



VANCOUVER ISLAND
UNIVERSITY

Vancouver Island University

Western Regional Criminology Articulation Committee Meeting

Minutes of WRCAC Annual Meeting, May 14-15

Criminology Department @ VIU
5/14/2009

Special Thanks to our Criminology Graduates!

- **Geri Bemister** for making room and refreshment arrangements and looking after all things various and sundry.
- **William Law** for recording these minutes.

Present:

John Anderson: VIU

Lisette Patenaude: VIU

Geri Bemister: VIU

William Law: VIU

Erich Schellhammer: Royal Roads University

Charles Stuart: Yukon college

Susan Thomson: Douglas College

Eric Tompkins: College of New Caledonia

Jarkko Jalava: Okanagan college

John Fairlie: Capilano University

Michael Braqnt: Northwest Community College

Ann Parks: Lethbridge College

Barb Mantello: Lethbridge College

Rali McIvor: BC Council of Admissions and Transfers

Jamie Morton: North Island College

Jessie Horner: Quantlen Polytechnic

Dawn Flemming: Correction studies and Aboriginal Program: Saskatchewan Institute

Gail Anderson: SFU

John Whitley: SFU

John Wynterdyk: Mt. Royal College

Martin Silverstyn: UFV

Darrell Kean: Langara College

Eva Wilmot: Camosun College

Karen Kaercher: Camosun College

Nickolas Jones: University of Regina

Lara-Lisa Condello: Nikola College

May 14 Opening Remarks:

John Anderson, Chair of Criminology Department at VIU, welcomes attendees and provides opening remarks.

Review of Agenda:

One announcement (John Anderson) meet at Firehouse Grill at 6pm.

Rali Mclvor, BC Council of Admissions and Transfers (BCCAT):

- Articulation committee has different structure than other committees; Rali is new with this committee; context into who BCCAT is and what relationship is with government and articulation committees.
- Council is 14 members appointed by ministry of advanced education; council refers to the staff as well; members meet 4 times/year; council has 5 committees- research, admissions, ect; TAC- transfer and articulation committee- charged with overseeing articulation of committees e.g. if there was a discipline that didn't have a committee- put together a proposal and the TAC would review that proposal;
- Relationship to government- the council is at arms length to the Ministry; TAC is what all articulation committees report to; 68 committees out there eg. Biology, dental hygiene, ect.;
- Articulation Committee Companion- terms of reference for articulation committees; reviewed in 2001/2002; General background on terms of reference: defining what is articulation; what to talk about? "How to articulate" handbook; ' is a process, transfer credit is the end result'; goal for student to get transfer credit; purpose and goals: vehicle for exchanging info and foster relations; people will cooperate when they know the people in other institutions who deliver similar programs;
- Roles and obligations: BC CAT- support and assist profs; Rali is the liaison; make the info from committees available; represent the discipline and meet once a year to discuss issues- accountable to tax paying public; faculty are committee members, Deans represent the administrative side of matters; institutions support your attendance to at least one meeting once each year;
- Accountability and reporting- meetings made possible with public funds therefore we are accountable to tax paying public; no right to privacy as such; all minutes made public; institutional reports: no requirement to do them; committees do different things; some need submission in advance; Rali suggests that committees need not go through reports for the whole meeting
- BC CAT- low profile; want to change this; focus more attention on advertising and marketing; attend career fairs; started wide-spread advertising campaign in Lower Mainland; spread more awareness of tools provided to advising centres; publications; new policy- council passed new policy to include Alberta institutions in BC transfer to be implemented in September 2009;

- Athabasca University has applied to the BC transfer system; pending requests in the bc transfer guide- list of criminology courses submitted to the system; need to purge them from the system as they've been there too long; encourage institutions to make decisions on pending courses; all old courses will be archived; list circulated with transfer credit contacts
- Rali will send list of courses pending articulation to John A. to send to all meeting attendees
- Question: articulation on 3rd and 4th year courses? Has a decision been reached on whether we continue to seek articulation in this regard?
 - Rali: Some institutions will consider upper level requests; others will not do this so its up to every institution to say for themselves whether they will consider this; suggest follow up with own institution for more information
 - Chair: activate list through BC CAT as its more user-friendly; have the list of names posted there; contact the BCCAT rep on articulation committee incase there is no response; want contact with faculty member, not necessarily with an advisor
 - Rali: nothing to stop person from communicating with people they know in other institutions
 - Rali: BC and Alberta want to include each other in transfer systems; collaboration on tri-council initiatives, working with Ontario and NB; BC and Sask. are not working on initiatives, but Alberta and BC are actively doing so; Alberta will work with Sask. as it's a more appropriate business partnership;

