**BCOEL Meeting via Zoom**

April 6, 2020 1pm-2pm

**Attendance:** Brenda Smith, Chris Reimer, Debra Flewelling, Donna Langille, Hope Power, Karen Meijer-Klein, Lin Brander (Chair), Lindsay Tripp (Minutes), Melissa Smith, Martin Warkentin, Mia Clarkson, Michel Castagné, Reba Ouimet, Rosario Passos, Sabrina Wong

**Regrets**: Caroline Daniels

1. **Welcome and agenda (changes and additions)**
   * Lin called the meeting to order at 1:02pm and welcomed Chris (University Canada West, Liaison/OER Librarian) and Melissa (SFU Library, Education Liaison Librarian).
   * Lin congratulated Reba on her new role with the Electronic Library Network (ELN), providing licensing support.
   * There were no changes to the agenda.
2. **March minutes approval**
   * The minutes were approved.
3. **Roundtable**

* **Brenda (TRU).**
  + TRU is equipped with robust online learning systems and supports, thanks to its Open Learning distance education unit. This eased the university’s quick transition to fully online instruction following public health recommendations related to COVID-19. Brenda has been discussing use of OER for online teaching with faculty and has been investing more time in professional development.
* **Mia (Langara).**
  + Langara Library spaces are currently closed to the public, but collections are available via a ‘closed stacks’ model (i.e. patrons can fill out an online request form to borrow an item from the physical collection, including course reserves). Two computer labs in L building, located outside of the library, remain open to students who otherwise lack the equipment required to complete online coursework. Almost all staff members are now working from home.
  + Like many other B.C. post-secondaries, Langara has been staffing its institutional AskAway queue as it would its in-person reference desk. The number of reference interactions is consistent with this time last year, which suggests the transition has been effective.
  + The College has announced that all summer 2020 courses will be offered online. In response, Mia prepared ‘aggressive yet supporting’ messaging for the College’s various communications channels to encourage instructors to consider moving away from commercial resources to OER.
  + Lindsay and Mia will be hosting two virtual Open Langara drop-in sessions via Zoom in the coming weeks.
* **Ali (Acsenda School of Management).**
  + Ali is hoping to have Ascenda join AskAway soon, to facilitate the provision of online library services.
  + The shift to fully online instruction has provided an opportunity to remind people about open education. Ali recently met with the Dean of the BBA program to discuss OER. Faculty in the program plan to meet soon to reevaluate the learning materials they are currently using. She is also encouraging the Bachelor of Hospitality program to consider foregoing commercial textbooks in favour of OER. Open education presents exciting opportunities for students in the program to co-create learning materials.
* **Debra (Douglas).** 
  + Like other B.C. post-secondaries, Douglas is staffing its institutional AskAway queue during its regular reference desk hours (i.e. 9am-8pm throughout the week). Douglas has two campuses, which means that the institutional queue is usually staffed by two librarians. 95% of Douglas calls on AskAway are now being answered by Douglas librarians.
  + Douglas recently emerged as the top adopter of open textbooks amongst all B.C. colleges and universities. The College will be sharing this exciting news across its communication channels soon.
* **Michel and Sabrina (CapU).**
  + CapU is staffing its institutional AskAway queue during its regular reference desk hours.
* **Hope and Melissa (SFU).** 
  + SFU Library is providing online services and all spaces are currently closed to the public. This includes course reserve collections. Although decisions are being made by university administration on a month-to-month basis, it appears that library spaces will remain closed throughout the summer semester. As such, when a faculty member requests a physical reserve item that is not available in electronic format, library staff have been suggesting open educational resources as a substitute.
  + Melissa serves as the liaison librarian for the Faculty of Education and participates in the department’s community of practice, which has been exploring best practices for online instruction (e.g. synchronous (real-time) versus asynchronous (recorded) delivery). Within the library, liaison librarians are being encouraged to model openness as they move to online information literacy instruction.
  + Open education figured large in many candidates’ platforms during the recent student government election. Student union leadership plans to reach out to Deans directly to encourage the adoption of OER.
* **Martin (UFV).**
  + UFV also announced that it will be delivering instruction remotely over the summer semester. The library has been providing reference services through its institutional AskAway queue. Unfortunately, some promising discussions about OER during Open Education Week in early March are now on hold.
