Education Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 19, 2026
Online, Zoom
Draft minutes approved April 16, 2026

Attendance

Members

Program Faculty:
- Jillian Garrett, Education Council Chair (Arts)
- Andrea Thiessen (Health and Social Development)
- Brenda Ridgeley (Business)
- Morgan Martin, Vice-Chair (Science and Technology)
- Kelly Brochu (Trades and Apprenticeship)

Regional Faculty:
- Leanne Mallory (North Okanagan)
- Bryan White (Shuswap Revelstoke)
- Wendy Wheeler (South Okanagan Similkameen)

Support Staff:
- Michelle Somerville
- Vivian Moretti

Students:
- Shirelle Nickoli (North Okanagan)
- Malachi Gossen (South Okanagan Similkameen)

Regrets
- Neil Fassina, President
- Claude Hurtubise (Faculty Representative, Central Okanagan)
- Chelsey Simmons (Student Representative, Central Okanagan)
- Sara Delgado Soto (Student Representative, South Okanagan)

Educational Administrators:
- Samantha Lenci, Provost and Vice President, Academic
- Paul Martin, Dean, Teaching & Learning Innovations
- Chris Newitt, Associate Dean, Arts and Foundational
- Joan Ragsdale, Special Advisor, In-community Program Design

Non-voting:
- Inga Wheeler, Registrar
- Rhea Dupuis, Director, Indigenous Relations
- Cindy Battersby (Board of Governors)

Recording:
- Elaine Booi, Governance Administrator

Guests

Presenting:
- Sofia Sookochoff, Adult Upgrading Instructor
- Leora Dahl, Chair, Psychology
- Youry Khmelevsky, Chair, Computer Science
- Chaoping Guo, Computer Science Faculty
- Steve Crema, Associate Dean, Science & Technology
- Anne-Marie Brennan, Program Administrator, Continuing Studies

Guests:
- Claire Brodrick, Curriculum Coordinator

Topic	Action

1. CALL TO ORDER
Quorum was established and the meeting called to order at 3:00p.m.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
M. Martin provided a land acknowledgement.
M. Gossen joined the meeting at 3:02p.m.

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3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT

The Chair asked members if they had any declarations of conflict and no members declared.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair asked members if they had any amendments to the agenda or would like to move any items out of the consent agenda. The Chair proposed adding a motion under Section 7: Other Business & Business Arising from Consent Agenda to add A. Thiessen to the Integrated Curriculum Committee and members agreed.

A member requested to pull the January 22, 2026 Education Council Regular Meeting Minutes from the consent agenda for review. The Chair noted that they will move the minutes out of the consent agenda and suggested moving Section 7 after Section 5 and members agreed.

Members did not have any further amendments and the Chair proceeded with reading the motion.

A. Thiessen joined the meeting at 3:03p.m.

Motion: ***THAT the Education Council approves the February 19, 2026 agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda as amended.***

M. Martin — ***CARRIED***

4.1 Consent Agenda

i. Course revisions:

a) CMNS 112 Professional Writing I

Motion: THAT the Education Council approves the course revision for CMNS 112 Professional Writing I as presented.

b) PSYC 242 Introduction to Psychopathology

Motion: THAT the Education Council approves the course revision for PSYC 242 Introduction to Psychopathology as presented.

c) COSC 117 Computer Science Fundamentals

Motion: THAT the Education Council approves the course revision for COSC 117 Computer Science Fundamentals as presented.

d) COSC 118 Networks and Telecommunications I

Motion: THAT the Education Council approves the course revision for COSC 118 Networks and Telecommunications I as presented.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Education Council Chair

The Chair thanked M. Martin and B. Ridgeley for chairing Council and committee meetings during their absence.

The Chair reported that the Provincial Academic Governance Council (PAGC) met and discussed policies related to transfer agreements, micro-credentials, and laddering programs.

