



ATTENDANCE

Education Council Members

Natasha Mandryk (Chair)	David Wells	Rahul Ranwa
Louise Dannhauer (Vice-Chair)	Emily Logan	Shirley Lew
Andy Sellwood	Emily Simpson	Stephanie Callaghan
Anik Joy Varghese	Kseniia Osipova	Todd Rowlett
Brianna Higgins	Lisa Beveridge	Vivian Munroe
Dave McMullen	Nafiseh Tohidi	
David Kirk		

Regrets

- Dennis Innes
- Poorna Karthikeya Balachandar

Guests

Adrian Lipsett	Jennifer Kelly	Mandy Hayre
Bobbi Mand	Jeremy White	Pervin Fahim
Dawn Cunningham Hall	Lucia Zabrieszach	Tannis Morgan
Jennifer Gossen	Malou Morales	Willy Aroca Aguirre

Recording Secretary

Darija Rabadzija

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- S. Lew 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 January 14, 2025 agenda as amended. Item 7av) Course Deactivations was added.

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

4. APPROVE PAST MINUTES

MOTION: THAT Education Council approves the December 10, 2024 minutes as presented.

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

5. ENQUIRIES & CORRESPONDENCE

- There were none.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

a) Annual Deans' & Directors' Presentations – Part 1

- J. Gossen, Director of International Education, presented the annual international education update. Current department initiatives include exploring field schools, transnational education opportunities (TNE) in the Philippines, and Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL).
- In view of recent changes by Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to rules around international students, a decrease in international enrolment is expected in 2025 and beyond. These students are expected to focus on a smaller number of programs, based on post-graduation work permit (PGWP) eligibility. The number of provincial attestation letters (required for study permit applications) allocated to VCC for 2025 is not yet known, though a reduction in numbers is expected.
- VCC is rapidly developing PGWP-eligible programs for launch in 2025 and 2026 to mitigate the impacts of IRCC rule changes. These programs align closely with labour market demands and career opportunities for graduates.

b) Update to English Language Proficiency Options: Degrees from Philippines

- D. McMullen reported that applicants will have an additional option to demonstrate their English language proficiency: completion of a four-year degree from the Philippines, taught in English. This option will be available to all standard programs; excluded are programs for which external regulatory bodies do not accept this equivalency. This information is outlined on the [English Language Proficiency page](#).
- This change is supported by results of a pilot study at VCC, conducted in collaboration between the Registrar's Office and International Education. During the pilot, the IELTS test requirement was waived for students with a degree from the Philippines. These students achieved higher than average Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) scores in their VCC programs. In addition, AACRAO Edge (American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers) considers degree programs in the Philippines equivalent to those offered in North America. More details on the pilot study were requested; J. Gossen will follow up.

c) Program Name: Hospitality Management Post-Degree Diploma

MOTION: THAT Education Council recommends the Board of Governors approve changing the name of the Hospitality and Food Service Systems Management Post-Degree Diploma back to Hospitality Management Post-Degree Diploma.

Moved by N. Mandryk Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

- N. Mandryk presented the proposal to change the name of the recently renamed Hospitality and Food Service Systems Management Post-Degree Diploma back to Hospitality Management Post-Degree Diploma. The initial name change was presented to EdCo in November 2024, but the department decided not to proceed. The change was erroneously presented to the Board of Governors at its November 2024 meeting and approved. The proposal is to undo this change.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Curriculum Committee

i) Program Update: Dental Hygiene Diploma Admission Requirements

- T. Rowlett presented an update to the Dental Hygiene Diploma, which was recently significantly revised. The revised program has not yet been implemented, awaiting tuition and implementation approvals. The department proposes changing the admission requirements for the September 2025 intake, replacing the candidate questionnaire with Casper, an online situational judgement test. GPA and Casper scores will be weighted equally for admissions. Previously, only candidates with qualifying GPA scores completed the questionnaire. Since the revised curriculum, including the use of Casper as

an admission requirement, was already approved by EdCo, the EdCo Chair agreed to empower Curriculum Committee to approve the change to the current program. The program page will be updated to inform students about Casper, but the program content guide will not be approved in CourseLeaf until the significant program revision is implemented.

ii) Program Update: Accounting Diploma

MOTION: THAT Education Council approve, in the form presented at this meeting, revisions to the Accounting Diploma program content guide and the curriculum for the new course: ACCT 2004 Data Analysis and Databases; and recommend the Board of Governors approve the new course.

