition Program at the Port Alberni campus.

East Kootenay Community College suffered a budget cut which as delayed the appointment of a political scientist. Enrolment is steady although the "Klein Effect" means Alberta students are seeking places and buying the College Calendar. Because of the closure of mines in the Elk Valley, over 2,000 miners are unemployed. A number are engaged in literacy programs at the College and some are coming into University Transfer courses.

University of Victoria appointed Elizabeth Vibert, a specialist in Native Studies, last fall. Overall enrolment is steady but first year registrations were down because of higher entrance requirements.

7. Advanced Placement The registrars have circulated a paper on Advanced Placement and the International Baccalaureate. Some discussion followed. Some colleges accept AP credit; some do not; and some have no experience. Abbott suggested that students seeking AP credit be required to use course challenge procedures since the AP exams are of the multiple choice variety and there is no guarantee that the students can write essays. The consensus was that so few students seek AP credit, it is not currently a problem.

8. **University of Northern British Columbia** R. Fisher explained that a major objective of UNBC is to increase the post-secondary participation rate in the North. He observed that pressure for conformity makes it difficult to do anything different although UNBC will specialize in northern and related studies. He circulated copies of the departmental brochure listing the faculty and courses. The courses are designed to mesh with those offered at CNC. And, at Northern Lights, a UNBC faculty member will offer a lower level course while T. Roulstone will teach an upper year course. He noted that UNBC also expects 5 or 6 M.A. students in History.

The meeting thanked R. Fisher for his report and unanimously expressed their best wishes for the success of UNBC.

R. Fisher and G. Davison jointly invited the Articulation Committee to hold its next meeting in Prince George at the time of the New Directions in B.C. History Conference some time in May 1995.

Moved, D. Thomson; seconded, J. Belshaw, that we accept the invitation.

Carried.

9. **Teaching Resources** T. Jones reported it is no longer possible to purchase historical wall maps of Canada as a result of changes in technology. Several people noted that CD-ROM made such maps obsolete while others indicated that they used transparencies successfully.

10. **Library.** This stimulated considerable discussion about ways of coping with limited resources. D. Lomas remarked that East Kootenay is about to start a fund raising program. A. Smith reported that the Library at Langara encouraged instructors to donate texts and other basic books to the library. F. Abbott observed that Kwantlen's problems are increased since it must buy copies of books for each of three campuses. One way of expanding the library economically was to purchase second hand books. B. Huskins reported that UCFV is doing this.

E. Nellis said that the problem was not necessarily with the amount of funding available for Libraries but rather in the distribution of the funds. Lomas agreed that it is a two pronged problem. Then is necessary to look at both government funding and institutional allocations of resources. J. Belshaw suggested that the universities should insist that the colleges maintain adequate libraries.

Moved, F. Abbott; seconded, E. Nellis:

That institutions be held accountable for conforming to the recommendations of the American Library Association [there are no similar Canadian standards] in making budget allocations for library acquisitions and that the Chair of the Articulation Committee send a letter to this effect to the Ministry.

Carried.

11. M. Lane asked if anyone was aware of any SSHRC policy that discriminated against College instructors. No one knew of any such policy.
12. D. Thomson invited Committee members to attend the B.C. Studies Conference at Kelowna on the Thanksgiving weekend.
13. Moved, C. Bolt; seconded, D. Thomson:

that members of the committee contribute to a fund to plant a tree and instal an appropriate plaque at North West College in memory of Peter Weber.

Carried.

C. Bolt agreed to investigate the cost of such a memorial and to report to the committee.

14. Committee members unanimously thanked Patrick Dunae and Malaspina University College for making the local arrangements for the meeting and for their hospitality.
15. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.