4. Reports from Institutions

John Anderson: VIU

- Articulation issues and how VIU handles them; enrollment up this year by 7.3%; applications for 1st year courses down but no classes cancelled; becoming a university; no provincial money for research; community agencies provide monies; expected enrollment increase with new status; market-friendly; faculty of social sciences set up bylaws; articulation-requests are well identified; streamlining.
- VIU allows up to 9 credits from other institutions; some students go to TRU or SFU; registration gives no credit for Humber College police foundations courses; VIU conducts assessments to determine equivalency; students applying to BA Crim must have C- or better; will accept student if agree to re-take course within first year.

John Fairlie: Capilano University (Full Program Proposal- Paralegal Degree)

- Feels less need to articulate because there are few similarities and jurisdiction-specific; law-school like program; 50% are substantive law school courses, other 50% are procedural; use law firm practice manuals;

- Approached UBC law school to use base books; students have to have some post secondary education- 2 years or equivalent w/ experience; many have university degrees (70%) when they enroll in the program; not much need to articulate but would like to pursue;
- If degree approved, general credits will accompany as long as they satisfy BC CAT requirements; 1st paralegal program in BC (1976); not many programs in BC; Capilano University paralegal program, VCC continuing education and some private institutions;
- CU provides certificate and diploma; arguments for having the degree option- improve quality of legal services; degree will attract top quality candidates; improve access to legal services; savings through use of paralegals; will provide a benchmark for employers; degree would be a step towards certification; would be an opportunity to ladder to law school; arguments against- salary inflation?
- Education inflation? Tiered profession?; gone through many processes over 4 years, now at the DQUAB Recommendation stage; CU is well situated to fill need; DQUAB will occur likely in early June 2009; faculty teaching law are LLMS; projected start date is September 2010
- General discussion: Template for institutional reports to identify what is important to the committee; looking at time limits; focus only on the “high-points”; more structured approach; identify agenda points that are of common interest.
 - Motion 1: **Presentation of Institutional Reports should be 5 minutes, include highlights in a brief written report which identify topics of common interest.** Motioned carried.
 - **Draft institution report template will be distributed to WRCAC members by Chair for recommendations changes and/or additions.** Motion carried.

Karen Kaercher: Camosun College

- New diploma implemented; first cohort moved through, second in fall; introduced 5 practical skills courses; courses went well; bachelor of criminal justice- roadblock- Ministry of advanced education- will not refer it to the quality assessment; one peer review from Douglas college;
- Camosun plan to meet with Ministry to see what the hold up is; they do not see a bachelor degree as a requirement; justice institute has concerns about applied degrees in justice and feel they are more appropriate provider as such; there exists overlap; in process of meeting with Ministry and Justice Institute to allay concerns; rationalization- not seeking Ministry funding.
- General Discussion: turf war- is there a role for the committee to assess the proposals? Employers in CJS are not only seeking criminology grads; look at field placements as pre-employment with agencies

Michael Brandt: Northwest Community College

- Community, Crime and Social Justice certificate program- starts in September 2009; people in community will hire people with this certificate; suggest that you do not need a degree to get some of the jobs in the CJS; that is the direction that this institution will be taking;
- Practicum placements have been challenging; not paid practicum; provide fully articulated courses to ladder beyond the certificate.

John Winterdyk: Mt Royal College

- Numbers are healthy; full degree; phasing out applied degree;
- Alberta is trying to articulate with colleges providing certificates and diplomas and defining minimum standards revolving around Bill 4; look at BC involvement; Criminal Justice research lab open (only one in Alberta); four new online courses.

Darrell Kean: Langara College

- Small program- 80 students per year; readiness of people to tackle university transferable courses; lose students to job market because of academics- unmotivated or struggling with basics;
- Lack of institutional support re: allegations of cheating and plagiarism.