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The Chair invited the Board Representative to provide an update. The Board Representative noted that at the December Board meeting, a new Board Chair, Dustyn Baulkham, was elected. They also shared that this would be their final Education Council meeting, as they have been appointed Chair of the Campus Planning Committee. JoAnn Fowler will begin serving as the new Board Representative beginning March 2026.

The Chair added that they will meet with Dustyn Baulkham in early March to discuss Board approval of courses. The Governance Office noted that based on the College and Institute Act courses should be going to the Board for approval, which has not been past practices. The Chair will raise this with Dustyn Baulkham to discuss delegation of course approval authority to Council.

5.2 Academic Governance Committee

The AGC met on February 12, 2026 to review the first draft of the Course Syllabus and Common Course Outline Policy, as well as the Education Council Evaluation Survey. The next AGC meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2026.

The Chair invited the Associate Dean, Arts and Foundational to provide an overview of the draft policy. The Associate Dean, Arts and Foundational noted they received good feedback from AGC. They added that a common course outline and syllabus example will be created to provide a clear sense of the intended format. Once AGC reviews the next draft, the syllabus and course outline templates will be shared with Department Chairs for further input. They added that the work is connected to the new LMS implementation as the program has templates for course outlines built into the system.

The Chair added that the goal is to review the Course Syllabus and Common Course Outline Policy at the March 26, 2026 AGC meeting and bring the policy forward for approval at the April 2026 Council meeting.

5.3 Integrated Curriculum Committee

The ICC reviewed the curriculum proposals included on today's agenda at the February meeting. The next ICC meeting is on March 5, 2026.

5.4 Provost and Vice President Academic

The Provost reported that they are reviewing Educational Appeal Policies and the associated processes.

The Provost also noted that the submission deadline for the provincial review of post-secondary institutions has been extended by two weeks and that the report will be made public once finalized.

5.5 Registrar

The Registrar reported that the search for Council's Foundational representative seat is still underway. They added that the postings for the remaining seats will be published in March 2026.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Open Studies

6.1 Open Studies Update

The Registrar provided an update on Open Studies, noting ongoing work related to Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), prerequisites, and assessment of prior learning and experience. Open Studies is not a program or credential but rather replaces

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the previous “unclassified student” category. Previously, applicants needed a degree before enrolling in courses, which was not accessible for learners without prior education. The Registrar added that College Relations is working closely with Andrew Pulvermacher on this initiative to include Open Studies information on the College’s website.	

The Chair thanked the Registrar and opened the floor for questions.

Members noted concerns about students enrolling in first-year courses without meeting high school prerequisites and discussed which requirements could be waived and emphasized the need for clarity around the approval process.

A member noted the importance of keeping Open Studies accessible while also considering student preparation. They stressed that departments should have a role in determining when prerequisites may be waived. Another member added that Open Studies is intended to provide learners with opportunities to explore education, but there must be transparency about who makes waiver decisions.

The Dean, Teaching and Learning Innovations commented on reducing barriers, noting that passing a course is not the same as succeeding, and that learners should have opportunities to define success for themselves.

Members reflected on the value that mature learners bring to classrooms. One member noted that Open Studies provides an opportunity to shift the narrative around success, emphasizing that not passing a course does not need to be the end of a student’s journey. The Associate Dean, Arts and Foundational added that further discussion is needed at the departmental level and suggested presenting information more broadly to other areas.

The Chair added that departments continue to ask whether a policy governing Open Studies will be developed and if not, whether clear written procedures will be provided. The Provost responded that formal policy may not be necessary, but consistent practices are. The Chair agreed that written guidance is needed. The Associate Dean, Arts and Foundational committed to asking Andrew Pulvermacher to prepare clear procedures and FAQs to support departments.

The Chair concluded the discussion.

The Chair called for a recess at 4:28p.m.

The Chair called the meeting back to order at 4:44p.m.

The Chair noted that Council would complete sections 6.3 through 6.6 of the agenda before returning to the regular order of business.

