



BC COLLEGES

In Attendance:

BCC	Jim Reed	NIC	Jan Lindsay Bruce Calder
CC	Kathryn Laurin Kyman Chan	NLC	Laurie Rancourt Karen Simpson
CNC	Bob Murray	NWCC	Dave O'Leary Rhoda Witherly
COTR	Nick Rubidge Orest Federko	OC	Jim Hamilton Tom Styffe
DC	Scott McAlpine Paul Wates	SC	Angus Graeme (Chair) Bruce Morrison
LC	Roy Daykin Anne Lippert	VCC	Kathy Kinloch

Guests:

Ministry (AEIT)	Dawn Minty, ADM; Steven Rumpel, Mariana Diacu (by phone 1:10 – 1:30 pm)
Red CAB Communications	Alix Cameron, Cindy Ball
Insights West	Steve Mossop; Daniel Savas
ASTTB	John Leech
Douglas College Training Group	Bob McConkey

Resources:

BCC	Judy Kelly, EA to Jim Reed
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Regrets:

CNC	John Bowman
NWCC	Denise Henning
VCC	Cathy Young, Chair

1. Opening Comments – Angus Graeme

Angus Graeme welcomed Presidents and Board Chairs, as well as guests to the meeting.

The agenda was approved, moved by Bob Murray, seconded by Nick Rubidge.

Minutes of the January 22nd Presidents meeting were approved, moved by Laurie Rancourt, seconded by Jim Hamilton.

2. What Do The Polls Tell Us? – Daniel Savas, Steve Mossop (presentation posted in secure area of website)

Insights West's presentation was titled "BC Political Landscape – A Snapshot of Pre-Election Public Opinion". The results are from an online survey of 855 British Columbians and were collected between March 26 -31, 2013. The presentation covered BC political context, current 'horse race', views of party leaders, impact of ethnic outreach scandal on Liberal party fortunes, expectations of NDP in government, and most important post-secondary education issues in BC.

3. **Election Advocacy and Communication Strategy – Jim Reed, Alix Cameron, Cindy Ball** (presentation posted in secure area of website)

Areas covered in this presentation included:

- Review of the advocacy process
- Setting the scene – the largest percentage of projected job openings will require college education
- Addressing the skills agenda a high priority
- The external factors that influence public policy
- The opportunities
- Strategies
- Advocacy requirements
- The Ask – a multi-year investment that produces more job-ready college graduates with the advanced skills in areas vital to BC's labour market.
- Key messages
- Tools – website, 12 week social media campaign, Mind the Skills Gap brochure, Spotlight, among others
- What colleges can do to support the advocacy, in the 5 weeks till the election

4. **Roundtable**

CC	• Board concentrating on advocacy; next focus is business community • Budget – having more consultation and communication with community prior to release of budget has been helpful; strategic investments have been made • Applied Research – have had great success with NSERC funding over last few years • Donation of a shipbuilding engine from a Finnish company
CNC	• Board governance – reappointment of 2 Board members; now down 4 • Presidential search underway • First Nations building opened; praised the First Nations Advisory group • Losing many experienced faculty – succession strategy necessary
COTR	• Negotiating faculty agreements • Enrollments down (UT and Trades) • Budget cuts met through voluntary leaves, for most part • Working with Selkirk on the regional work force tables • Federal funding has gone to a long haul truck simulator • Board is fully engaged and working hard on advocacy • Presidential search underway • Looking at replacement of Elk Valley campus
DC	• Enrollment growth • Looking at tuition reductions; \$1M donation to Douglas Board which will be used for bursaries to the most needy • New nursing curriculum • Applied Research file – system-wide • Maintain collaborations with universities • Concerns around the Essential Skills file (ACCC attempting to get federal dollars to fund this) and the ESL file

LC	• Presidential search started, as well as a search to replace 8 other senior staff • Science Student Services Building – self funded • First Education Plan • 13/14 budget – no cuts • Growing international and continued education • Anticipate financial gap close to \$7M over next 3 years, if funding doesn't change
NIC	• Hart Dam restoration project • Industrial Research Chair grant (aquaculture); anticipate starting this year • Change to regional delivery program (model for demand; in partnership with communities – for example, facilities) • New President – John Bowman • College sold 11 acres to VIHA to build a new hospital; allows opportunities for NIC (new program development over next few years – examples: maternal health, mental health)
NLC	• Working through recommendations of the Northwest Training Plan • Centre of Training Excellence – Oil and Gas • United front with school districts and combined advocacy with community • Continued collaboration with Northern Presidents • Challenge managing expectations (community, students, staff); operating funding vs soft funding • Voluntary leave has helped with cuts necessary to meet 13/14 Budget
NWCC	• Looking at opportunities with industry and how they are important to colleges • Manage expectation of community with getting new jobs and students who want to get right to work • Diverse geography has challenges • \$60B worth of opportunities in the region • Collaboration, partnership, sustainability with industry • Budget turning around from last year • Have launched new strategic plan
OC	• 13/14 Budget without significant reductions; next year's budget \$2M deficit • Completed Penticton fundraising campaign (\$9.49M) • Renovation and building new Trades building in Kelowna; shooting for carbon neutrality • 4 or 5 Applied Research projects – sustainable construction management focus • Challenge hiring at senior management level • Food, Wine, Tourism initiative has had soft launch
SC	• FTEs down – ABE and ESA interaction • Balanced budget this year, concerns about next year • Next steps on the Education Plan • Have seen some benefits to the Kootenay Regional Workforce Table – working with industry partners post-election • Using advocacy tools and making progress in communication
VCC	• Budget passed • Carrying structural deficit • Just meeting targets