Lunch 1200-13:30

Presentation on Urban Gangs by Supt. P Fogarty, RCMP

Eric Tompkins: New Caledonia

- Courses articulate mostly with SFU, but increasingly with other institutions like VIU, UFV, more interest from students going to these places;
- Many students change directions or go into social work after a couple years of criminology; policing is an increasing goal in terms of where students go likely because of the increased opportunities; numbers seem to be going up slightly (+12%)

Jessie Horner: Kwantlen University

- Some changes to three core 1st year courses to incorporate relevant content about communities; slight changes in skills development such as written skills, legal systems and oral skills; grappling with requirements of distinction between two degrees; very determined course and students have little choice;
- New honors course coming on to both BA criminal justice and BA criminology; likely going to increase offerings of special topics to one each terms, such as international crime and Olympics, security and social justice this coming fall; enrolment is good;
- Formal program review has started as part of institution-wide, regular process and expect it to take a year; practicum discussion in terms of how

many credits to offer? 6? 9? Students and faculty and placements want to see it as 15 credits;

- Kenya Initiative to help develop criminology program and a social work program; conference for two days “tolerance/intolerance, difference/indifference’ to provide academic engagement for students and community.

Jarkko Jalava: Okanagan College

- Arts based courses; 2nd graduating class, numbers are going up; Certificate program which will transfer better to SFU; planning on 4 year program;
- Applied social sciences would be the general heading; if numbers continue to grow, will expand to Vernon; no articulation issues at the moment

Dawn Flemming: Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology

- SIAST does not grant degrees; articulating aboriginal police preparation program- 6 month program, into U of Regina program; researching police hiring practices as suggested that practices are out-dated (Phase 1 of 3);
- Corrections program is undergoing major review; 25 anniversary so looking to put on conference; 85% of students are aboriginal- location, labor force is up coming;
- RCMP are wanting to hire more aboriginal people, CCC came to classrooms to hire aboriginal females and ended up hiring four individuals out of a first year class; students are being hired without need to finish degree

Gail Anderson/ John Whatley: Simon Fraser University

- Crim one is doing well in Surrey; Police studies certificate, builds on concentration at Surrey campus; developing other certifications like legal studies, forensic studies, cyber-crime and restorative justice; 98% enrolment in criminology; grad level; new MA in applied legal studies- has 21 students now; International Cyber-crime research centre opened last summer;
- Academic dishonesty- new code of conduct by SCAISLE chaired by Rob Gordon; new grade ‘FD’ fail for academic dishonesty; student abilities are dropping massively which is concerning;
- MA for applied legal studies- carry regular students into Ontario practice who don’t want to be notaries; 30 credit MA, 7 fully online courses, 3 are blended (some face to face; some online), 6 courses are now completed; getting experienced in MA/MLS blend;
- Online courses are liked; like voice-over system; request for more virtual classrooms/online done in real-time on E-live; media functionality; virtual whiteboard; courses are difficult, not a light degree; do some blended learning at undergraduate level/online tutorials; experiment to see if students are more comfortable with it and perhaps to save money too (budget cuts); new books- Corrections text and biological reasons of crime; classics in environmental criminology on the way (2010)

Jamie Morton: North Island College

- 3 courses offered; in place for a couple of years; numbers are low; ITV way of future for rural colleges; history of crime and punishment will be offered;
- Student population- some go aspire to police, some in liberal studies- more females and adult students; block transfer program would be strong; 20-25 students per class

Sussan Thompson: Douglas College

- Not degree granting; 2 year diploma, certificate and transfer; legal studies diploma now in 2nd year of offering; 30-35 students flowing through that program;
- Youth justice program- successful; has practicum component; developed associative arts with forensic studies focus that ladders to BCIT based on computing stream and chemistry stream; working with Fraser Valley to develop criminology BA degree- students will ladder to Fraser Valley (UFV);
- Justice Institute's law enforcement program provided some articulation issues but seem to have been cleared.

Erich Shellhammer: Royal Roads University

- Program now 6 years old; intake for one year has been cancelled; two year model will now only be offered; 5 year external review and waiting for it to take place;
- Changes- dropped class on culture as redundant; introduce research methods class for social services; business orientation within academia; less focus on social responsibility and more on money generation.

Meeting adjourned- 16:10 pm

Friday 15 May 2009 9:00am

- Discuss who hosts next year's meeting: Michael Brandt; tentative date of May 27/28 in Terrace BC.

