



VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2023

3:30–5:30 p.m., Videoconference

ATTENDANCE

Education Council Members

Natasha Mandryk (Chair)	Dennis Innes	Marcus Ng
Sarah Kay (Vice-Chair)	Derek Sproston	Todd Rowlett
Andy Sellwood	Emmy Cheung	Vivian Munroe
Dave McMullen	Heidi Parisotto	
David Wells	Janita Schappert	

Regrets

Ali Oliver	Gabby Sarnoh	Shirley Lew
Belinda Kaplan	Louise Dannhauer	Sonal Singh

Guests

Adrian Lipsett	Herbie Atwal	Mark Chiarello
Aerin Hack	J.-E. Zakoor	Nuala Rochfort
Beth Beeching	Jane Shin	Reba Noel
Clay Little	John Demeulemeester	Shantel Ivits
Clayton Munro	Julie Gilbert	Stefan Nielsen
Dawn Cunningham Hall	Kate Dickerson	Tannis Morgan

Recording Secretary

Darija Rabadzija

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- J. Schappert acknowledged the College’s location on the traditional unceded territories of the x̱m̱əθḵəy̱ əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̱x̱ wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłw̱ ətaʔṯ (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 11, 2023 agenda as presented.

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

4. APPROVE PAST MINUTES

MOTION: THAT Education Council approve the March 7 and March 16, 2023 minutes as presented.

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

5. ENQUIRIES & CORRESPONDENCE

- There were none.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

a) Annual Update – Deans & Directors: Part 3

- Annual updates were presented by C. Little, Associate Director, Indigenous Education and Community Engagement; A. Lipsett, Dean of Continuing Studies; and D. Innes, Dean of Hospitality, Food Studies and Applied Business. This year, presentations focused on providing context and themes for EdCo to consider related to curriculum and educational policy.
- Overall themes were increased flexibility for students in program delivery and formats, as well as growing partnerships. VCC recently signed an agreement with the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), the national accreditation and awarding body for Scotland, which sets standards for qualifications and assessments. The agreement allows VCC to access curriculum for a relatively low licensing fee, providing opportunities to expand its offerings in different areas, e.g., supply change management.
- There were questions about next steps towards Indigenization at VCC. One key piece is recruitment of a Dean, Indigenous Initiatives, which is underway.

b) Strategic Innovation Plan Goals Update

- J. Shin provided background on the Strategic Innovation Plan (SIP) refresh process, during which 87 objectives were defined. The first annual update report was presented to EdCo, following presentation to the Board of Governors. The report is posted on the [VCC website](#). The full SIP objectives document will be shared with EdCo members after the meeting.
- There were questions about constraints experienced in implementing objectives. Resource, funding, and capacity limitations are one factor, but the main challenge is the complexity of strategic projects requiring involvement of multiple College areas in addition to their day-to-day operations.
- Some of the key initiatives will be the development of an Indigenization framework once a Dean, Indigenous Initiatives, has been hired, as well as work on the Campus Plan, depending on the Treasury Board's outstanding decision on funding.

H. Parisotto left the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

c) New Credential: Sign Language Interpretation Diploma

MOTION: THAT Education Council recommend approval of the Sign Language Interpretation Diploma credential to the Board of Governors.

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

- D. Wells presented the proposal following the initial conversation at the February EdCo meeting. Douglas College (DC) suspended its September 2023 intake for the Sign Language Interpretation Diploma due to low demand. The program operates on a 1+2 year model; most students in this program are graduates of VCC's long-standing 10-month ASL and Deaf Studies Certificate who continue their studies for another 2 years at DC.
- The proposal is to transfer the program to VCC, which aligns with recommendations of both a 2009 Provincial Study and a 2017 Comprehensive Program Review that suggested a closer alignment between VCC's and DC's programs.
- DC's EdCo and Board of Governors discussed the proposal at their March meetings, and the DC Board voted to approve transfer of the program to VCC and cancel the DC program once all students have completed their diploma at either DC or VCC.
- Approval of the credential is being requested prior to curriculum approval; this departure from VCC's normal curriculum approval process allows for expedited program development so VCC can accept students for September 2023. The Finance and Audit Committee and the Board of Governors will hold

special meetings by the end of the week to approve the tuition and credential. The curriculum will then be presented for review and approval to Curriculum Committee and Education Council.

- There was a discussion about planning for support services at VCC to run the program and ensure continuity. A working group including representation from different College areas will be established to support the transition.

d) Accuplacer English Language Assessment

MOTION: THAT Education Council approve the use of Accuplacer as an approved method for demonstrating English proficiency for the purpose of admission to any VCC program.

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

- D. McMullen presented the proposal to introduce Accuplacer, a software-based assessment tool, at VCC. This recommendation arose from a two-year project on English language assessments, which included a needs analysis and consultation with faculty. Conversations around calibration of scores are ongoing, and a proposal to refine and adjust scores may be presented at a later time.
- Similar to the Duolingo English test, Accuplacer provides students with another option to demonstrate English language proficiency.
- It was clarified that while Accuplacer is a software-based test, it is not web based, and students will complete the test in the Assessment Centre. Paper-based and braille options are available. The cost for assessments is between \$60–\$80, which is lower than previous assessment fees (up to \$100). A fee waiver program is being developed for students in financial need.

e) EdCo Planning Day – June 12

- EdCo will hold a half-day planning session on June 12. This is an opportunity to discuss emerging topics. The EdCo Executive has begun planning; members were invited to bring forward ideas.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Curriculum Committee

i) New Courses: MATH 0660 Fundamentals of Mathematics 6A & MATH 0665 Fundamentals of Mathematics 6B

MOTION: THAT Education Council approve, in the form presented at this meeting, the new courses MATH 0660 Fundamentals of Mathematics 6A and MATH 0665 Fundamentals of Mathematics 6B.