5. Presentations by member Colleges

a) Camosun College – **Kathryn Laurin** (*presentation posted in secure area of website*)

Kathryn's presentation was on the Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning (CETL), a new initiative of Camosun College. Its official launch is October 15, 2013, followed by a two week "Education Innovation Sandbox" at both campuses. CETL includes program review and renewal, curriculum development, online learning, teaching development, research (scholarship of teaching and learning), mentoring and coaching, educational leadership, and revenue generation. It was noted that 50% of the courses incorporate technology (D2L).

b) Vancouver Community College – **Kathy Kinloch** (*presentation posted in secure area of website*)

Kathy's presentation on VCC spoke to the Business Plan and their Education Plan, the first strategic education plan in VCC history. The Business Plan development takes input from the Strategic Plan, Government Accountability Plan and the VCC Education Plan and this information then feeds into the development of the Budget. Kathy also spoke of a few of the MOUs in place. Their MOU with SFU is for program development and delivery in the areas of Dance and a Master's in Education, with BCIT it covers language skills for foreign trained professionals and commercial transport and heavy duty trades. They also have an MOU with the Vancouver School Board, the focus being aboriginal student, with VCC's goal being to develop dual/joint enrolment training programs and increase their Aboriginal participation to 5% of student enrolment. Their engagement with the community has them looking at ways to leverage strengths and collaborate on projects that will benefit the Downtown Eastside.

6. Recognition of Nick Rubidge and Jan Lindsay – **Jim Hamilton and Angus Graeme**

With the imminent retirement of Nick Rubidge and Jan Lindsay, it was felt that this meeting would be the opportunity to thank them and recognize their efforts. Jim took the lead with Nick, thanking him for his many years of service to the post-secondary education system in BC and also added some personal notes on their trips together, in particular to Scotland. Angus had worked with Jan in their early days and thanked her as well for her service and mentorship, as well as her leadership in the post-secondary system spanning many years.

7. ASTTB – **John Leech** (*agenda items posted in secure area of website*)

John provided an overview of ASTTBC (www.asttbc.org) noting that it is the eighth largest self-regulating association in BC, registering 10,000 Technology Professionals. Technologists, technicians and technical specialists work in applied science technology fields such as architecture, bio-medical engineering, building, civil, electrical, electronics, environmental, fire protection, house inspection, information, mechanical, onsite wastewater and other related disciplines tied to the built and natural environment. Information was shared on ASTTBC and Technology Careers promotion, Technology planning and programming, National Technology standards and accreditation. It also included an 'ask' of BCC Presidents – to work together to develop a strategic direction statement and plan for technology education and careers, to support technology programming in K-12 leading to entry into college programs, to engage with Science World and other stakeholders in building science and technology culture in BC and finally to consider issuing a collaborative statement regarding having one national technology standard and accreditation model and program, as well as pooling resources perhaps to put together a strategic direction statement and plan.

8. CIC Language Studies issue – Ministry of AEIT: Dawn Minty, Steven Rumpel, Mariana Diacu (by phone)

Steven provided an update of the CIC Language Study, noting that each institution has an appropriate person identified as the contact person. In March, information was shared, creating a dialogue, and general information was distributed (how to apply, deadlines, etc.). There will be a conference call for BC colleges on April 9th to answer questions specific to education institutions. Procurement, calls for proposal process will begin May 8th. The BC Working Group is comprised of VPs Education/Academic. Dawn, Jim and Ruth Wittenberg will share information with the appropriate contact person at each institution. Messaging is now under development – this would be Q&A for institutions, not for public consumption. In 14/15, CIC assumes funding, administration and responsibility for Settlement Language studies. Also during this time, funding opportunities will be shared, and will look at implications of cancelling agreements. Private providers will not be eligible to apply. If issues arise, contact CIC directly. Federal model will have differences in program design.

Jim shared that Pam Stewart will be contracted to develop some preparatory material (including a best practice model) that institutions can use when building their own special proposal. Pam will also be available for advice during the proposal and contract negotiation processes.

9. BC Business Consortium Pilot – Bob McConkey (presentation posted in secure area of website)

Scott McAlpine, as Chair of the Pilot Steering Committee, said that the group would need to decide if they were happy with where the Business Case has come to, and think about where they saw it going in the future.

