

History Articulation Committee

1 May 2003

Minutes

Present: Chair: Jamie Morton (North Island); Secretary: Edward Benoit (Northern Lights); Duff Sutherland (Selkirk); Jacqueline Gresko (Douglas); Eric Davis (UCFV); Patricia Roy (UVic); Clarence Karr (Malaspina); David Sylvester (Corpus Christi); Gordon Martel (UNBC); Jim Huzel (UBC); Clarence Bolt (Camosun); Alex Popovich (Kwantlen); Hondo Arendt (NWCC); Bruce Shelvey (TWU); George Davison (CNC); Wendie Nelson (Langara); Towser Jones (Capilano); Ben Nilson (OUC); Anne Gagnon (UCC); Karen Ferguson (SFU); Marcel Dirk (College of the Rockies).

Absent: Open University (no program report); Coquitlam College (has offered to submit program report).

I. Welcomes:

-The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. An articulation contact list was circulated and updated by the committee members.

-David Breen (UBC) welcomed the committee members to the meeting. He then presented data about transfer students to the University of British Columbia. The data covered the years 1993-1998. He stated that we should be concerned by what the data appear to suggest.

-A total of 6224 transfer students were admitted to the University of British Columbia between 1993 and 1998. Nearly half (44%) entered the Faculty of Arts.

-The transfer students had an average grade of 72% on entry (lower than the average grade of students who were admitted to UBC directly from high school). In the first year at UBC the average grade of transfer students dropped between 2-10% (with the exception of students from BCIT). By the end of their first year at UBC the transfer students had an average grade of 67%. By the end of year four, however, the average grade of transfer students had risen and there was no appreciable difference between transfer students and UBC students.

-What is more alarming, according to Dr. Breen, is the fact that only 40% of the college transfer students completed their program of study at UBC (approximately 2500 of the 6224). In short, there was a very high non-completion rate.

-Dr. Breen expressed a concern that history transfer students be well prepared for their studies at UBC. UBC, he said, has tried to offer assistance to students especially with their writing skills. For example, the history department at UBC has established a writing centre website. Dr. Breen noted that the site is widely used by students from around the world. The website provides information on topics such as style, sources, and research.

II. Adoption of Agenda:

-Jamie Morton (Chair) asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

-Three items were added to the agenda:

(i) Advertisement of positions (Pat Roy)

(ii) Listserv maintenance (Clarence Karr)

(iii) British Columbia Historical Federation Essay Scholarships (Jacqueline Gresko)

-Agenda adopted (Eric Davis/Clarence Bolt)

III. Minutes:

-Jamie Morton asked if there were any revisions to be made to the minutes from last year's meeting.

-Clarence Bolt questioned the wording of point ix on page 7. He suggested that it be reworded to reflect his point more accurately.

-It was reworded to read: "He went on to note the lower entry requirements of colleges, and the resulting range of students the colleges serve"

-The minutes from the 2002 meeting were then adopted. (Jacqueline Gresko/George Davison).

IV. Business Arising:

-None

V. Chair's Report:

-Jamie Morton noted that there was not very much to report this year because there was no meeting of articulation committee chairs in February due to the illness of Barbara Claque (BCCAT). The meeting should be re-established in February 2004.

-Jamie Morton reported that Valerie Yorkston had informed him and Ed Benoit (secretary) that the history articulation committee does not have a system liaison person (SLP) listed.

-Jacqueline Gresko thought that we had someone from Okanagan University College (she did not recall his name) fulfilling that role but he never attended our meetings.

-Clarence Karr said that some time ago the history articulation committee opted not to have an SLP.

-Jamie noted that the committee will contact Valerie Yorkston and inform her that the committee opts not to have an SLP.

VI. Institutional Reports:

(i) Selkirk College:

-The region is in economic decline.

-Government cutbacks have led to higher tuition and higher child care costs.

-These factors have led to a decline in enrolment at the college.

-The college is undergoing a period of restructuring. They are planning to introduce online courses. There have also been steps to increase administration. This has taken some power away from faculty.

(ii) Douglas College:

-History classes are full.

-Frank Leonard returns from leave and becomes department chair June 30, 2004

-Rhoda Friedrichs goes on leave in Winter 2004

-Historians at Douglas co-operated with the Douglas College Womenspeak Institute, funded by the Koerner Foundation, to bring guest lecturers to the college. In 2003 Winter term Linda Ohama screened her documentary Obaachan's Garden. In 2003 fall term Dr. Jean Barman and Dr. Norah Lewis will discuss their research.