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

- J. White presented proposed updates to the Accounting Diploma to provide students with a stronger background in information technology as it relates to accounting. These adjustments better align the program with a Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code that is eligible for a post-graduation work permit (PGWP). Updates include adding an existing course on business analysis and systems design, as well as creation of a new course that expands learning around data analysis and databases. Minor adjustments were made to program learning outcomes around relational databases and software implementation projects.
- Curriculum Committee discussed the removal of the Business Sustainability and Ethics course. The Canadian Business Law course covers ethics and is more applicable to the accounting context than the previous ethics course. The committee had no concerns.

iii) Program Update: Hospitality and Food Service Systems Management Diploma

MOTION: THAT Education Council approve, in the form presented at this meeting, revisions to the Hospitality and Food Service Systems Management Diploma program content guide, and recommend the Board of Governors approve the creation of three new courses: HOSP 1120 Guest Service Management, HOSP 1220 Principles of Food Production and Nutrition, and HOSP 2225 Trends in Global Hospitality and Food Services.

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

- B. Mand presented revisions to the program content guide for the Hospitality and Food Service Systems Management Diploma, following EdCo's request at the last meeting for updated program learning outcomes. The program was recently renamed to better align with a PGWP-eligible CIP code. Two new learning outcomes were added around nutrition for diverse populations and food service operations in various institutional settings (e.g., senior living or health care facilities).
- Courses were revised to embed these learning outcomes, which included creation of new course names and numbers, and updates to course learning outcomes.
- As this program is going through the accelerated approvals process, only the program content guide was presented to Education Council at this time to finalize the learning outcomes and for a recommendation to the Board to create new courses. Full course outlines will go through Curriculum Committee next week and will come to Education Council in March. The planned effective date of these changes is May 2025.
- It was clarified that existing faculty have the required expertise and have been teaching nutrition content already. The proposed adjustments simply expand and emphasize this aspect of the program. It was suggested to seek opportunities for collaboration across faculties/programs, such as with the School of Health Studies.
- R. Ranwa left the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

iv) Minor Curriculum Changes

- An information note with minor changes approved by Curriculum Committee from June to December 2024 was included in the meeting package.

v) Course Deactivations

MOTION: THAT Education Council recommends the Board of Governors approve deactivating 88 courses that are no longer taught.

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

- T. Rowlatt presented the proposal to deactivate 88 courses that are no longer taught, as part of a clean-up in preparation for the next College calendar edition. Since this work will begin soon, the course deactivations were brought directly to Education Council and did not go through Curriculum Committee. Due to recent policy changes, course deactivations now require approval by the Board of Governors.

b) Policy Committee

i) Curriculum Development and Approval Policy & Procedures (410) & Program Development and Approval Policy & Procedures (409)

- Louise Dannhauer provided an update on the revised Curriculum Development and Approval Policy and new Program Development and Approval Policy. Following the December 2024 EdCo meeting, the policies and procedures were reviewed by the Governance Committee and approved by the Board of Governors with some additional changes. Key changes included adding flexibility for the Vice President, Academic and Research, to identify urgent or minor program changes, which can be brought straight to Education Council for approval. The Board will be notified of these approvals and maintains the right to override these decisions. This modification aims to streamline the approval process while maintaining appropriate oversight.

c) Education Quality Committee

i) Curriculum Development (CD) Fund Guidelines 2025–26

- L. Dannhauer reported that, as in past years, \$400,000 in funding is available for curriculum development (CD) projects. The submission deadline for proposals is February 14, 2025. Scheduled program renewals will receive at least \$5,000 in automatic funding. Developers are encouraged to utilize AI to assist with curriculum development.

8. CHAIR REPORT

- N. Mandryk reported that educational administrators on Education Council—D. Wells, D. McMullen, S. Lew, and D. Innes, have been re-appointed for another year. This one-year extension brings all administrator terms into alignment. Next year's appointments will be for two-year terms, as stipulated in the College & Institute Act.
- Since Education Council members may be asked to serve on appeal hearing committees, N. Mandryk will host a training session by early February. The BC Ombudsperson is also offering a [training session](#) for employees in the post-secondary education sector.

9. STUDENT REPORT

- A. J. Verghese provided a written report based on student feedback, which was distributed to EdCo members. The report raised concerns about the high cost of textbooks and lack of transparency around these costs. Suggestions were put forward to address these issues, including displaying textbook costs on the website, advocating for the use of Open Educational Resources (OER), and expanding library resources. There was a discussion about benefits and challenges related to OER. It was recommended that Education Council continue the discussion at a future meeting.

10. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

- The next Education Council meeting will be held on February 11, 2025, 3:30–5:30 p.m.
- The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY 11, 2025 EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETING

Natasha Mandryk
Chair, VCC Education Council