

# BCCAT Newsletter

June 1997

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## Greetings from the Executive Director

BCCAT's Management Letter from MoEST congratulates us on "what has clearly been a productive and successful year for the Council." It has certainly been a busy one, with several new projects and initiatives undertaken, as well as all our regular activities. As a provincial organization which represents all sectors of the public post-secondary system, we are proud of the ways in which we continue to support our post-secondary institutions as they seek to enhance equity, access and transitions for all our students. All of our endeavours are directed to those ends.

One exciting development for us this year was the forging of a new relationship with our "sister" organization, the Centre for Curriculum, Transfer and Technology (CCTT). We have cooperated on several ventures, most notably in the areas of secondary to post-

secondary transitions, and the development of a policy framework for private/public institutional articulation. We also continued to work actively with several other provincial organizations and committees which are serving the needs of the post-secondary system, such as the Centre for Education Information Standards and Services (CEISS), and the Outcomes Working Group.

Please feel free to call or drop by our new location in downtown Vancouver, or to avail of our meeting room. We look forward to seeing you!

*Franklin C. Gelin, Executive Director and Co-Chair*

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## **Research Projects Completed: 1996/97**

### **An Analysis of Student Transfer Issues from the College and Institute Outcomes Surveys**

Prepared for BCCAT by Gaylord, Ducharme and Associates, this in-depth research report analyzes data collected in the 1995 and 1996 Student Outcomes Surveys and focuses on responses from students classified as having exited from a university transfer program. This set of 14,534 students was asked whether or not they had tried to transfer credits. Those who did transfer credits were then asked whether or not they experienced "problems in completing this transfer." Approximately 16% of transfer students indicated some form of transfer problem. The research report focuses on analyzing and categorizing the students' open-ended responses which describe the nature of the transfer problem they encountered. This information has provided an understanding of the nature and magnitude of the transfer problems students experience.

As a direct result of this research, the 1997 Student Outcomes Survey questions have been substantially modified and expanded to provide much more extensive information on student transfer that will become available for analysis in the Fall of 1997. The full research report, *Student Transfer Issues Revealed in British Columbia's Post-Secondary Education Student Outcomes Surveys: An Analysis Intended to Enhance the Survey's Future Utility*, is available on BCCAT Online ([www.islandnet.com/bccat](http://www.islandnet.com/bccat)) or from the BCCAT office.

### **SFU Transfer Student Performance Research**

Transfer students represent about one third of SFU's new student admissions. Under contract with BCCAT this past year, SFU's Office of Analytical Studies updated its previous research on B.C. college transfer students who were admitted to SFU between



1991/92 to 1995/96. This research report provides extensive demographic information about the numbers of transfer students admitted to SFU and the institutions from which they transferred. The report also includes information on their academic performance such as their admission GPA, their GPA in selected courses at SFU, general trends in GPA performance from admission through graduation, and degree completion rates. These data are provided for each B.C. college and university college. Most importantly, the report compares the performance of transfer students with that of students who entered SFU directly from high school. This research is invaluable to the system as it reassures students studying or contemplating study in the colleges that they can expect to be well prepared for university studies as a result of their college program.

The report, entitled *Profile of B.C. College Transfer Students Admitted to Simon Fraser University 1991/92 to 1995/96*, is available on our web site or from the BCCAT office.

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## Major Projects and Initiatives in 1996/97

### Study of Block Transfer

Since coming to the Council last October Finola Finlay has researched the concept of Block Transfer and presented on the topic to several groups. A BCCAT Discussion Paper has been distributed which poses the question: "**Should we develop a block transfer system for arts and sciences degrees in British Columbia?**" It is important that BCCAT hears from individuals and institutions on this topic. The deadline for responses has been set for the end of September. Copies of the Discussion Paper have been distributed to all public post-secondary institutions in the province, and can be downloaded from the BCCAT Online web site ([www.islandnet.com/bccat](http://www.islandnet.com/bccat)).

Further research and consultation and an examination of the responses to this discussion paper will be a major initiative of the Council in 1997/98.

