



VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2023

3:30–5:30 p.m., Videoconference

ATTENDANCE

Education Council Members

Natasha Mandryk (Chair)	David Wells	Janita Schappert
Sarah Kay (Vice-Chair)	Dennis Innes	Louise Dannhauer
Ali Oliver	Derek Sproston	Marcus Ng
Andy Sellwood	Emmy Cheung	Shirley Lew
Belinda Kaplan	Gabby Sarnoh	Todd Rowlatt
Dave McMullen	Heidi Parisotto	

Regrets

Sonal Singh	Vivian Munroe
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Guests

Alicia Copp	Jo-Ellen Zakoor	Nicole Degagne
Cindy Reeves	Julia Slade	Pervin Fahim
Claire Sauvé	Julie Gilbert	Stefan Nielsen
Clay Little	Loney Forde	Tannis Morgan
Dawn Cunningham Hall	Lucy Griffith	Taryn Thomson
Herbie Atwal	Mark Chiarello	
Jamie Choi	Marnie Findlater	

Recording Secretary

Darija Rabadzija

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- N. Mandryk acknowledged the College’s location on the traditional, unceded and never surrendered territories of the x̣ṃəθḳẉəỵ əṃ (Musqueam), Sḳẉx̣ wú7mesh (Squamish), and sə̣iḷẉ ətə7ṭ (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 March 7, 2023 agenda as amended, with new item 6f) Reinstatement of the Renal Dialysis Technician Short Certificate program.

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

4. APPROVE PAST MINUTES

**MOTION:** THAT Education Council approve the February 14, 2023 minutes as presented.

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

5. ENQUIRIES & CORRESPONDENCE

- Following the recent EdCo by-election, E. Cheung was welcomed as a new Downtown Campus student representative.

## 6. BUSINESS ARISING

### a) Budget Update

- J. Choi gave a presentation on the draft budget, which was previously shared at a recent town hall. Principles and assumptions for the 2023/24 budget were outlined. There were questions around the College's continuing investment into Indigenization and EDI (equity, diversity, and inclusion). Finalized budget numbers will be presented to the Board of Governors at its March 29 meeting.

### b) Annual Update – Deans & Directors: Part 2

- Annual updates were presented by J.-E. Zakoor, Dean of Health Sciences; L. Griffith, acting Dean of Trades, Technology & Design; T. Morgan, Associate Vice President, Academic Innovation; and S. Lew, Dean of Arts & Sciences. This year, presentations focused on providing context and themes for EdCo to consider related to curriculum and educational policy.
- Considerations for governance included support of new offerings by providing feedback on new program ideas as well as timely approvals to meet changing industry needs. Another key topic was expanding and promoting options for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), e.g., in trades.
- One initiative related to Indigenization is to make the course on Impacts of Colonization on the Health and Wellbeing of Indigenous People (originally developed for the international Health Care Assistant Diploma) accessible to a wider range of students across the College. There were questions about the possibility of embedding Indigenization and EDI into curriculum in the School of Instructor Education (SIE). This area is beginning work on Indigenizing one course in collaboration with the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centers (BCAAFC).
- There was a discussion about support, including marketing, for course- versus program-based offerings, particularly in Arts & Sciences and the School of Instructor Education.
- A possible relaunch of the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) program needs to be evaluated in terms of market demand post-COVID and in the context of VCC's priorities and capacity.

### c) Duolingo English Language Assessment

**MOTION:** THAT Education Council approve extending the use of Duolingo as an approved method for demonstrating English language proficiency to any programs starting before or during the January–April 2024 term.

**Moved by D. McMullen, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)**

- D. McMullen spoke to this item. In March 2020, Education Council approved a pilot program to accept the online Duolingo English Test as an alternative way to assess English language proficiency (ELP). The rationale was the temporary closure of VCC's Assessment Centre due to the pandemic. Duolingo minimum scores were recalibrated during the pilot phase, in consultation with various relevant College areas. The pilot phase was extended until April 2023, and the current proposal is for another extension until the January–April 2024 term, since International Education is accepting applications for next year.
- While the number of applicants using Duolingo has declined in favour of other English assessments, maintaining multiple options to demonstrate ELP provides better accessibility and reduces barriers for students globally. VCC is exploring implementation of another assessment tool, Accuplacer, as an additional option, not necessarily a replacement for Duolingo.
- The Registrar's Office (RO) will conduct a provincial scan and compile data on student success for those who entered programs using Duolingo. The RO will report to EdCo in fall 2023 so a permanent decision on Duolingo can be made.
- The question was raised whether the English 10 requirement is being replaced. It was clarified that the equivalency table simply outlines different options to meet this admission requirement, rather than

replacing it (see also item 7d). Providing a variety of options to demonstrate ELP could reduce the need for individual assessments by department heads, which are currently accepted as an alternative to proof of ELP in some areas.

