



School of Transportation, Construction & the Environment
Set Rep Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Chair: Tony Atkins, Chair of the School of Construction, Transportation, and the Environment

Set Reps in Attendance:

Millie Kuyer	Jordi Ashworth
Jonathan Baggio	Kumayl Rashid
Matthias Boehm	Casey Von Hahn
Brooks Young	Cheyenne Miller
William Yeh	Ben Woodland
Tyler Farley	Grady Rowley
Krista Kals	Justin Deddens

Meeting Minutes: Amy Smith, Club Program Coordinator

Guest Speakers: Sara Kandathil, BCITSA Career Specialist; Bill Dow, BCIT VP Academics.

1.1 Meeting called to order

Tony calls the meeting to order at 5:45 pm.

1.2 Approval of last meeting's minutes

Motion approved.

1.3 Guest Speakers

1.3.1 What is BCIT's DNA-- Bill Dow, VP Academic

Bill Dowe explains that he is here to gather information and spark discussion from the student perspective about BCIT's education model and plans for the future.

He emphasises that this in order to improve education delivery. Bill is looking for advice on the strengths and weaknesses of the institution.

- Feedback from set reps points to the following strengths:

Student employment rates after graduation; industry/ alumni presence, hands-on practical learning. Instructors have been in the industry. Small size of classes and programs. Structure of these programs, and the way teachers communicate with each other. There is an atmosphere of cooperation with smaller classes and between teachers. The demanding nature of BCIT sets high standards, which creates a fellowship among alumni.

- Set reps give feedback on perceived weaknesses:

Lack of teacher training results in instructors who are industry experts, but lack experience in teaching. While the demanding nature of BCIT is an asset in some ways, it can be detrimental for people's well-being. There is a lot of time spent in-class, but the work load outside class is where the burden lies.

Q: if there is less material (if BCIT reduces workloads), then how can we fulfill the credit requirements?

Q: getting recognition for credits at other schools is challenging when continuing education. It's also challenging getting recognition of certification from skills taught by instructor rather than Work BC, for example.

- Bill notes that Barry Hogan with BCIT Policy can help

Q: Homework help from tutors is limited due to the availability of peer tutors.

Bill asks what BCIT can do to support prospective students or current students.

Set reps suggest hands-on tours for prospective students to help them understand the reality of the program.

- BCIT info sessions made it clear for some students what the programs would be like.

- 3-week refresher on math before program start was very helpful.

Bill asks how Set Reps cope with 8 courses, 8 midterms, and 8 finals:

- Some reps find it helps even out averages.

- Some say it's great for the BCIT reputation.

- One Set Rep finds using resources such as the DRC is very helpful for coping.

- Feedback from students that they want to feel competent to go out and do the job, regardless of the grade they received. Bill is looking at different models for assessing whether students have achieved the learning outcomes.

- Some students note that different courses have different forms of assessing.
- Some find having exams crammed into small period is better, sometimes having it drawn out is better. This depends on individual experience.
- Students find they don't really have a spring break, as they have assignments.
- Concern that there is no feedback given on finals, only a grade.
- Bill Dowe notes that BCIT should make progress on integrated assessments/testing that reflect real-world learning and demonstration.
- Some set reps are concerned that midterm/final grades are not a proportional demonstration of the effort and ability a student may have worked for.

Bill will be looking for feedback on an ongoing basis, and students will hear follow up from Bill regarding this meeting.

1.3.2 Biggest Career-Related Mistakes You Can Make When Graduating-- Sara Kandathil, BCITSA Career Services

Sara Kandathil introduces herself to the set reps and asks which schools they are from; transportation, construction, or the environment. Sara gives a presentation titled "Biggest Careers Mistakes after Graduation". She provides context for the training, explaining that it is a service to Set Reps to help give them an edge. Sara covers results from questions asked to instructors around mistakes new grads make. She also provides feedback given from instructors to new grads on what they can do to strengthen your approach. Sara explains that she works specifically with School of Business and School of Construction. She covers how Career Services can help with specific common issues. Sara provides an update on available services, including Career Track, blog posts, workshops, employer information sessions, and industry days. She urges set reps to sign up for Career Track, and lists some of the current opportunities posted on that resource.

1.4 Old Business

- 1.4.1** Tony hands out QPR certificates to Set Reps
- 1.4.2** Task lighting for evening hours for SW1 mezzanine has been requested:
Facilities may not be currently open to this
- 1.4.3** NE1 323 chairs to be removed.

1.5 New Business

1.5.1 BCITSA Elections

Tony encourages set reps to consider running for nominations. He discusses his experience in the role of Chair of the School of Construction, Transportation, and the Environment.

1.5.2 Nominations for Distinguished Set Rep Award

Tony emphasizes the fact that this opportunity is not closed, and to apply by filling out the nomination form that can be found on the SA website.

1.5.3 BCITSA Referendum

Tony discusses the BCITSA referendum and explains the proposed fee increase and the expansions it would support. He asks that set reps vote YES, but to vote either way, and encourage their classmates to do the same. Students can vote on their **my.bcit.ca account**. More information can be found at: <http://www.bcitsa.ca/referendum/>

1.5.4 Transit Referendum

Tony explains that BCITSA Student Council have decided to formally support the transit referendum, and are encouraging students to vote YES. Tony will be sending out more information about how students can educate themselves and make an informed decision.

1.5.4 Upcoming Events

- Sustainability Initiative club will be screening Wild Reverence film with the film maker in attendance for discussion.
- March 17th Careers Workshop: tips on effective interviewing
- March 18th Speaker Series: creating a business plan
- March 20th- 27th BCITSA Referendum- vote on my.bcit.ca account
- March 25th- writing a resume that gets noticed
- March 24th Mugs Burger Madness \$4Mushroom Burger & Fries
- March 24th Careers Workshop: #personal branding
- March 27th Lucky Beer sponsored Canadian Tuxedo Party at Mugs
- March 30th Careers Workshop: It's about who you know

1.6 Open Forum

Q/C: Is there an update on daylighting Guichon Creek?

A: Tony will investigate.

Q/C: SW3 2790/ 2795 garbage cans and recycling containers needed.

A: Tony explains that people must send in an online request form to facilities instead of calling. This includes waste management and janitorial requests.

Q/C: More organics bins for hallways in SW1 and in NE1.

A: Send in your requests to facilities

Q/C: Scholarship fund started for fallen student. Tyler is looking for ideas to reach out to for donations to bring this to fruition.

Q/C: Water fountain outside the studios in NE1 is broken. Also water fountain issues; low pressure specifically in SW3.

A: Tony will look into this.

1.7 Next Meeting

April 14th 5:30 in Council Chambers.

1.8 Meeting Adjournment

Tony adjourns the meeting at 7:05 pm.