Governance

6.2 Education Council Succession Planning

The Chair explained that as part of the 2025–2026 Education Council workplan, Council approved a review of membership to support succession planning. Under the Election Rules, the Registrar determines the distribution of elected faculty seats in consultation with the Education Council Chair. The Governance Administrator conducted an audit of all seats and when viewed holistically, it revealed an imbalance with a heavier concentration of representation from Science and Technology. The Chair suggested that Council consider a more flexible approach to allocating faculty seats by requesting that five seats be posted for program areas with the least representation, with the sixth seat designated for an area

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where a particular need has been identified. The Chair invited input from members, noting Council can make a recommendation. Members discussed several ideas for representation distribution. One member noted that although Science and Technology have many representatives overall, there is currently no representation from the Technology side specifically. They suggested posting the Science and Technology seat with a preference for Technology and posting the remaining five seats to the already allocated areas. Members agreed to this and decided to make the recommendation to the Registrar.	
Arts & Foundational	
6.3 New Course i. MATH 081 Mathematics 081 S. Sookochoff presented MATH 081 noting that the course will replace two existing half courses and that learning outcomes were updated. A member asked how the Attendance Policy applies to the lecture and seminar components of the course. S. Sookochoff explained that the department is transitioning to hybrid delivery models in which students may participate either online or in person at the same time. *Motion:* ***THAT the Education Council approves and recommends to the Board of Governors the new course: MATH 081 Mathematics 081 as presented.*** ***M. Martin*** *S. Sookochoff left the meeting at 5:20p.m.*	***CARRIED***
Science & Technology	
6.4 New Program and Revised Course i. New Program: Practical Analytics & Reporting Micro-Credential (PARMC) Course Revision: a) DSCI 315 Dashboards and Analytic Reporting S. Crema presented the DSCI 315 course revision, noting that the change involves moving a prerequisite to a corequisite. S. Crema also explained that the new Practical Analytics and Reporting Micro-Credential is a structural arrangement of existing courses that can ladder into various credentials and is designed to provide learners with foundational data science skills. A member asked about the wording of the learning outcomes, and a separate question was raised about the listed textbooks. It was clarified that Council is only approving the prerequisite change at this meeting. Since the proposer was unable to attend, the Chair noted that the Governance Administrator can provide feedback, and the proposer may return with revised learning outcomes and updated materials in a future proposal. Council agreed to proceed with approving only the prerequisite change. Members discussed the minimum qualifications to teach the program. They agreed to leave the wording unchanged because it is consistent with related programs. A member pointed out that BIOL 202 Elementary Applied Statistics should be listed in the program outline because it is cross-listed with STAT 230 Elementary Applied Statistics, and S. Crema agreed to make this update.	

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The Registrar asked for clarification regarding residency requirements and proposed revising the statement to read: "Two data science courses will be completed at Okanagan College." Members discussed and supported this revision, and S. Crema agreed to update the residency requirement. A spelling error was noted in the program description, and S. Crema confirmed that it will be corrected.	
Members did not have any further questions or comments and the Chair proceeded with reading the motion.	
Motion: ***THAT the Education Council approves and recommends to the Board of Governors the new program: Practical Analytics & Reporting Micro-Credential (PARMC) and thereby approves the course revision for DSCI 315 Dashboards and Analytic Reporting as presented.***	
P. Martin	***CARRIED***
I. Wheeler & S. Crema left the meeting at 5:16p.m.	
Continuing Studies	

6.5 New Program & Courses

i. New Program: Community Cook Micro Credential (MCCMCK)

New Courses:

a) CMCK 100 Orientation and Industry Certifications
b) CMCK 101 Safety and Hygiene
c) CMCK 102 Prep and Cold Kitchen Basics
d) CMCK 103 Fruits, Vegetables and Grains
e) CMCK 104 Proteins
f) CMCK 105 Pasta and Sauces
g) CMCK 106 Pastries, Sweets, and Breads
h) CMCK 107 Community Events and Celebrations

A. Brennan provided an overview of the Community Cook Micro Credential, noting that the goal is to build confidence and skills in learners in the cooking environment. The program was developed in collaboration with a First Nations group. A. Brennan provided an overview of each new course.