  + Martin also pointed out the way in which many commercial publishers have been making online textbooks freely available during the COVID-19 crisis. However, many post-secondary libraries and teaching & learning centres are cautioning instructors against adopting these, since they will ultimately carry a hefty price tag when things return to normal.
* **Chris (University Canada West).**
  + University Canada West did its first ever round of OER grant selection prior to the COVID-19 crisis. One recipient was selected, and the OER committee is now determining processes and procedures. Other open education work is currently on hiatus to let faculty acclimatize to the quick shift to online instruction.
* **Karen (KPU).**
  + KPU Library is providing space on its first floor for computer use, but is not offering public services or access to the collection. Staff are only responding to gate alarms to prevent theft. All courses are being taught online, with the exception of a few trades courses that require in-person instruction. KPU’s Teaching and Learning team anticipate fully online instruction until January 2021.
  + To help students and staff weather the transition, the university extended wifi to the parking lots and purchased 200+ laptops that students can request at the beginning of term. The ZTC (Going Online) guides have also been revamped.
  + Karen has received a significant number of copyright questions and foresees less reliance on fair dealing once things settle and we move past the current state of emergency. She has been dissuading instructors from adopting online resources that commercial publishers are currently offering for free and is currently mapping the most popular reserve books to open textbooks.
  + KPU offers $500 grants to instructors who adopt OER. This was modelled after a similar initiative at Douglas, although those grants require that the OER be used for a full semester and are dispersed as professional development funds.
* **Donna (UBC-O).**
  + UBC-O has also announced that all instruction during the summer semester will be online. Donna is based in UBC-O’s Innovation Library, which is uniquely located in the local public library. As such, she is having to reimagine what it means to be a Community Engagement Librarian in a time when no one is gathering in public spaces. She is also cognizant of not taking up too much (virtual) space, during a time when people are struggling with various stressors.
  + Donna recently received approval from administration to formalize the open education working group. It will not have terms of reference, but will have more formalized goals and reporting structures, as well as a close working relationship with the UBC-O Student Union (i.e. student-led focus).
  + She also hopes to conduct an inventory of OER at UBC-O and asked members of the group to share faculty surveys, resources, personal experiences etc. that might be useful for this venture. Douglas and Langara have established fairly effective workflows for tracking open textbook adoptions, thanks in part to close working relationships with their campus bookstores. Debra shared that Douglas’ bookstore now operates on a cost-recovery (versus revenue generating) model and is a long-standing supporter of open education.
* **Rosario (BCIT).**
  + Rosario shared her experiences with the quick shift to online instruction from the Teaching and Learning perspective. It has been a challenging transition for many of the instructors at BCIT’s Marine Campus, who teach in accredited programs with rigid requirements (e.g. a set number of in-class hours, paper exams) and have little experience with BCIT’s LMS. A few instructors have weathered the changes very successfully though and are experimenting with learning tools like H5P. She is trying to leverage their enthusiasm and knowledge to support the late adopters.
  + With some funding from the Ministries of Health and Advanced Education, BCIT created a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) to provide nurses and healthcare providers with COVID-19 upgrading. In a few short weeks, the team created a course that, under normal circumstances, would have taken months to build. Over 1,000 participants registered on the first day. The MOOC manager reached out to see if the course could be housed on open.bcit.ca. However, Rosario pointed out the distinction between free and open. They are in early discussions about making the course content available under a Creative Commons license, so it can be shared widely.

1. **Future of BCOEL** 
   * Lin asked the group if they would be willing to meet online in May to discuss future directions for BCOEL. Since BCOEL was formed, the collective expertise within the group has expanded considerably and the current Working Group model does not seem effective as it once was.
   * Lin pointed out that Lindsay’s term as Chair will commence in September. The group will be seeking a Chair-Elect (2-year commitment). The Chair-Elect’s primary duties are to record meeting minutes and serve as back-up to the Chair. Brenda and Debra have already held the position. Anyone else who is interested in the position is encouraged to put their name forward.
   * **Action:** Lin will send an invite for an online meeting (likely on a Monday in early May from 1pm-2pm, as this time slot seems to work for most).
2. **Adjournment** 
   * Lin adjourned the meeting at 2:02pm.