

## Report to PCCAT, Toronto, June 16 – 18, 2008

### Structure and Governance

The Provincial Liberals are in their second term as government. Our Ministry of Advanced Education is very supportive of our work, as are our post-secondary institutions.

BCCAT, <http://www.bccat.ca>, created in 1989, is an arm's-length agency fully funded by the Ministry, but with no statutory or regulatory authority. Council members are appointed by the Minister and are selected from various institutions and constituencies but do not formally represent any specific institution or group, a critical element in the success of our work. BCCAT's mandate is to provide leadership and direction in facilitating articulation, transfer, and admission arrangements among BC post-secondary institutions. Its major roles are to facilitate transferability of post-secondary credit courses so that credit granted at one institution can be applied toward credentials at other institutions and to examine issues pertaining to capacity, demand, and student mobility and recommend policies and practices that facilitate the admission process for direct entry and transfer students within the BC post-secondary system.

BCCAT has a full-time staff of 7 people but also contracts with outside service providers. Our relationship with the post-secondary system is enhanced through the membership of our standing committees (Admissions, Research, Transfer and Articulation, Institutional Contact Persons) and a number of special-purpose committees. Seventy discipline-based articulation committees operate under our auspices.

The BC Transfer System is comprised of 25 public post-secondary institutions (of which 11 are now named as universities, 11 are colleges and 3 are institutes), 10 private institutions, and Yukon College. Degree-granting private institution can become members by undergoing the Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB) processes for degree authorization and receiving Minister's Consent for a degree.

The BC Transfer Guide, <http://bctransferguide.ca>, includes over 61,000 current transfer agreements for 9,074 courses, 43,000 "grandparented" agreements, and about 900 block transfer agreements.

BCCAT also publishes Education Planner, <http://educationplanner.ca>, an online resource for students and advisors that provides admissions information on over 1600 undergraduate programs in our public post-secondary institutions and 3 private institutions. Program information is also cross-linked to career related information. Web access has been increasing quickly and in April, 2008 the site had about 50,000 visits

### 2007-08: Highlights

#### Recalibrating the BC Transfer System: Implementation of Recommendations

This year, we moved ahead with the implementation of recommendations from the multi-year project, *Recalibrating the BC Transfer System*, designed to position us to respond to our changing post-secondary environment. Our major outcomes this year were:

- Designation as a Receiving Institution: Any institution currently listed as only a sending institution can now decide whether or not it wants to become a sending institution also in the BC Transfer Guide. Because our stakeholders asked us to manage this process carefully due to workload implications at institutions, we developed a policy that emphasizes that an institution should establish a business case before submitting their request. The policy was approved at the March 2008 meeting of Council.
- Best Practice Guide for Receiving Institutions: Stakeholders advised us of the particular usefulness of a resource which would outline the practices, processes, policies, and resources required of receiving institutions. The Guide was researched and developed by Nick Heath, former Director of Admissions from Simon Fraser University. It is currently being prepared for publication.
- Course Mobility Study: We undertook to extract available data in the Central Data Warehouse (CDW) to analyze the courses that students in colleges, university colleges, and institutes carried with them among CDW institutions in the three years 2004 to 2006. These data can inform whether a business case exists for sending institutions to also become receiving institutions.
- Facilitating Public/Private Articulation: With the assistance of stakeholders, including the BC Career Colleges Association, we developed a draft policy to describe the circumstances under which block transfer agreements with private institutions would be recorded in the BC Transfer Guide, provided that the private institution was accredited through the Private Career Training Institutions Agency (PCTIA).

### **Student Mobility Research**

Significant progress was made in 2007-08 in building a systematic approach to data collection and reporting on student mobility. The BCCAT work on student mobility research occurred as part of the Admissions Committee Work Plan and in close partnership with the Student Transitions Project (STP). The STP is a collaborative effort between the Ministries of Education (MEd) and Advanced Education (AVED) and BC public post-secondary institutions to link data about students in the province's public post-secondary and K to 12 education systems in order to answer research questions on student transitions. The STP is managed by a Steering Committee with members from the two Ministries, post-secondary institutions, and BCCAT. As in the previous year, the Admissions Committee projects with a focus on student mobility became part of the STP Work Plan, and these projects were carried out under the auspices of the STP Steering Committee and its subcommittees, working closely with BCCAT staff and using BCCAT funding.

Highlights of the work in 2007-08 on student mobility research include:

- Conducting the fourth year of research on the number of potential and eligible transfer students in colleges, university colleges, and institutes and the movement of those students to universities in the subsequent year. The study includes five years of data on the numbers of potential and eligible transfer students and shows a significant drop in numbers over that period but a leveling off in the last three years.
- Completion of a 2006-07 pilot project that measured for the first time the flow of grade 12 graduating cohorts among public post-secondary institutions in multiple directions over multiple years.

### **Degree Partnership Symposium**

Degree partnership models serve as a guarantee to students who start their studies at one institution and maintain adequate grades of continuation towards degree completion at another institution. BCCAT hosted a Degree Partnership Symposium in April 2007 to provide an opportunity for BC institutions to share both best practices and pitfalls when developing a degree partnership.

A complete 2007-08 Annual Report can be found at: <http://www.bccat.ca/pubs/ar07-08.pdf>.