

**Okanagan College Education Council**  
**Minutes of Thursday, January 13, 2022 4:00 pm**  
**Via Zoom**

**Present:** N Fassina, A Hay, B Burge, W Gillett, C Newitt, A Krebs, B Wyatt, B Penfound, S Bajwa, A Alexander, J Ragsdale, Y Khmelevsky, S Lembke, L Mallory, D Marques, S Choudhary

**Regrets:** C Farrow, R Tyner

**Absent:** T Walters, P Lefebvre, M Somerville

**Guests:** Y Moritz, K Kazimer, D Greebe, J Rouse

**Recorder:** S Gayle

**1. Determination of quorum and call to order**

C Newitt called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

**Motion:** D Marques/S Choudhary

That Education Council approves the agenda as presented.

**Carried**

**3. Approval of the minutes**

**Motion:** A Krebs/A Hay

That Education Council approves the minutes of the December 2, 2021 Education Council meeting as presented.

**Carried**

**4. Business arising**

**5. New business**

**5.1 Discussion: Micro- Credential**

- C Newitt provided context for the discussion regarding micro-credentials, noting that the college applied for funding for three (3) micro-credentials. This was approved in December 2021. A specific timeline has been given in relation to the micro-credentials. The programs should be open for enrollment by April and graduation in August. As a result of the timeframe, the micro-credential program is being discussed in Education Council. One (1) micro-credential will be discussed in the current EdCo meeting.
- ARP committee met in the first week of January 2022 to discuss the definition of micro-credential/s and what exactly it is, as a category did not exist and it was necessary to determine how and where micro-credentials would fit in.
- Micro-credentials need to be less than two hundred and eighty (280) hours. This would put micro-credentials in the Other category.
- ARP committee also discussed quality assurance and members agreed that micro-credentials would follow the same structure. The micro-credentials would go to the relevant CPRC and then to EdCo for approval.
- C Newitt noted that micro-credentials are a practical approach – skills needed for the respective industry. Going forward there would be greater emphasis on the Program Advisory Committee (PAC).

- C Newitt asked members whether there were any questions or concerns on micro-credentials and how they would be offered.
- C Newitt noted that a suggestion has been made that a body or committee should be formed to discuss micro-credentials before moving to the CPRCs. This suggestion would be discussed in the future.
- No questions or concerns were raised by the committee in relation to micro-credentials.

## 5.2 Curriculum recommended for approval

### a. Course revision: VITT 140 Vineyard and Canopy Establishment

**Motion:** A Alexander/B Wyatt

That Education Council approves the course revision: VITT 140 Vineyard and Canopy Establishment as recommended for approval:

- J Rouse gave an overview of the micro-credential program explaining how the Viticulture Tech Diploma program was created and the body and knowledge used in relation to same. It was noted that there has been an attempt to create a formal credential that would be recognized by the industry. Currently, most of the talent has been imported into the Okanagan. The college has received funding to deliver the Viticulture Tech Diploma; part of this funding was to see how the program could be modularized later on.
- J Rouse outlined that to attract new persons in the sector, the three (3) courses presented are targeting skillsets that the industry was looking for. Three (3) key strategic courses have been bundled:
  - VITT 140 – course to run in April
  - VITT 150 – course has greater versatility and potential for expansion in other areas.
  - VITT 160 – course has potential expanding beyond the vineyards.
- J Rouse noted that communication has taken place to ensure that standards are met. Working with Sustainable Standards BC to design two (2) workshops with the possibility of being offered at the end of March to mid-July. Will be on a part-time, blended basis so that students can have flexibility.
- S Lembke noted that the idea of revising the diploma material was a good one and asked about the difference in how the micro-credential will be taken to the community. Clarification was sought on who was the target audience for the micro-credentials.
- J Rouse outlined that it was a small community. Met with relevant stakeholders such as BC Winegrowers and BC Wine Grape Council. Stakeholders wanted a program that was short term and modularized. The target audience would be persons who would have been around vineyards for 1 – 2 years and do not possess the educational background.
- S Lembke sought clarification on whether they had quantified the number of persons for the program.
- J Rouse responded in the negative in relation to a specific number. It was noted that there was a board range of 40/50 persons. The Ministry of Agriculture has reached out and wanted to know how the program could be extended to the agricultural industry and beyond the vineyards.
- S Lembke noted that this was a very specific skill level, the 40/50 persons would require a lot of development in relation to the micro-credential.
- S Lembke outlined that the industry needed this skillset and sought clarification on whether the program was being subsidized.
- J Rouse explained that the aim of the program was to be flexible and accessible. The program would comprise of a theory portion and a two (2) weeks field school/lab component offered in the Okanagan.
- C Newitt highlighted that the programs were funded by the Ministry.

- J Rouse added that this was in fact the second round of funding for the micro-credential and students would be required to pay for the program.
- J Rouse outlined that there were minor revisions to:
  - VITT 140
  - VITT 150 and
  - VITT 160
 The revision entails adding the admissions to the micro-credential program (MCVES) to the prerequisite section so that students can take the course.

**Carried**

- C Newitt indicated that since VITT 150 and VITT 160 had similar revisions an omnibus motion could be made in relation to the two (2) courses:

**Motion:** L Mallory/W Gillett

That Education Council approves the course revisions:

- VITT 150 Integrated Pest Management and
- VITT 160 Irrigation Technology and Water Management as recommended for approval.