(iii) University College of the Fraser Valley:

-History courses are doing very well. Registrations increased 300 over last year.

-194 Majors/Minors in history department.

-Several new courses proposed: History 264 History of India; History 359 Problems in Latin American Regional History; History 420 World War II; History 464 India, the Punjab and Diaspora.

-UCFV is applying for research chair in Indo-Canadian studies.

-Sylvie Murray will become Department Chair as of May 1, 2003

(iv) University of Victoria:

- Classes full.
- Two new appointments: Dr. Andrew Preston (20th century United States), Dr. Martin Bunton (World History/Middle East)
- One retirement: Dr. Ted Wooley (U.S. History)
- Several new courses proposed: History of Food; History of Epidemic Disease; History of European Encounters in the Americas, 1492-1650; Ethno history of the South American Highlands; Introduction to Latin American History
- Approximately 65 graduate students currently registered in the department

(v) Malaspina University College:

- Pressure for more summer programs
- New courses: History 327 Baseball in American History; History 328 Professional Sport and American Society since 1960
- Seven new sections for 2003-2004, including an additional summer section
- Change to method of counting FTEs
- 29% increase in tuition for this year
- Department hopes to break the “1000 mark” in registrations this year
- International building and library being financed out of a mortgage
- Malaspina has a style guide. It is an in-house production. It sells for \$1.25 in the bookstore

(vi) Corpus Christi College:

- This is the first articulation meeting for Corpus Christi College.
- CCC is a private liberal arts college on the UBC campus offering university transfer programs in Arts and Commerce.
- Although it is a Catholic College, Corpus Christi welcomes all qualified students and instructors.
- Corpus Christi programs have been approved by TUPC and accredited by PPSEC.
- Enrolment in 2003 was 77 FTEs. The College projects an enrolment of 600 by 2008. Eventual target is not more than 1500 FTEs.
- Corpus Christi has been offering history courses since 1999
- Existing History courses include History 101 Early Medieval Europe; History 101 Later Medieval Europe; History 105 Pre-Confederation Canada; History 106 Post-Confederation Canada; History 200 Early Modern Europe; History 201 Europe from the French Revolution to the Present

(vii) University of Northern British Columbia:

- History courses are very popular. There was a waiting list in every course offered in Winter 2002. Some waiting lists are as high as 50% of class capacity.

- There has been significant growth in history and English enrolments.
- Consequently, resources are being stretched. For example, there will be no increase in TAs for this coming year.
- There was one retirement/departure this year (Dr. Marianne Ainley)
- There is one anticipated hiring (Women's History)
- Number of qualified applicants for positions dropping rapidly. In the latest search the number of qualified applicants numbered perhaps only 10% of what might have been expected.
- The University has agreed on a set of points to recognize efforts for graduate instruction.
- The number of graduate students in the history department has increased.
- The department is offering several new courses: Hist 490 Topics in Historiography; Hist 491 Topics in Intellectual History; Hist 492 Topics in Cultural History; Hist 493 Topics in Social History.

(viii) University of British Columbia:

- History courses at UBC are full. 98% of spaces were full this year.
- The department is offering some new courses: History 429 Topics in Canadian History; History 487 History of Health in the Modern West; History 585 Topics in Cultural History
- The department continues to move to more three credit, 1 term courses instead of 6 credit two semester courses due to demands for greater flexibility.
- The department has made four new appointments: Drs. Henry Yu, Tina Loo, Courtney Booker, Alejandra Bronfman
- There were also three retirements/departures: Drs. Mark Phillips, Alex Woodside, Jim Huzel
- The department also anticipates a hiring in South East Asian History.

(ix) Camosun College:

- A half-time appointment will be made for next year.
- New sections have been opened to relieve waiting lists; five new sections of history this year.
- New sections are funded by tuition. Sections for next year will be scheduled "subject to enrolment"
- New sections are taught by term instructors

(x) Kwantlen University College:

- Kwantlen is growing significantly. Kwantlen is moving to introduce a summer semester.
- The history department recently advertised two positions. Jake Newton was hired to teach Modern World and India. The response for the other position was disappointing. The department is re-advertising it.
- Tuition has increased for the second year in a row, but this has not deterred full enrolment.
- History courses presently at 98% capacity

-The administration wants to offer BA degrees. Alex Popovich expressed some concern that Kwantlen did not have enough resources (ie library collections) to offer a BA degree in history.