**Block Transfer Committee Membership:** John Dennison, Co-Chair, BCCAT; Frank Gelin, Co-Chair, BCCAT; Finola Finlay, Special Advisor, BCCAT; Dean Goard, Secretary, TUPC; Neil Guppy, Assoc Dean, UBC; Dianne Humphrey, faculty, Camosun; Carol Matthews, Director, CCTT; Jamie McEvoy, student, CFS; John Meagher, VP, NIC; Judith Osborne, Assoc VP, SFU; Terry Sherwood, Assoc VP, U Vic; Don Tunstall, Dean, UCFV; John Waters, Dean, Capilano.

## Task Force on Standards and Processes

The Task Force on Standards and Processes was formed to identify impediments to smooth and efficient student transfer which may result from administrative processes in use in B.C. institutions. An initial report, written in May 1996, identified the type of issues with which this committee should deal.

The Task Force recognized the need to solicit input from registration staff and student advisors to identify useful current and potential resources, obtain information on kinds and frequency of transfer problems, and to ascertain students' level of knowledge of the transfer system. To this purpose, a survey was produced and distributed in February to registration staff and student advisors. Over a hundred responses were received.

Initial results indicate that:

- Advisors perceive B.C.'s transfer system to be functioning well;
- We need to provide more user-friendly information about transfer to students and others;
- We need to designate the *B.C. Transfer Guide* as the "official" guide;
- We should clarify the reciprocity of course transfer credit (e.g. university to college);
- There are several specific practices in use in our institutions which can create barriers and difficulties for transfer students.

Data from the survey and from other sources have been used to develop several draft recommendations. These were presented at the annual meeting of our Institutional Contact Persons on May 9th in Vancouver, and the contact persons have been requested to survey their institutions for comments or reactions. Final recommendations, when developed, will be prioritized and brought to Council.

Copies of the draft report are available from BCCAT by [contacting us](#).

**Task Force Membership:** Nick Heath, SFU (chair); Mary Cooney, UBC; Kathleen Cook (student); Dale Gruntman, CNC; Norma Macovi, OLA; Alan McMillan, ECIAD; Ray Pillar, UCC; Barbara Robertson, Capilano; Maria Romanelli, BCCAT; Finola Finlay, BCCAT.

## Transcript Standards Committee

In the course of research undertaken by BCCAT, various items were identified related to the equitable treatment of students transferring within the post-secondary system. In some cases these issues were related directly to transcribing practices, or to the interpretation of transcripts. The Council therefore approached the B.C. Registrars' Association to seek their advice and assistance in considering the development of a set of common standards for the preparation of student transcripts. It was thought that such guidelines could help to

ensure that students across the system are treated consistently, thus ensuring a greater degree of equity.

To devise a guide for standardized records and transcripts the committee has reviewed the academic record and transcript guide of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers and is in the process of producing a draft *B.C. Record and Transcript Guide*. Information gathered from a survey of B.C. registrars is also being used in this draft. The document is currently being reviewed by committee members for revisions and feedback.

The work of this committee is in its initial stages and will likely continue into the next academic year.

**Transcript Standards Committee Membership:** Penny Gallagher, Langara; Mary Hodder, BCIT; Greg Link, Malaspina; Gaylea Wong, UBC; Finola Finlay, BCCAT; Maria Romanelli, BCCAT.

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## News From The Articulation Committees

There are 67 Provincial Articulation Committees which meet at least once a year to discuss articulation issues, anticipate changes and resolve differences. Each has a chair, elected by its members, and a liaison administrator, appointed by BCCAT. The Council recently published *A Handbook for Articulation Committee Chairs and Liaison Administrators* in order to provide in a single document information regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Council, the Committees, the Chairs and the Liaison Administrators. Copies can be obtained from the BCCAT office or the BCCAT Online web site ([www.islandnet.com/bccat](http://www.islandnet.com/bccat)).

BCCAT maintains files on each committee and receives regular reports and minutes.

Several common themes emerge from reports received this spring. Block transfer, articulation from private institutions, and transitions from secondary schools to public post-secondary institutions were discussed at many of the meetings. The Private Post-Secondary Education Commission (PPSEC) registers and accredits private institutions. Articulation agreements between post-secondary institutions and those private institutions which have been accredited by PPSEC will in future be governed by a provincial framework currently under development by MoEST and CCTT.

