



ATTENDANCE

Education Council Members

Table with 3 columns of names: Natasha Mandryk (Chair), Belinda Kaplan, Brianna Higgins, David Kirk, David Wells, Dennis Innes, Derek Sproston, Emily Simpson, Jessica Ligeralde, Kseniia Osipova, Lisa Beveridge, Louise Dannhauer, Marcus Ng, Shirley Lew, Todd Rowlett, Vivian Munroe

Regrets

Table with 3 columns of names: Dana Valeria Rodriguez Arellano, Heidi Parisotto, Simranjot Kaur, Dave McMullen, Sarah Kay

Guests

Table with 3 columns of names: Adrian Lipsett, Les Apouchtine, Sheri Wiwchar, Clay Little, Lucy Griffith, Sky Yu, Jennifer Gossen, Marnie Findlater, Stefan Nielsen, Jo-Ellen Zakoor, Nigel Scott, Tannis Morgan, John Demeulemeester, Shantel Ivits, William Alvarado Barraza

Recording Secretary

Darija Rabadzija

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. L. Dannhauer chaired the meeting on N. Mandryk’s behalf.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- M. Ng acknowledged the College’s location on the traditional unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwx̱ wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłw̓ ətaʔt (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 May 14, 2024 agenda as presented.
Moved by L. Beveridge, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

4. APPROVE PAST MINUTES

MOTION: THAT Education Council approve the April 9, 2024 minutes as presented.
Moved by D. Wells, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

5. ENQUIRIES & CORRESPONDENCE

- L. Dannhauer reported that student representative J. Ligeralde’s term on EdCo ended at the end of April due to her graduation at the end of April. J. Ligeralde was thanked for her contributions to EdCo and Curriculum Committee. No by-election will be held at this time. Regular elections will take place in the fall.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

a) International Enrolment

- J. Gossen presented an update on developments related to international enrolment since the announcement of the national cap on study permit applications in January 2024.
- VCC's international enrolment in May 2024 was slightly higher than planned; most of these students already had study permits before the new rules came into effect. Projected enrolment numbers for 2024/2025 were revised, particularly for post-degree diploma programs). Some students are pursuing master's programs at other institutions instead, which are still eligible for spousal open work permits. While VCC's allocation of provincial attestation letters (PALs) for 2025/26 is unknown, the College is moving forward with plans for new programs.
- Efforts to manage the current situation include promoting BC as a study location, analyzing data to identify and respond to trends, and enhancing recruitment efforts. To support student retention and success, International Education is focusing on early intervention and case management for at-risk students, which includes raising awareness of potential impacts of academic issues on their student visas. The department is also developing a student success module, which will include topics such as academic support and health and wellness.

b) Deans' & Directors' Annual Presentations – Part 4

- The annual update was presented by L. Griffith, Dean of Trades, Technology and Design. Key themes included hybrid apprenticeships and new programming in emerging fields to be delivered out of the future Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation (CCEAI).

c) Enrolment Plan 2024–2025

MOTION: THAT Education Council recommend the Board of Governors approve the 2024–2024 Enrolment Plan, in the form presented at this meeting.

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

- The initial draft of the Enrolment Plan (EP) 2024–2025 was presented at a special Education Council meeting on March 18 in order for EdCo to provide advice to the Board of Governors. Since it was identified that both domestic and international registration numbers required adjustments, EdCo advised the Board to delay approval until an updated plan was available. The draft EP was not presented at the March 27 Board meeting.
- D. Wells presented an updated version of the Enrolment Plan. Data was filtered to exclude students who enrolled in the previous fiscal year. The updated draft removed the erroneous inclusions of domestic enrolment from the previous fiscal year and international enrolment in domestic-only developmental programming. International registration numbers were also adjusted. Due to recent changes coming from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, the situation related to international students remains in flux, and the overall international student numbers may change.
- There was discussion about reduced budgeted registration numbers for specific areas, including Music, Computer Systems Technology Diploma, and Baking. The reasons for the lower numbers were clarified; no strategic program reduction is planned.

d) Academic Year 2024/25, 2025/26, 2026/27

MOTION: THAT Education Council recommend the Board of Governors approve the Academic Year 2024/25, 2025/26, and 2026/27.

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

- L. Apouchtine presented the proposed academic year schedule for 2024–2025, 2025–2026, and 2026–2027. This document supports the coordination of academic and campus activities and operation of

the Registrar's Office. It includes public holidays and College closures, term dates, and grade submission deadlines.