-Bob Fuhr will replace Alex Popovich as History Department Chair.

-A new course is being offered: History of the Balkans 1453-1914.

(xi) Northwest Community College:

-Jon Hart (Terrace) is retiring. He will be replaced by Mia Reimers.

-Tuition has increased 40%

-New campus planned for Prince Rupert

-Strong numbers in history courses, especially in second year courses.

-New courses proposed: History 250 Latin America; History of the Queen Charlottes.

(xii) Trinity Western University:

-The past year was a year of growth at TWU.

-The number of History Majors is down slightly, but the number of History Honours students is up.

-The department has completed a five year review. It will be hiring a full time historian.

-The department will offer some new history courses: American Foreign Policy; 20th Century China and East Asia

-TWU will introduce an interdisciplinary MA in the humanities (with a History stream) in the Fall of 2004.

-TWU has also made an increased commitment to library resources

-2002-2003 was a good first year at the Laurentian leadership Centre in Ottawa. Six history majors were among the students enrolled in courses and practicum placements.

(xiii) College of New Caledonia:

-Prince George is going through difficult economic times. CNC has felt the effects.

-College enrolments were down 5% this year.

-20 FTE faculty were cut last year

-7 more will be cut this year

-Tuition has increased

-The introduction of pay parking at the college may have also hurt enrolment

-New CNC/UNBC campus to open in Quesnel

-CNC is moving to on-line registration system

-Move to do away with wait lists; plan to open new sections where demand requires.

(xiv) Langara:

-High demand for courses

-Enrolments up in history courses

-Pressure for more summer offerings; two additional history sections this summer

- The two new courses planned last year were taught in Spring 2003: History 2245 Prosperity to Protest: The West since 1945; History 2215 History of Urban Growth in Canada.
- Gwyneth Lewis organized and led a field school in Greece in Summer 2002; it was very successful
- Barrie Brill completes his term as Division Chair April 30 and returns to full-time instructing.
- Marjorie Lang is on an Educational Leave from January to July 2003

(xv) Capilano College:

- Classes are full
- Adding a section this summer
- The department is planning to offer a “mixed mode” course on modern America. The course will combine on-line delivery and face to face in class.
- History department is also planning a new World History course. This course could form part of a new two year program in global leadership.

(xvi) Okanagan University College:

- Three retirements expected in the next three years; consequently, new appointments expected
- Enrolments are up significantly despite tuition fee increase
- History majors up 50% over past few years
- No new courses
- Department is under pressure to reduce writing standards and use undergrads as TAs.

(xvii) University College of the Cariboo:

- Enrolments are up
- No new sections
- Large waiting lists; pressure to increase class sizes
- History department is revamping its program: 100 level courses will be defined as “introductory”; 200 level courses as “survey” courses; 300 level as “advanced surveys”; and 400 level courses as “special topics” courses.
- The focus of assignments in 400 level courses will remain the research essay; lower level course assignments will focus on article studies, book reviews, introduction to primary sources and similar projects.
- New course called the Historian’s Craft will be mandatory for all History Majors.
- Two new appointments made this year: Dr Lee Follett was appointed full-time sessional in European and Medieval History; Dr Frank Schumacher (University of Erfurt, Germany) was appointed Visiting Professor for Summer 2003. He will teach 20th Century German-American Relations.

(xviii) Simon Fraser University:

- Department reports full enrolment
- Administration promises to address issue of over enrolment
- There were two retirements and two departures in 2003: R.Debo and H. Gay retire in Sept. 2003; M.Prokopow and T. Loo resigned.
- Three new appointments in 2003-2004: Thomas Kuhn (Middle Eastern); Jacob Eyferth (Chinese History); Alexander Dawson (Latin American)
- Department is developing a third year methodology course
- Department anticipates a university wide curriculum review
- Large increase in graduate enrolments

(xix) College of the Rockies:

- Tuition increased
- Number of enrolments steady
- Developing online courses: History 208 Canadian-American Relations 1867-Present; History 211 Women in Canada 1920 to Present
- Kori Street left COTR for Calgary's Mount Royal College; Marcel Dirk was hired in August 2002

(xx) North Island College:

- There has been a decline in the population in the region due to a decline in the economy
- Number of enrolments have declined 15%-20% at Courtenay and Campbell River campuses.
- The number of adult students has dropped
- A number of public schools have been closed in the region
- Despite these difficulties, tuition has increased
- Department will offer an online course in Canadian history

(xxi) Northern Lights College:

- Unlike some of the other rural regions, the North Peace is doing very well economically. The regional economy is based on natural gas and oil and has therefore not been affected as directly by the slumping softwood lumber industry or government cutbacks.
- Number of enrolments were up significantly in the Fall. Numbers in history courses in the Spring session are lower because full-time history instructor, Ed Benoit, was on parental leave and was not replaced. As a result, history offerings were reduced in the Spring 2003 semester.
- The library has made a commitment to increase its history holdings.