Bob gave an overview of the consortium history and purpose, along with its achievements to date. Some of the obstacles to success were noted – limited resources, business development approach, narrow view of markets and business lines, lack of engagement and capacity, quality management and communications challenges. Proposed changes – sustained, focused long term commitment, explore new markets and new business lines, system wide engagement and availability – and a proposed consortium organization structure were shared.

Bob will share the revised business case with the Steering Committee for their review and input. A detailed revised business case will then be distributed to the Presidents.

Jim Reed emphasized the need to decide, as it is clear federal skills funding is going to be much more directive and the more organized the system is, the better chance to compete for these funds.

ACTION: A decision needs to be made by Presidents at the May 30th meeting in Penticton as to whether to proceed.

10. Quality Assurance Green Paper – Laurie Rancourt

There were concerns as to how this paper was rolled out. The Ministry has been informed by BCC and BCAIU that no response will be given by the April 12th deadline. In fact, BCC would be on the same page as BCAIU, which is to wait until the Fall. While the report is a valuable work, it is lacking the structure that gives it the importance it is due. There should be thought, structure, and consultation similar to the Shared Services strategy. It was also noted that work “accredited” should be in the Green Paper.

ACTION: Institutions to send questions/concerns to the BCC office for compilation.

11. Essential Skills Pilot

BCC had asked the Ministry of AEIT for \$2M to support those institutions who wanted to take part in the Essential Skills Pilot. BCC had also told the Ministry that the institutions who would be involved in the pilot would be determined by the Presidents. The Ministry, at year end, instead sent soft funding to individual institutions, noting that some of that funding could be used for Essential Skills. Funding to be part of the pilot would be \$120K @ institution.

ACTION: Institutions who want to be part of the development of the pilot to send an expression of interest to BCC by end of April.

12. Future Financial Challenges – *Jim Reed*

Discussion :

- How do we help a new government incent us for collaboration (e.g. a shared FTE value)
- What does the financial picture look like for colleges in 14/15 and 15/16
- BC Colleges: Recent funding history (*presentation posted in secure area of website*)
- These are all important questions for background to discussions with government after the May 14th election

13. Other

- **BCC Nominations to ACCC Board** – There was a call for nominations for two BCC representatives to the ACCC Board, one urban and one rural. Their names were submitted to James Knight and will be put forward at the ACCC AGM in June 2013 and be voted on by the membership.

MOTION: To nominate Kathryn Laurin as the BCC representative of an urban college to the ACCC Board

MOVED: Angus Graeme **SECONDED:** Nick Rubidge **CARRIED**

MOTION: To nominate Laurie Rancourt as the BCC representative of a rural college to the ACCC Board

MOVED: Angus Graeme **SECONDED:** Kathy Kinloch **CARRIED**

- **BCC Representative to BCBC Board** – The BCC representative to the BC Business Council Board was David Ross. With his move to SAIT, another BCC representative is required.

MOTION: To nominate Kathy Kinloch as the BCC representative on the BCBC Board.

MOVED: Angus Graeme **SECONDED:** Scott McAlpine **CARRIED**

- **Science Charter – Laurie Rancourt** Laurie sits on the Board of Directors of Science World which is committed to building a science and technology culture in BC. Science World has drafted a Science Charter which they would like BCC to support. The Goal – “....are committed to creating a province that creates and employs scientific knowledge and technological innovation to enable a healthy, prosperous and sustainable society”. Science World would establish leadership and science promotion.

MOTION: For BCC to become a signatory on the Science Charter, on behalf of BC’s 11 public colleges

MOVED: Laurie Rancourt **SECONDED:** Dave O’Leary **CARRIED**

- **ACCC Transfer Principles – Jan Lindsay** Jan spoke to the Transfer Principles (which were included in the meeting package) – colleges to colleges, purpose is to eliminate barriers, focused on placement and providing students with informed choice around prerequisites. The Principles are in the hand of ACCC. Directors have been asked to give a heads up on these Principles to Presidents. When the Principles are distributed to colleges, it is up to the institutions as to whether they want to sign.

Jan shared how the Principles were worked into NIC's Policy and Procedures Manual and noted that Registrars, for the most part, are already collecting data which might be used for reporting in this area. NIC is interested in these Principles in particular to aid transferability with military personnel who are regularly moved around the country.

- Angus asked that institutions provide the BCC office with their best guess on the 3 year financial forecast, if the current reduction of \$4.6M for PSE (through to 2015/16) were to prevail. Jim needs this information as part of transition discussions post May 14th election.

14. Plenary with Board Chairs

The Board Chairs had discussion on the following:

- Best practices
- Remuneration to President and senior executives
- Remuneration and meeting fees for Board members
- Approval of President's expenditures – Chair of Board or audit committee
- Next meeting – Chairs to draft letter to government, regarding funding

15. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Angus thanked everyone for their participation at this meeting and noted that the next meeting of BCC Presidents would be held in Penticton at the Okanagan College campus on May 30th. Jim asked that Presidents think about any opportunities, based on May 30th discussion, that can be taken forward as initiatives. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 30th, 2013 Okanagan College, Penticton Campus (room TBD)
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