- Unlike in previous years, these proposed academic dates do not include a set exam period, since many programs do not include exams. Instead, the proposed schedule lists "Last Day of Class/Exams," which is applicable to more VCC programs.
- The Fall 2026 semester, as proposed, is shorter than usual at 67 instructional days due to a late Labour Day (Sept 7, 2026). The fall semester also includes four statutory holidays and VCC Day, on which all daytime classes are cancelled. The short Fall 2026 semester will make it challenging for some areas to meet instructional hours. The Registrar's Office/Academic Scheduling will need to work proactively with these areas to arrange scheduling so required contact hours are met. It was suggested to inquire with People Services about moving VCC Day to the winter term.
- The dates for the holiday closure over the winter break fall under the purview of People Services; for this reason, the dates are listed as "TBD" on the schedule.

e) Articulation Agreement with NSCAD University

- D. Wells presented the articulation agreement with NSCAD University in Nova Scotia. The agreement will enable VCC's Jewellery Art & Design Diploma graduates to transfer into NSCAD's Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program. Since VCC is the sending institution, it was determined that the agreement does not require EdCo or Board of Governors approval and was presented for information only.
- This is a five-year agreement. It was clarified that students have between 2–5 years to complete VCC's diploma program, so there is flexibility for students requiring a reduced course load.

f) EdCo Planning Day – June

- L. Dannhauer reported that EdCo Planning Day will be held on June 6, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Topics will include generative AI and curriculum development, review, and approval processes at VCC.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Curriculum Committee

i) New Course: ENGL 0600 Editing for Grammar

MOTION: THAT Education Council approve, in the form presented at this meeting, new course ENGL 0600 Editing for Grammar.

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

- S. Ivits presented the proposal for a new Adult Basic Education (ABE) Fundamentals course. The course is specifically designed for students at the intersection of English as an Additional Language (EAL) and literacy learning. These learners have lived in Canada for a number of years and have strong English speaking and listening skills, but lower reading and writing skills, and may have limited formal education. Since adult literacy programs are generally designed for learners who speak English as their first language, this course fills a gap by teaching grammar skills tailored to EAL learners.
- It was suggested to explore the use of AI as a tool for students in this course. S. Ivits will take this recommendation back to the department.

ii) New course: SCIE 0710 Welcome to Math and Science

MOTION: THAT Education Council approve, in the form presented at this meeting, new course SCIE 0710 Welcome to Math and Science.

Moved by V. Munroe, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

- N. Mandryk presented the first of two new courses in a province-funded pathways program for ABE (Adult Basic Education) students. The purpose is to offer a low-barrier starting point for students who may have had interrupted or incomplete school experiences to enter post-secondary studies. The

course integrates assessment, acknowledgement of prior learning, and preparation for further learning in Grade 10–12 courses in math and science. To build community and foster a sense of belonging, students will move through the program in a cohort. Two pathway streams are planned: one for Indigenous students and one for students heading into Health Sciences programs.

iii) Access to Practical Nursing (APN) Home Health Pilot

MOTION: THAT Education Council approve the admission requirements change for the September 2024 Access to Practical Nursing (APN) Diploma intake based on participation in the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills APN Home Health Pilot; including home support as part of the 600 hours of work experience admission requirement.

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

- T. Rowlatt and J.-E. Zakoore presented the proposal for VCC's Access to Practical Nursing (APN) Diploma program to join the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills' APN Home Health Pilot. The pilot would allow for home support to count towards the 600 hours of work experience required for admission to the APN program. The current admission requirements explicitly exclude home care. This change will reduce barriers for students, who typically have work experience as health care assistants, and will support recruitment for this program.
- The proposal is to allow an exception only for the September 2024 intake, not to generally adjust program admission requirements. Due to the short timeline, the proposal was brought directly to EdCo without going through Curriculum Committee. Curriculum documentation will not change, but a statement will be added to the website to inform students.
- North Island College has been running this pilot for a number of years. The regulatory body for practical nursing, the BC College of Nurses and Midwives, will evaluate student outcomes. There was a discussion about recruitment for the upcoming intake and promoting the pilot to potential students.

b) Policy Committee

i) Accommodation for Students with Disabilities (327) Policy & Procedures

MOTION: THAT Education Council recommends the Board of Governors approve, in the form presented at this meeting, the Accommodation for Students with Disabilities (327) policy and procedures.

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

- B. Higgins, N. Scott and N. Mandryk presented the revised policy, which underwent a full review, including several discussions at Education Policy Committee (EPC). Feedback from the May 8 committee meeting was incorporated after distribution of the EdCo meeting package. The following additional edits were made: removing "based on provincial guidelines" from procedure #8; removing "tribunal" from the definition of procedural fairness; adding "classroom environment/learning environment" to the definition of reasonable accommodation; and removing the Student Non-Academic Conduct (324) policy from related policies.
- Education Council had no further comments.

c) Education Quality Committee

i) Program Renewal Reports: Business Management Post-Degree Diploma, Fashion Design & Production, Retail & Hospitality Careers

- T. Rowlatt presented three program renewal reports that were discussed at the last committee meeting. Departments and the CTLR were thanked for their work on these renewals.

8. CHAIR REPORT

- L. Dannhauer reported that the next Academic Governance Council meeting will be held on May 21. The council is made up of EdCo chairs and vice-chairs from institutions across B.C.
- Members were invited to express their interest in working on a review of the EdCo Bylaws.
- The 2023 Strategic Innovation Plan Accomplishments Report was presented to EdCo on April 9; an error related to the Sign Language Interpretation Diploma program identified at that meeting has been corrected.

9. STUDENT REPORT

- M. Ng reported that SUVCC organized information tables for students at both campuses last week.

10. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

- Education Council Planning Day will be held on June 6, 9:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m.
- The next regular Education Council meeting will be held on June 11, 2024, 3:30–5:30 p.m.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

APPROVED AT THE JUNE 11, 2024 EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETING

Louise Dannhauer
Vice-Chair, VCC Education Council