VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
November 29, 2024
3:30–5:30 p.m., Videoconference

ATTENDANCE

Education Council Members		
Natasha Mandryk (Chair)	David Wells	Rahul Ranwa
Louise Dannhauer (Vice-Chair)	Dennis Innes	Shirley Lew
Andy Sellwood	Emily Logan	Todd Rowlatt
Anik Joy Varghese	Emily Simpson	Vivian Munroe
Brianna Higgins	Lisa Beveridge	
Dave McMullen	Nafiseh Tohidi	
David Kirk	Poorna Karthikeya Balachandar	

Regrets		
Kseniia Osipova	Stephanie Callaghan	

Guests		
Adrian Lipsett	Clay Little	Jennifer Kelly
Brynn Joyce	Dawn Cunningham Hall	Tanya O'Neill

Recording Secretary
Darija Rabadzija

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   - The meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m.

2. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**
   - L, Beveridge acknowledged the College's location on the traditional unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱ wú7mesh (Squamish), and səl̓ilw̓ əta?ł (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 November 29, 2024 agenda as presented.

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

4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

   a) **Program Updates: Associate of Arts Degree, Associate of Science Degree, Associate of Science Degree in Computer Science (new PCG)**

   b) **New Program Pathways: Associate of Arts Degree in Psychology, Associate of Science Degree in Data Science, and Associate of Science Degree in Environmental Science Program**

   MOTION: THAT Education Council approves, with changes approved at this meeting, the revised program content guides for the Associate of Arts Degree and the Associate of Science Degree, program content guide for the Associate of Science Degree in Computer Science, and wireframe (outline) program content guides for the new Associate of Arts Degree in Psychology, Associate of Science Degree in Data Science, and Associate of Science Degree in Environmental Science; and recommends the Board of Governors approve the new credentials and program implementation.

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

- S. Lew, J. Kelly and T. Rowlatt presented the proposals for three new associate degree pathways: an Associate of Arts Degree in Psychology, Associate of Science Degree in Data Science, and Associate of Science Degree in Environmental Science.

- The Associate of Arts Degree program content guide (PCG) was previously approved by Education Council, but has been on hold since September 2020, since the Humanities department did not offer enough second-year courses to meet the program requirements. The department is now prepared to proceed with the necessary course development to implement this program, starting with a Psychology pathway.

- The Associate of Science Degree PCG was approved by Education Council in 2021 and currently includes one pathway in Computer Science. The Science department is proposing an additional pathway in Environmental Science, and a new pathway in Data Science (jointly with the Math department).

- These three potential new pathways were identified during the University Transfer (UT) renewal in 2022–2023. Associate degrees present a growth opportunity for VCC, and domestic and international students will be taking classes together. The programs build on existing UT pathways, adding second-year courses. This structure will allow students to remain at VCC for two years and benefit from small class sizes and student supports before transferring to university to complete a degree, if they choose.

- The six PCGs are similar, with differences in the admission requirements sections and course lists. Some second-year courses still need to be developed, but there is sufficient time to get these courses in place for the second year (September 2026 to April 2027). As part of the rapid development process, EdCo accepted the proposal without all courses being fully developed. The proposals also did not go through Curriculum Committee due to the tight timeline.

- Based on recommendations from the Registrar's Office and International Education, separate program content guides (PCGs) were created for the new pathways (Arts: Psychology; Science: Data Science and Environmental Science), and for the existing Associate of Science in Computer Science pathway. This will make it easier to manage different admission requirements, as well as collect statistics on the different pathways.

- "Generic" PCGs for both the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science Degrees will be maintained. The PCGs were revised to update admission requirements and remove PLAR (prior learning assessment and recognition). The rationale for removing PLAR is that associate degrees are mostly transfer pathways to university, and PLAR is not generally transferrable between institutions. The possibility of providing PLAR at a later date will be explored. Recommended characteristics of students were previously very generic and were completely removed.

- Members discussed the program learning outcomes (PLOs), which are currently identical for all pathways. Most institutions use generic PLOs, though some institutions list outcomes specific to each pathway. It was agreed to keep the generic PLOs but add more specificity to the program purpose section for each pathway.

- Members inquired about the maximum time for completion, since some students may take longer than 4 years to complete the courses. It was agreed to extend the maximum time for completion to 5 years, and to add a note advising students wishing to transfer to another institution to check the receiving institutions timeline for requirements.

- There was a longer discussion about the requirement for Grade 12 graduation (or equivalent). The requirement is a way to manage the age of potentially underage applicants. In addition, some receiving institutions may require high school graduation. VCC has a [Flexible Admission](#) policy for mature students and those with non-traditional backgrounds, which are outlined on the [VCC website](#). It was suggested to provide more information on this page specific to different circumstances (students from other countries/provinces/without a high school diploma, etc.). No changes were made to the PCG.

- Opportunities to include more Indigenous content in course development are being explored, including in environmental science, data science and ethics/philosophy courses.

- Implementation of second-year courses was discussed, as it may be challenging to recruit enough students to run these offerings. The range of courses will be kept narrower initially, and courses will be shared among different pathways. Demand for different offerings is being analyzed, and marketing will be part of the strategy to launch these programs. It was suggested to cross-list existing courses from other areas that could fulfill credit requirements under "other courses" (courses outside of Arts & Science), e.g. some more general business or computer science courses. Students are informed of these "other courses" options by Advising, and it was recommended to make this information available to students on the website, similar to the planned Open Studies listings.

- E. Logan left the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

c) **Update: Program Name Changes**

- N. Mandryk reported that the Board of Governors approved proposed program name changes at its November 27, 2024 meeting. After the EdCo meeting, B. Griffiths, in consultation with the department, requested an adjustment to the new name for the Automotive Collision and Refinishing Diploma from the initially proposed Automotive Mechanic and Refinishing Diploma to Automotive Repair and Refinishing Technician Diploma. The updated name change does not affect the proposed new CIP or the program implementation, but better describes the program. N. Mandryk agreed to update the advice to the Board accordingly, as she determined that EdCo's discussion and advice likely applied equally to the new proposed name.

- A brief update was provided on other upcoming program changes coming to Education Council. Concept papers and PCG "wireframes" as part of rapid development will come to EdCo, while fully developed courses and PCGs will need to go through Curriculum Committee by March 2025 and EdCo in April 2025 at the latest for programs launching in September 2025.

5. **NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**
- The next Education Council meeting will be held on December 10, 2024, 3:30–5:30 p.m.
- The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

APPROVED AT THE DECEMBER 10, 2024 EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETING

Natasha Mandryk
Chair, VCC Education Council