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

- S. Ivits presented the proposal to split Basic Education math courses (from the beginner level to grade 9) into two parts, which was a key recommendation from the recent program renewal. Currently, students have 3 months to cover content equivalent to 1.5 years in the K-12 system. Creating two courses for each level will give students more time, as well as improve tracking of progress. The current proposal is for math level 6; the proposal for levels 1–5 will come to Curriculum Committee in April.
- Curriculum Committee had a longer discussion about the mastery style of evaluation used in these courses, which emphasizes building foundational skills before students move forward within a course.

ii) New Courses: CCED 0605 Basic Computer Skills Level 1 and CCED 0606 Basic Computer Skills Level 2

MOTION: THAT Education Council approve, in the form presented at this meeting, the new courses CCED 0605 Basic Computer Skills Level 1 and CCED 0606 Basic Computer Skills Level 2.

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

- N. Rochfort and B. Beeching presented the proposal to split an existing standalone Community & Career Education (CACE) course into two new parts. An option for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) was added so students with prior knowledge can directly into level 2.
- T. Rowlatt reported that Curriculum Committee had no major feedback. There was a discussion about learning outcomes related to classroom behaviour and setting expectations in the special education context.

iii) Program Updates: Practical Nursing & Access to Practical Nursing Diplomas

MOTION: THAT Education Council approve, in the form presented at this meeting, the revised program content guides for the Practical Nursing Diploma and the Access to Practical Nursing Diploma.

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

- J. Schappert presented proposed changes to admission requirements, aimed at removing barriers for students and aligning with other institutions and regulatory body requirements. English language and math requirements were adjusted. The knowledge assessment was removed in favour of providing a Health Care Assistant (HCA) certificate or registration number, since the HCA curriculum has been standardized. There are outstanding questions around TB test requirements, which are being discussed among health authorities. The goal is to create a common standard for all VCC health sciences programs.

b) Policy Committee

i) 2022 Annual Policy Report

- The 2022 Annual Policy Report created by N. Degagne was included in the meeting package. One project in progress is transferring policies into CourseLeaf, VCC's online content management system currently used for curriculum.

ii) D.3.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

- S. Kay presented the revised policy and procedures drafts for information. Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) provides an avenue for recognizing knowledge and skills acquired in a variety of ways outside of the formal education system and granting formal credit for them. The committee provided feedback in September 2022 on initial drafts focused on including a Credit Bank, a collection of non-credit training opportunities pre-assessed as eligible for credit. Another key change was to include recognition of Indigenous knowledge and ways of being.
- Following the meeting, a full review of the policy was initiated, and revised drafts were presented to the committee in April. Members discussed the fees for PLAR assessments as a potential barrier for students, since they are not covered by financial aid; this is a larger conversation across the sector. The committee voted to post the drafts for College feedback, which is open until April 27.

iii) Research Policies: F.1.1 Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans, F.1.2 Ethics and Integrity in Research and Scholarly Activity, and F.1.3 Conflict of Interest Related to Research (to be rescinded)

- S. Kay presented the policies, which underwent a full scheduled review. Extensive revisions were made to align with the updated Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans – TCPS 2 (2022). One key change was to include procedures for following First Nations Principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP) (policy F.1.2). Policy F.1.3 was merged with the other two policies and is proposed to be rescinded. All three policies were posted for College feedback; no comments were received. Since these policies are approved solely by the Board of Governors, they were presented to Education Council for information only.
- A committee working group was struck to explore ways to incorporate anti-racism, justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI) and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) considerations into policy review.

- N. Mandryk, C. Little and S. Kay are continuing the review of policy A.2.1 Appeal to Education Council on Educational Matters.

c) Education Quality Committee

i) Curriculum Development (CD) Fund 2023/24

- T. Rowlatt presented projects approved for CD funding this year. \$400,000 were allocated; the total ask was about \$900,000. Scheduled program renewals again received \$5,000 in automatic funding.

8. CHAIR REPORT

- N. Mandryk reported that the recently established EdCo working group has begun developing guiding questions for Education Council to consider in reviewing curriculum proposals. The rationale is to create a clearer differentiation between curriculum review by Curriculum Committee and EdCo.
- The Elections Committee met in March to debrief the recent EdCo and Board of Governors by-elections. Changes to the election rules are under discussion, including removing the distinction between Broadway and Downtown campus student seats and updating the definition of students to exclude most employees.
- To support accessibility of EdCo meetings, a note was added to the website regarding requests for ASL interpretation.

9. STUDENT REPORT

- M. Ng reported on end-of-term celebrations organized by SUVCC at both campuses.

10. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

- The next meeting will be held on May 9, 2023.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

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

APPROVED AT THE MAY 9, 2023 EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETING