

DATE: January 14, 2005

TO: All IRAs
Faculty Education Council Members*
Faculty Representative on the College Board

FROM: Lizz Lindsay, President

SUBJECT: THE PROPOSED EDUCATION PLAN FOR 2005-2006

VP Joan McArthur-Blair introduced the 05-06 Education Plan to Education Council at its January meeting. She has asked Council to consider the Plan at its February 1st meeting. Council does not technically approve the Plan; it gives advice to the College Board on the educational soundness of the Plan. That advice is considered by the Board when it deals with the Plan, probably at its February 22nd meeting.

As we have in previous years, we are sending this copy of the plan (see attached, as part of the EdCo meeting package it was paginated from 8 to 14) to all IRAs to facilitate discussion as widely as possible and to facilitate input from departments to faculty Education Council members and the faculty representative on the Board. You will note that there's an introductory Q&A provided from pages 8 to 10 and then the Plan itself from pages 11 to 14. It is essentially a list of departments with their corresponding number of student FTEs, both what was planned in 2004-05 and what is planned for 2005-06.

Particular issues for your department should be discussed with your representative. In the past if an issue as been pressing enough, departmental representatives have been given time to present to Council. If you believe the Plan may have a negative impact on the faculty in your department, please contact our office.

The VP stated at the Council meeting that it is essentially a stable plan without major changes. We would like to highlight two points.

1) Ministry of Advanced Education Targets

While under block funding the majority of FTEs can be allocated by institutions, the Ministry did set specific targets in several health programs and for on-line learning. In their current form these are listed at the bottom of page 13 and on page 14. In 2004-05, after much lobbying, they added developmental programs, which cover several large programs and total 3050 FTEs. At the January Council meeting the VP explained that the asterisks scattered through pages 11 to 13 mark where the Ministry targets have been allocated.

** faculty members of Education Council*

Brenda Appleton
Frank Fornelli
Robert Kunka

Ginny Cathcart
Ted Hougham
Terry Mills

Heather Chan
Dale Hunter

Lorna Downie
Barbara Knox

However, the plan as presented is not entirely clear in that on page 12 an asterisk appears beside the total for the whole School of Arts, Sciences and Language Studies (3054.14*). That number is coincidentally close to the 3050 target and appears to imply that the University-Transfer programs are being included in developmental programming, but they are not. We called the VP to enquire and she said that UT should not be included. She added that VCC exceeds its 3050 developmental target by including the 800 FTE from PLAR, Assessments, and the Learning Centre. We asked the Ministry last year how those activities meet the Ministry definition of developmental programming, but have not received an answer.

2) Education Council's advice on the Education Plan in 2003

At a similar point in 2003 Council passed this motion

That the education advice to the College Board from Education Council is to do everything possible to save Vancouver Community College's unique programs whose elimination or reduction would be an irrevocable loss to the educational enterprise within VCC and to the community at large.

Where there are concerns around the impact of this plan we trust the Council will keep to the spirit of this motion.

Thank you for your attention. If you have any questions or comments, please let us know.

cc

Non-faculty members of Education Council:

Matthew Bowell (student)	Kathy Campbell(staff)	Dave Donaldson
Dale Dorn (ex-officio)	Dana Fister (staff)	Marta Goodwin
Stephanie Jewell	Stephanie Johnston (student)	Joan McArthur-Blair
Eileen Mendez (student)	Raul Mingorance (student)	

attach

LL/av:cope15
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