#### **d) English Language Proficiency Equivalencies: Addition of Pearson Test of English (PTE) and English 10**

**MOTION:** THAT Education Council approve addition of the Pearson Test of English (PTE) and English 10 equivalencies to VCC's English language proficiency requirements.

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

- D. McMullen presented the proposal to add the Pearson Test of English (PTE) to the ELP equivalencies chart as another option for students. The test is well established and widely used in the province and globally.
- VCC's ELP equivalencies chart previously did not include scores corresponding to English 10 for all English assessments. This data has now been added, which will improve consistency across the College.
- One important consideration for departments in setting ELP admission requirements is making a distinction between academic English skills versus verbal proficiency.

#### **e) Guiding Questions for EdCo Curriculum Approvals**

- N. Mandryk suggested establishing a working group to develop EdCo-specific guiding questions for curriculum approval. This idea arose from the EdCo self-evaluation survey; the goal is to better delineate the difference between Curriculum Committee's and EdCo's review of curriculum and to streamline the process. Interested members were invited to join the group.

#### **f) Reinstatement of the Renal Dialysis Technician Short Certificate Program.**

- N. Mandryk reported that the Renal Dialysis Technician Short Certificate program was suspended in November 2020. Policy C.3.3 Suspension and/or Discontinuance of Programs stipulates a re-evaluation after two years. Following consultations with health authorities, the department would like to reinstate the program as soon as possible. Since the policy does not outline a specific governance/ approval process to resume a suspended program, this item was presented to Education Council for information only.

### **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

##### **i) New Course: ACED 0715 Previous Work and Job Skills**

**MOTION:** THAT Education Council approve, in the form presented at this meeting, the new course ACED 0715 Previous Work and Job Skills.

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

- C. Reeves presented the proposal for this new CCA course, which provides students with prior work history with a framework to recognize and reflect on their work experience. The 1-credit course ACED 0710 will be replaced by this 3-credit course that counts towards the BC Adult Graduation Diploma. Multiple BC colleges are already offering this articulated course, and the goal is to bring ACED 0715 to the BCCAT articulation meeting in March.

##### **ii) Program Update: Medical Transcription and Documentation Editing Certificate**

**MOTION:** THAT Education Council approve, in the form presented at this meeting, the program content guide for the Medical Transcription and Documentation Editing Certificate program, 12 revised course outlines, and 4 new courses, and recommend the Board of Governors approve implementation of the revised program.

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

- J. Slade presented revisions to the Medical Transcription and Documentation Editing Certificate arising from the program renewal. The program was moved fully online during the pandemic and will continue in this delivery mode (with the exception of some in-person practicum placements). Changes requested by Curriculum Committee were completed, including expanding PLAR options and outlining instructional strategies more clearly.
- Since the tuition will be reset, the proposal will move forward to the Finance and Audit Committee and the Board of Governors.

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

- S. Kay reported that the last committee meeting was cancelled. Policies F.1.2 Ethics and Integrity in Research and Scholarly Activity and F.1.3 Conflict of Interest Related to Research were posted for College feedback; there were no comments.

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

- A panel discussion with all deans was held to debrief themes from annual program reviews. A summary report will be submitted to EdCo. CD Fund adjudication will take place on March 9.

### **8. RESEARCH UPDATE**

- A. Copp reported on recent revisions to VCC's research policies (F.1.1, F.1.2 and F.1.3), establishing a clear process for handling allegations of research misconduct.
- The Research Ethics Board (REB) reviewed six projects since December. A working group was formed to create guidelines for course-based reviews.
- Six new members have joined the REB this year, and an Indigenous community member will be appointed. Elder Sharon Jinkerson-Brass was invited to speak to the REB in April about ceremonial research related to her work on the Downtown Eastside.
- A major current initiative is development of a research data management strategy for VCC, as required by the Tri-Council.

### **9. CHAIR REPORT**

- N. Mandryk reported that the 2022 Annual Policy Report was received from N. Degagne, Coordinator Curriculum & Policy.
- Following the conversation about affiliation agreements at the last EdCo meeting, N. Mandryk will meet with D. Wells, D. Innes, and the Registrar's Office to discuss a process for bringing some existing agreements through governance, in alignment with policy C.3.10 Educational Affiliations.

### **10. STUDENT REPORT**

- G. Sarnoh reported on recent issues with phishing emails received by students, resulting in a large number of inquiries to SUVCC, which were referred to VCC. There was a discussion about raising awareness of cybersecurity issues and communicating appropriate reporting channels.

### **11. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

- A special meeting will be held on March 16, 3:30-4:30 p.m., for the Enrolment Plan 2023/24. The next regular meeting will be held on April 11, 2023.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

### **APPROVED AT THE APRIL 11, 2023 EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETING**

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