

HISTORY ARTICULATION MEETING

1 May 1997
Capilano College

Minutes

In Attendance:

Pat Roy (UVic)(Chair); John Belshaw (UCC)(Secretary); Gwyneth Lewis (Langara); Diane Purvey (OLA); Charles Humphries (UBC); Allen Seager (SFU); David Holm (CNC); Donna Lomas (COTR); Simo Nurme (NIC); Elmiro Argento (Douglas); Thor Frohm-Nielsen (Kwantlen); Bill Sloan (Selkirk); Tom Roulston (Northern Lights); Eric Davis (UCFV); Tom Lewis (Ministry of Education); Karl Koth (OUC); Mary Ellen Kelm (UNBC); Clarence Karr (Malaspina); Hondo Arendt (Northwest); Robert Campbell (Capilano); John Klassen (Trinity Western).

(Tom Lewis, V-P of Cowichan Secondary School, was nominated by Finola Finlay of the BC Council on Admissions and Transfers.)

1. Adoption of the Agenda: The agenda was amended to include business arising from the 1996 meeting, and reports from the departments (which fell under the afternoon's New Business heading).
2. Adoption of the 1996 Minutes: These passed without dissent.
3. Bob Kubicek (UBC) on World History media: Professors Kubicek and Bonita Bray described and demonstrated the technological innovations with which they have been experimenting in the delivery of a World History course (Hist 150). The first part focussed on the use of Powerpoint and associated lecture hall media of recent development. The second section explored the opportunities, advantages, and difficulties of establishing a webpage and running a portion of the course on-line.
4. Break for Lunch (Karl Koth left with apologies.)
5. Reports from the Departments: The 'show and tell' session began in the morning and concluded in the afternoon. The bare facts will be detailed on a table comparing all the institutions (as per usual), but the overall pattern can be summarized here. While many departments reported continuing, even accelerating falls in enrolments (UCC, CNC, Douglas, Northern Lights) others had noticed encouraging signs of the decline having stopped and perhaps even reversed (Kwantlen, Northwest, Selkirk, UCFV, Malaspina, Capilano and possibly UVic). A new History Majors programme was announced for Malaspina; unreplaced retirements vastly outnumbered entirely new appointments yet again; new history 'internships' at UNBC were described (which sounded very similar to this year's experiments at UCFV). 'Distributed Learning' experimentation was underway at Kwantlen, UBC, Rockies, Kwantlen, and Cariboo). Tom Lewis, acting on behalf of the teachers of History in this province, reminded us that in 1997 the High School teaching curriculum will change somewhat. Its periodization will now be from the Peace of Paris to the present. Mr. Lewis also made a plea for a positive response on the part of History Departments to proposals for Advanced Placement admissions; Malaspina has shown some initiative in this respect on

Vancouver Island. It was observed that this revised high school curriculum might create a demand among teachers for lower-level twentieth century courses.

6. Nelson University Centre and Transfer Credit: The possibility of courses now being transferred from NUC to other post-secondary institutions was raised. It was decided to put this issue into abeyance for the present time. (Allen Seager left with apologies.)
7. Net Plagiarism: Discussion around downloaded history papers identified the scope of the problem, but concluded positively that there were effective steps that could be taken to eliminate or at least reduce the likelihood of cheating. The Advanced Search mode of Alta Vista, for example, can identify a paper with one or two lines; UBC produces an inexpensive and informative booklet that can clarify the plagiarism issues for students who might err out of ignorance rather than malice; devising new topics may defy the economics of essay factories; obliging students to submit with their essays a portfolio of notes and at least one earlier draft can provide evidence of real work (and may have further pedagogical value as well). The Committee members still in attendance at this point were unanimous in their commitment to encouraging high written communication standards in their courses, and there was also a general agreement that this was an expectation of all BC institutions.
8. Election of Officers: Gwyneth Lewis was elected secretary of the committee; John Belshaw was elevated to chair.
9. Adjournment and Thanks: The efforts of colleagues at Capilano College were gratefully acknowledged, as was the service of Pat Roy as, successively, secretary and chair of the Committee. The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.