

BCC Meeting of Presidents

May 30, 2013; Okanagan College (Penticton campus)

In Attendance:

BCC	Jim Reed Judy Kelly	NLC	Laurie Rancourt Peter Nunoda
CNC	John Bowman Bryn Kulmatycki	NWCC	Denise Henning
COTR	Dianne Teslak	OC	Jim Hamilton
DC	Scott McAlpine	SC	Angus Graeme (Chair) Neil Coburn
LC	Roy Daykin Brad O'Hara	VCC	Kathy Kinloch Sal Ferreras
NIC	Jan Lindsay		

Regrets:

CC	Peter Lockie	COTR	Nick Rubidge
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Guests:

DC	Bob McConkey, The Training Group at Douglas College
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1. Angus Graeme welcomed everyone to the business meeting of the Presidents, including VPs Academic/Education who had chosen to attend. The agenda was adopted as presented.

Jim Hamilton then welcomed everyone to the Centre of Excellence, at the Penticton campus. Okanagan College was pleased to host the meeting being held in Penticton, and in particular in the new sustainable building. He noted some of the features of the building and offered tours over the lunch break to those who were interested.

Jim Reed thanked Okanagan College for hosting the meeting, thanking Jim Hamilton and Joanna Campbell for their assistance and cooperation.

2. General Election/Priorities over next 120 days – Jim Reed

- Mandate of government during election was economic growth, to maintain debt reduction, resource expansion – skilled workforce
- Possibly a core review of all govt. departments – downsizing of government, reduced expenditures and increasing efficiencies
- Perspective some in AEIT that post-secondary are already very efficient
- ASDT (Shared Services) project will likely go ahead; important for those closely involved to keep true to objectives and parameters (for example, requiring a business case before pursuing collaborations)
- Quality Assurance framework process now has renewed energy and will go ahead; will need to keep close eye on this
- Will pass Budget - \$46M reduction to post-secondary education (emphasis on where should the priorities be placed and how does allocation of funding meet those priorities); alignment of resources and increase in post-secondary investment

- Possibly see the Trades portfolio pulled back into AEIT; important to address demand, supply and access issue
- General discussion:
 - Skill development – learners don't want to go back to high school (ARC); need alternative
 - Seeing a reduction in developmental ed population; attached to low income jobs; how do we get them back into the system and keep them there
 - Need for core common messaging from three sector associations
 - Advocacy topic – tuition fees policy – should be uniform
 - Collaboration can yield regional learning partnerships
 - Address demand, supply and access issues
 - Minister of Education (through Student Success position – Transition to Trades) getting into workforce training; Premier focused on Ministry of Education (10 year agreement with BCTF): how do colleges align and facilitate better transition

3. Essential Skills Pilot: Status – Bob McConkey

- Bob distributed an updated document (BCC and Industry Training Schools: An Essential Skills Pilot and Research Initiative – Turning Off The Tap). Document summarizes the challenge, the purpose, how the pilot will work, the outcomes from the pilot which would be documented, three potential funding models for the ESP and the implementation plan.
- Have lobbied AEIT for funding; some expectation that some institutions will allocate a portion of their year-end funding for this initiative
- Plan is to take Essential Skills into college system, identify people, do an intervention, and look at outcomes – what will make our system more efficient
- Colleges supported this initiative last year; is a priority and highly supported in government; 6 colleges needed for the pilot
- NWCC have 90% of their population who can benefit – would like to incorporate this into every teaching area
- Should focus on pilot first, then expand it out if/when additional resources are available
- **ACTION:** Colleges to review and return letter of confirmation, which was distributed, as soon as possible (Have received 2 letters at this time)

MOTION: To approve the proposed direction for the Essential Skills pilot project and commit to support further development of a BC College Essential Skills Strategy.

Moved: Laurie Rancourt

Seconded: Scott McAlpine

Carried

4. BC Consortium for Skills Development – The Business Case – Scott McAlpine, Bob McConkey

- Scott McAlpine, as Chair of the Steering Committee, introduced the Business Case and spoke of the work done thus far and how effective it can be in attracting investment
- Bob stated this is an investment which allows colleges to recruit a CEO, expert consultants, experience and training. Consortium would provide advice, direction, and any templates required to make institutions competitive when bidding for contract training funds
- Much discussion focusing on the following:
 - Concern about cost and ROI; need to know potential of ROI

- With dwindling resources, don't want to have to make choice between Consortium for Business Skills and Essential Skills Pilot
- See there is an opportunity to opt out after 2nd year, is there an opportunity to opt in?
- Gains made are now anecdotal; would want data measurement
- Risk taken as collective but opportunities; want to focus on revenue opportunities
- Have quarterly reports back to group as to ROI
- Profit is embedded in budget
- Jim Hamilton, member of the Steering Committee, supported the proposal; expectation to access revenue options; opportunity to draw on each other's areas of expertise; acknowledged Scott McAlpine and Douglas College sharing of expertise over the last 2 years, but can't expect that to go on; Necessary to move to sustainable business model
- **ACTION:** To go back to institutions and see if there has been an ROI, using LMA funds
- **ACTION:** To schedule a 1 hour conference call the end of June to get agreement on next steps.

MOTION: To approve the business case in principle for the BC Consortium for Skills Development and commit to ongoing discussion on the budget and financial plan and proceed with execution of the MOU.

Moved: Angus Graeme

Seconded: John Bowman

Carried

5. Follow up on ASTTBC Request from April 8th meeting

- Angus and Jim to follow up with John Leech with regard to his action items proposed in the April 8th meeting; follow-up will cover the below areas and BCC's position on each:
 - Letter from College Presidents' Council confirming need for/interest in one national standard for the accreditation of tech education programs, one national model and program for the accreditation of technology programs, support for renewal of the current national accreditation model and program as proposed in the report of the Canadian Standards Association
 - Strategic statement and plan for tech Ed – commitment to collaborate and provide some funding to engage consultant
 - K-12 leading to post-secondary – a statement of support and start of action planning
 - Science and Tech culture – work with Science World re: Science Charter (maybe encourage name to include 'technology'? A letter to Science World would be appreciated)

6. Economic Impact Study

- Using one college to pilot (Selkirk College)
- Take results from what Angus experiences and make final decision
- **ACTION:** To follow up with ESMI to determine timing and cost for undertaking studies at all 11 colleges.

7. Adjournment