**Carried**

**b. Course revision: VITT 150 Integrated Pest Management**

- As above.

**Carried**

**c. Course revision: VITT 160 Irrigation Technology and Water Management**

- As above.

**Carried**

**d. New course: VITT 199 Sustainable Viticulture Workshops**

**Motion:** B Penfound/B Wyatt

That Education Council approves the new course: VITT 199 Sustainable Viticulture Workshops as recommended for approval:

- J Rouse explained that this course was trying to capture workshop aspects and offer flexibility with the workshops.
- The way the course was designed was to give students third party exposure to viticulture and also access to two (2) workshops that would be part of the pilot.
- Students will have to take the two (2) workshops around the subject area in question.

**Carried**

**e. New program: Vineyard Establishment and Sustainability Micro-Credential**

**Motion:** A Krebs/S Choudhary

That Education Council approves the new program: Vineyard Establishment and Sustainability Micro-Credential as recommended for approval:

- Program as outlined in the overview of VITT 140.

**Carried**

**5.3 Standing committee reports**

**a. Operations Committee**

- Met on:
  - December 16, 2021
  - December 22, 2021
  - December 31, 2021
- Minutes to come in camera.

- b. ARP Committee
  - Met on January 5, 2022 – discussed categorization of micro-credentials. Committee agreed to place micro-credential in the ‘other’ category. Also discussed quality control process – having more micro-credentials move through the CPRC and then EdCo.
- c. CCC Committee
  - Not met.
- d. Tributes Committee
  - Not met.
  - C Newitt noted that the Board has approved the Honorary Fellows and Distinguished Service Award nominees.
  - The committee was reconsidering the TOR and would meet in the Spring to discuss.

## 6. Reports

### 6.1 Council Chair’s report – C Newitt

- C Newitt highlighted that there was significant movement in EdCo in order to accommodate the micro-credential and getting the programs through in a timely manner while maintaining the integrity.
- Currently working with Kuali to improve user experience of the system.

### 6.2 President & Vice-President Academic and Provost report – A Hay

- N Fassina outlined that coming out of the meeting in December 2021, on January 11, 2022 the Board of Governors approved the Strategic Plan.
- Currently working on a Communications Plan for the strategy.
- N Fassina noted that the implementation has been slow due to various factors.
- A Hay thanked the Operations Committee for meeting and getting the schedule out.
- A Hay then turned the floor over to W Gillett.
- W Gillett provided the committee with an update on Okanagan College’s standing at the Queen’s Business competition.
- OC has five (5) teams at the Queen’s final:
  - Digital Strategy
  - Marketing
  - Ethics
  - Finance and
  - The Debating team
- A Hay noted this was no small achievement and showcased the quality of the professors, students and work at the college.
- The achievement was the also the result of EdCo approving programs and holding them to a high standard.

### 6.3 Registrar’s report – B Burge

- B Burge noted that based on the guidance from the Public Health, the start dates of most classes were adjusted. The current schedule was better with one (1) additional instructional day has been added. This moves the number of instructional days from sixty-three (63) to sixty-four (64).
- B Burge thanked the Operations Committee and noted that this was the first week of classes and was also the add/drop period.
- W Gillett asked whether the later start date this year would become a regular start date for the programs.

- B Burge responded explaining that this was being looked at for the long-term in order to maximize the days. An assessment was being done in order to operationalize and looking at possibly changing some aspects of the language.
- C Newitt highlighted that the existing schedule policy is still in place until it is approved. Schedule is still a variant, but consideration will be given to revisiting the schedule in the long term.

**6.4 Board of Governor's report – A Alexander**

- Nothing to report.

**6.5 Curriculum and Calendar Management project update**

- C Newitt gave the floor to B Burge to provide an overview.
- B Burge outlined that they are currently working with users re Kualii and getting them more familiar with the system. Currently, things are progressing well.
- C Newitt noted that there was a subtle shift and there has been renewed calls for training in using Kualii. Currently scheduling training with Chairs of department and this will continue into Spring. Contact has already been made with BUS and AFP
- Training will also focus on helping users to write good proposal rationales.
- Feedback regarding the training has been positive.

**7. In camera session**

**Motion:** A Krebs/ L Mallory

That Education Council moves in camera.

**Carried**

- B Burge provided an overview of the three (3) Operations committee meetings.

**a. December 16, 2021 Operations Committee minutes**

**Motion:** D Marques/B Burge

That Education Council accepts the December 16, 2021 Operations Committee meeting minutes as presented.

**Carried**

**b. December 22, 2021 Operations Committee minutes**

**Motion:** B Burge/D Marques

That Education Council accepts the December 22, 2021 Operations Committee meeting minutes as presented.

**Carried**

**c. December 31, 2021 Operations Committee minutes**

**Motion:** D Marques/B Burge

That Education Council accepts the December 31, 2021 Operations Committee meeting minutes as presented.

**Carried**

**Motion:** D Marques/B Wyatt

That Education Council moves out of camera.

**Carried**

- C Newitt informed members that that two (2) additional micro-credentials will be discussed at the next EdCo meeting.
- B Burge explained that they were currently working with CS to have the two (2) micro-credentials presented at the respective CPRC and then to EdCo for discussion.

**8. Date, time of next regular meeting** – Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 4:00 pm.

**9. Deadline for agenda items** – Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 12:00 pm.

**10. Adjournment** at 4:59 pm.

**Motion to adjourn:** A Krebs/D Marques  
**Carried**