Institutional Reports Cont'd

Martin Silverstein: University of the Fraser Valley

- Approached to give credit for high school courses, specifically in grade 11/12 in regards to a restorative justice course; part of recruitment and retention efforts; questions on quality of writing;
- Request for police programs, but some are not a fit because they are so specific- many are not academic, too vocational; student enrollment spiked in 06/07 but 08/09 appears to be increasing; student recruitment- visiting law classes in high schools- has generated interest; drop out rate after 1st year is high, right across the board- looking to ask what is happening; gained university status and saw increase in applications by 30%;

- Joint agreement with Douglas college in 3rd and 4th year; have agreement with BCIT for forensics; increased online courses; employment- many students are being hired right from their practicum placements

Ann Parks & Barb Mantello: Lethbridge College

- CACJ; applied degree in correctional studies; working to see possibility of expanding applied degree to other streams; Alberta economy is changing- so is the expansion feasible?
- Program review has been completed in policing diploma; new program will start in September; intent of diploma to train for small police departments in Alberta; diploma modified in light of police agencies having their own training for skills;
- Enrollment is up; retention should not be only about keeping the student, but looking at why the student is leaving: employment, not competent, lack interest; majority of 1st year students leave because they are not succeeding academically; 3rd year for corrections is entirely online; adoption of 'Angel' server; growth in distance learning.

Nicholas Jones: University of Regina

- Enrollment is excellent; success with Justice program; looking at contributing to a new textbook; any proceeds made will be channeled into a scholarship; new courses online; review on course sequencing; International course held in Winnipeg; Articulation agreements with SIAST.

Laralisa Condello: Nicola Valley Institute of Technology

- Justice Studies Dept. is brand new; Associates of Arts degree, law enforcement prep program in Merrit; Associate Arts in criminology is in Burnaby; many of the students are Aboriginal; many courses taught from Aboriginal world-view;
- Many students come back to NVIT to complete programs because of small classes; 1st week orientation for all students to participate in, look at essential skills and engage cultural activities; push 'retention alert', comes from Camosun, building circle of support, check up on students who, for example, are absent from class; indigenization strategy funding has been given; adult aboriginal teaching- looking at cultural biases

Roundtable Discussion of Current Events and General Concerns

Plagiarism

- Mostly unprepared students who are plagiarizing; concerned about failing students; maintaining standards at the institution; software to check for plagiarism- plus in a sentence into Google Scholar and see if plagiarized; 'turnitin.com' – students must agree to that submission; getting message out early on in their degree; can students be denied the degree for consistent academic dishonesty?

- Concerns about writing abilities, examples of students having difficulties writing even in 3rd year, focus on aiding students to hone writing abilities and ability to get ideas onto paper

Applied BA programs compared to Vocational Studies

- Many programs claim to be academic; is there overlap? But WRCAC articulates many of the same courses, so overlap argument falls short;
- Need clear distinction academic and vocational programs; need for a clarification of argument and specific detail to be able to respond with feedback (idea of a sub committee to provide feedback).
- Idea of developing a mandate for WRCAC and whether it includes activism. Pick a theme once a year and take a position on it.

Practicum- when offered, how many credits? Round the table:

- John Wintedyk.: 3rd/4th year, min 250 hrs per semester, no more than three classes on top of that, supervisor, evaluation done by host agency, regular contact b/w practicum coordinator and agency; all students interviewed before placed; with degree students have option to take honors course or practicum or combination
- Dawn Flemming: U of S Faculty sponsored; evaluation by onsite supervisor; done in second year
- SFU: done in one semester; 15 credits total; security clearance can take one plus semester

Business model of education- revenue as prime motive program development

- Business model is what most universities operate on; our ability to adapt to this model; Corporate model is suggested- branding an institution, concerns over the 'service' provided to students; threatens academic freedom, not much support from administration in regards to plagiarism; keep flow of tuition dollars; corporatization is a concern; students see themselves as customers;
- Huge power differentials between students and professors; profs get to evaluate their students, businesses do not get to evaluate their customers; is the prime motive for a university educating, as their mandates suggest, or is it about making profit margins?
- Follow up online for everyone's practicum information

Meeting adjourned at 12:15

Professional Development

13:30-16:00 - Tour of Guthrie House "therapeutic community" at Nanaimo Regional Correctional Centre (courtesy of arrangements made by Lisette Patenaude).