Many articulation committees now have as members representatives of the secondary school sector. With more emphasis being placed on Career Preparation Programs, secondary students will be taking courses which relate more directly to post-secondary



fields of study. Many secondary schools have already negotiated articulation agreements with post-secondary institutions to provide smoother transitions for those students. There was discussion at several articulation committee meetings regarding the new subjects in the secondary school Applied Academics Curriculum, as well as revisions to other curricular areas.

## **Notes from a few recent meetings of Articulation Committees (AC's)...**

Math, ECE, Communications, Computers in Education, Visual Arts and Business Education Coordinating Committee/Business Education Articulation Committee (BECC/BEAC) all devoted agenda time to discussions with representatives of the K-12 system... Frank Gelin attended this year's meeting of the English AC to report on an April meeting held at Simon Fraser University with representatives from Capilano, Douglas and Kwantlen Colleges. Clarification helped reduce misunderstandings regarding English transfer credit at SFU... the Human Services AC agenda included presentations on Block Transfer and the Multilateral Task Force on Career Pathing... Representatives from related organizations - the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the Certified General Accountants and the Certified Management Accountants - attended and submitted reports to the BECC/BEAC... It was noted by the Tourism Education AC that a closer link with the BECC and BEAC committees would be advantageous... A joint reply was prepared by the Travel Programs AC to the Ministry of the Attorney General in answer to its survey reviewing the Travel Assurance Fund Regulations... Two particular concerns were expressed by the Visual Arts AC, related to the criteria for evaluation and approval of a new Fine Arts Degree, and the limited opportunities for students in two year programs to complete a Fine Arts degree... It makes your mouth water to read some of the topics discussed at the Professional Cook Training AC meeting - topics such as vegetarian cooking, garnishing, sugar art and the Great Canadian Beer Festival... ESL has produced an impressive draft ESL Articulation Handbook.

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## **1997-98 B.C. Transfer Guide**

BCCAT's eighth annual edition (1997-98) of the *B.C. Transfer Guide* will be available for distribution in early July. The distribution of the guide will include all B.C. public post-secondary institutions, private institutions, secondary schools, public libraries, community skills centres, and various other institutions and organizations across the country and beyond. We continually receive requests for the guide throughout the year, confirming that not only is the guide a necessary tool for B.C., but is useful to out-of-province colleges, universities, schools and organizations.

The online version of the 1997-98 *Guide* was released in early June, and can be accessed on BCCAT's web site. Approximately 1800 "hits" to the site per month are now being recorded and this is expected to climb as access to the World Wide Web increases and as people become aware of the utility of the online guide.

The online transfer guide is only part of BCCAT Online. The site also provides extensive links to information about the B.C. post-secondary system, other post-secondary systems in Canada and around the world, and of course a lot of information about our Council, including all of its publications and related research reports.

BCCAT Online can be found on the Internet at: [www.islandnet.com/bccat](http://www.islandnet.com/bccat)

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## **Barbara Clague Joins Council Staff**

BCCAT is pleased to welcome **Barbara Clague** to the position of **Executive Secretary** with the Council. Many in the post-secondary system will remember Barbara from the Advanced Education Council of British Columbia which she helped to create, and where she was Acting Executive Director. Barbara was the Administrative Assistant to Tom Perry while he was Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, and to John Cashore, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. Barbara has also served as a board member with the Pacific Association for Continuing Education, and with Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada, and has been involved with numerous community initiatives. We are fortunate to have acquired the services of such an experienced member of our post-secondary community. Barbara can be contacted at 604-412-7683, or by emailing [bclague@bcit.bc.ca](mailto:bclague@bcit.bc.ca)

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## **New Council Office**

The Council office is now located in the new BCIT downtown campus at Dunsmuir and Seymour in Vancouver. It is a "smart" building which means the telecommunications and cabling setup is among the most advanced in the country. As well as BCIT programs, other occupants of the building include Columbia College, CIBC Small Business Centre/BCIT's Venture Program, and the Center for Applied Academics. The latter shares adjoining equipment and storage space with the Council.

Along with bigger and brighter work space a significant improvement is the availability of a meeting room for up to 16 people which is available at **no charge** to members of B.C.'s education community. The meeting room is adjacent to the Council's office and is available weekdays, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Please call us at (604) 412-7700 if you wish to book the room. Do drop by and visit us.

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