-Following the institutional reports, Clarence Karr observed that there appeared to be an urban-rural divide. The institutions in the larger urban centres seemed to be thriving;

those in the rural regions seemed to be having more difficulties. He also expressed concern about the move to online courses.

-Jamie Morton agreed with the concern about online courses and the urban-rural split. He also noted that the issue of writing standards was raised several times.

-Eric Davis suggested that the urban-rural divide might be related to the transfer data presented by David Breen.

-Jacqueline Gresko referred to research by Leslie Adams on transfer students and suggested that it might be worthwhile to look at her research

-David Sylvester agreed. He thought that David Breen's comments were at odds with some studies done by the BCCAT.

VII. Transfer Concerns from List Serve Discussion after 2002 meeting:

-Jamie raised the issue of transfer concerns from the list serve discussion after the 2002 meeting. He summarized the issue in the following way:

Alex Popovich expressed some concern about a request for instructor qualifications when a new course was articulated. A request had come from UBC. Alex thought that we had dealt with this issue at last year's meeting.

Some of the members from the receiving institutions did not think that a consensus had been reached at the 2002 meeting. They felt that such requests for qualifications were justified when a course was being articulated.

Alex Popovich requested some clarification on the process and suggested some guidelines be outlined.

Finola Finlay (BCCAT) responded that requests for qualifications were permitted, but the convention was that a formal CV was not required. In other words, the qualifications did not have to be too detailed.

-Jamie felt that Finola Finlay's e-mail resolved the issue definitively.

-Alex Popovich disagreed. He thought the issue was still unresolved. He then raised the issue of workload and writing requirements for new courses. He stated that there was no consistency at some of the receiving institutions. For example, he was aware of some history courses at the receiving institutions that did not even require a research paper.

-Eric Davis noted that the issue of writing standards was an issue across the disciplines.

-Jamie asked how many two-year institutions used style guides for writing assignments. A few representatives indicated that they did.

-Jacqueline Gresko raised the related issue of the number of assignments given in a course. She noted that assignments should not be weighted too heavily. In other words, courses should not have any individual assignment worth more than 35% of the overall

grade. At Douglas, she said, courses had to have a minimum of five assignments (including discussion groups etc) so that no one assignment was weighted too heavily.

-Jamie steered the discussion back to the issue writing style guides. He asked if we should use a standard guide. He uses a revised form of SFU's online style guide for writing essays. How, he asked, do we assure that college transfer students can write a university level essay?

-Alex Popovich noted that the problem Kwantlen encountered was with the weight given to a paper. Again, he noted there was no consistency on this issue.

-Clarence Karr said there were two issues of concern: grade inflation and plagiarism. He also suggested that we should focus on "learning outcomes".

-Karen Ferguson agreed. She said that some history courses at SFU do not assign research papers because of the problem of plagiarism. Some courses base assignments on course materials not outside research in an attempt to cut down on this problem.

-Eric Davis stated that he had seen a study that indicated nationwide grade inflation.

-David Sylvester refocused the discussion on the articulation process. He noted that it seemed arbitrary.

-Clarence Bolt agreed. Some institutions will assign transfer credit for a course; others will not. Some institutions ask for information on articulated courses; others do not. Some institutions are asking for information that they have never requested before.

-Clarence Karr said that as the post-secondary community has grown the articulation process has become more complicated. Some people may be ignorant of the process.

-Gordon Martel took exception to some of these comments. He said there are no guidelines to approve new courses. It is left to the discretion of the receiving institutions. It is therefore open to interpretation. He said that in his experience the overwhelming majority of courses are granted articulation credit.

-Clarence Bolt suggested that we have contact between the sending and receiving institutions before the articulation process actually begins.

-**Moved**, Gordon Martel, seconded Clarence Bolt, that "the articulation committee members be the institutional contact persons for articulation matters". The motion passed unanimously.