The Director of Indigenous Relations asked about the structure of the program. A. Brennan explained that the First Nations partners applied for funding, and the College worked with them to design the program based on the skills needed in their community. The program is structured so it can be offered both through open enrollment and within Indigenous communities.

A member noted potential confusion in the course outlines and recommended adding the term "training manual" to the end of the required texts so students do not confuse them with prerequisite courses. A. Brennan agreed to make this update.

Another member asked whether the program competes with the College's existing culinary programs. A. Brennan confirmed that it does not compete and that this was discussed during consultations with the Associate Dean, Trades. The courses do not ladder into culinary programs and are intended to prepare learners for entry-level positions rather than replace or compete with existing culinary pathways.

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A member raised concerns about the residency requirement and suggested removing it to avoid confusion. A. Brennan agreed, noting that the program is unique and there is no transfer pathway from other programs. Members agreed to revise the residency requirement to state: "All of the courses must be completed at Okanagan College."

Members did not have any questions or comments and the Chair proceeded with reading the motion.

Motion: ***THAT the Education Council approves and recommends to the Board of Governors the new program: Community Cook Micro Credential (MCCMCK) and thereby approves the following new courses as presented:***

- ***CMCK 100 Orientation and Industry Certifications***
- ***CMCK 101 Safety and Hygiene***
- ***CMCK 102 Prep and Cold Kitchen Basics***
- ***CMCK 103 Fruits, Vegetables and Grains***
- ***CMCK 104 Proteins***
- ***CMCK 105 Pasta and Sauces***
- ***CMCK 106 Pastries, Sweets, and Breads***
- ***CMCK 107 Community Events and Celebrations***

M. Martin ***CARRIED***

6.6 Revised Program & Courses

i. Revised Program: LPN Orthopaedic Certificate (ZORTH)

Revised Courses:

a) ORTH 110 Orthopaedic Anatomy and Physiology
b) ORTH 111 Orthopaedic Pathophysiology and Nursing Interventions
c) ORTH 112 Orthopaedic Specialty Skills
d) ORTH 113 Practicum Preparation
e) ORTH 114 Practicum

A. Brennan noted that there are no revisions to the ORTH courses themselves and the proposals is for including missing learning outcomes and adding required details, with no other changes. A. Brennan provided an overview of the program revision, which includes updates to admission requirements.

Members did not have any questions or comments and the Chair proceeded with reading the motion.

Motion: ***THAT the Education Council approves and recommends to the Board of Governors the revised program: LPN Orthopaedic Certificate (ZORTH) and thereby approves the following course revisions as presented:***

- ***ORTH 110 Orthopaedic Anatomy and Physiology***
- ***ORTH 111 Orthopaedic Pathophysiology and Nursing Interventions***
- ***ORTH 112 Orthopaedic Specialty Skills***
- ***ORTH 113 Practicum Preparation***
- ***ORTH 114 Practicum***

K. Brochu ***CARRIED***

Topic	Action
A. Brennan left the meeting at 5:40p.m.	

7. OTHER BUSINESS & BUSINESS ARISING FROM CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 Education Council Regular Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2026

A member asked for clarification regarding the Redundancy Notification referenced in the Provost's report to confirm the correct naming of the program involved. The Provost and the Registrar agreed to review the matter and verify the accurate program name. The Chair suggested tabling the approval of the minutes until the next meeting, and members agreed.

7.2 Integrated Curriculum Committee Membership

The Chair introduced the new Health & Social Development faculty representative, Andrea Thiessen to council.

The Chair proposed a motion to add Andrea Thiessen to the Integrated Curriculum Committee.

Motion: ***THAT the Education Council approves the addition of Andrea Thiessen to the Integrated Curriculum Committee as a faculty representative, effective upon approval.***

M. Somerville ***CARRIED***

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:59p.m.