-Ed Benoit requested clarification on the issue of instructor qualifications. What constituted a qualified instructor? He felt that Finola Finlay's e-mail was not very definitive. It referred to *an MA in the discipline or a related subject*. Was an MA in history enough? Was an MA in the particular sub-field of history required?

-Towser Jones said that in her department instructors teach a variety of different courses. The guideline followed was that an instructor have graduate level courses in the particular field of history covered by the course.

-The committee agreed that “normally an MA in history is required”.

-Gordon Martel stated that if unqualified instructors are appointed to teach courses it will raise problems.

-Karen Ferguson said that the number one concern of SFU for the articulation of new courses is the instructor qualifications.

-David Sylvester said there seems to be an assumption that private colleges are not maintaining standards. He suggested that such an assumption was erroneous and said it was better to approach this issue on a case by case basis.

VIII. History Articulation Archives:

-Jacqueline Gresko informed the committee that the History Articulation Committee minutes 1969-2000 and some correspondence from the same period will be donated to the University of British Columbia Special Collections Library.

-She submitted a copy of her correspondence with Ralph Stanton, the Special Collections Librarian at the University of British Columbia, and a copy of the archives gift agreement form.

-Jacqueline Gresko suggested that these materials are very valuable resources for future historians working on the history of education in B.C. The records demonstrate continuity and change in policy over the years. She suggested that material be donated on a continuing basis every 5-10 years.

-Moved, Jacqueline Gresko, the present committee chair and secretary pass agenda and minutes on to successors with a view to donation in 2006.

-Motion passed unanimously.

-Moved, Jacqueline Gresko, thanks to Bill Sloan. Motion passed unanimously.

-Moved, Jamie Morton, thanks to Jacqueline Gresko for her efforts on this matter. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Other Business:

(i) Advertising Positions:

-Patricia Roy raised the issue of advertising job positions.

-**Moved**, Patricia Roy, we urge History Departments in the colleges, university-colleges, and universities to secure the best possible instructors by widely advertising all long term positions and, if desired, short term positions, among all History Departments in the province. This may be done through the History Articulation List-Serve or other appropriate means.

-Motion passed unanimously.

(ii) List-Serve Maintenance:

-Clarence Karr raised the issue of list-serve maintenance. He asked that members keep the articulation committee representative contact list up to date. Clarence Karr suggested that when an articulation representative leaves the list-serve, he/she ask his/her replacement to contact him about updating the list-serve.

(iii) B.C.H.F Essay Awards:

-Jacqueline Gresko raised the issue of British Columbia Historical Federation Essay Awards. She noted that there are currently two awards: one for first and second year students and another for third and fourth year students. Due to the low number of submissions this year, Jacqueline asked if the two awards should be combined into one award.

-It was agreed to wait one more year to see if this was warranted.

(iv) BC Campus Online Courses:

-Eric Davis suggested that our committee monitor and address this issue for the next several years. Was this a way to avoid hiring people?

-Jamie Morton agreed with the concern about online courses but asked how we should deal with it.

-David Sylvester suggested that Finola Finlay could be a valuable contact resource.

-Jacqueline Gresko expressed the concern that some students have difficulties/problems with the technology used for online courses. This issue should also be addressed.

-Clarence Bolt suggested that the issue be put on the agenda for next year's meeting.

-Patricia Roy suggested that we get someone from BC Campus to come to the meeting next year.

-George Davison suggested that there were also workload/bargaining issues involved in the move to online courses. Do the various institutions have a policy on distance learning, especially BC Campus online?

-David Sylvester proposed that next year we discuss how the changing secondary school requirements will affect our programs.

-Jacqueline Gresko noted that Wayne Axford, the British Columbia Social Studies Teachers's Association representative, was not present at this year's meeting because the funding to pay for his replacement so he could attend the meeting was cut.

-**Moved**, Clarence Karr, second Jacqueline Gresko, that we draft a motion to the ministry calling for the restoration of funding to cover the cost of replacement so the secondary school representative could attend the articulation meeting.

X. Election of Officers:

-Following established protocol, Edward Benoit, current secretary, will take over as History Articulation Committee Chair for 2003-2004.

-Anne Gagnon, University College of the Cariboo, was elected Secretary for 2003-2004.

-Vote of thanks to Jamie Morton for his recent service as Secretary and Chair of the History Articulation Committee.

XI. Thanks to University of British Columbia and Jim Huzel:

-For organizing and hosting the 2003 Articulation Committee meeting.

XII. Next Meeting:

-Next year's meeting will be held on May 7, 2004 at Selkirk College.