

President's Update to the College Community



Serving the communities of Northwestern BC

April 19, 2006

Budget Preparations

A draft budget is being prepared for presentation to the College Board of Governors. The unknown element continues to be the funding we will receive from the Industry Training Authority (ITA) for Trades programs at the College. There has been a lot of change within this area provincially, and they have not yet released any information for 2006/07.

The Budget Task Force's latest review determined that we have a deficit of approximately \$500,000. (This amount is based on assumptions about the amount ITA funding we will receive.) We believe this may be offset by unused funds accumulated over the past few years; confirmation of this will occur once our year end is complete.

"Unused funds" are largely made up of programs that were planned and didn't run or sections that were not accessed by students. While on the one hand, this helps us have some surplus with which to offset any deficit, it does nothing to assist our fte production. Nor does it stand us in good stead with the Ministry, which, of course, could mean not getting more funding for more programs.

We continue to play the delicate balancing act of trimming costs to mitigate the rising costs of just about everything, but most particularly, utilities, salaries, and benefits. With no sign of funding increases from the government on the horizon, we continue to seek new partnership opportunities with our communities and industry, as well as other revenue generation initiatives.

We believe we will be forwarding a balanced budget to the Board for their review on May 12th. This budget is largely status quo from last year with the exception of having to address increased costs in utilities, paper, step increases, and benefits.

International Projects

[Qingdao Vocational and Technical College](#)

Phase One discussions are underway and I hope to have a final outline of activities for 2006 completed by the end of April. Phase One will see professional development events offered to administrators and teachers in Qingdao this spring and fall, as well as a month of PD, ESL and cultural activities for administrators this summer in Terrace. Additionally we will be advertising study opportunities for both NWCC and Qingdao students. This may occur as early as September 2006.

[Beijing Union University \(BUU\)](#)

Six administrators from Beijing Union University will be visiting NWCC in early June. From June 1st to 4th, the following people have been invited to meet with us to explore partnership opportunities:

1. Prof. Sun Quan, Vice President
2. Prof. Gu Zhiliang, Dean of Administration College
3. Prof. Wang Bing, Deputy Dean of Tourist College

News from University Credit...

[Interim Academic Heads:](#)

Mona Izumi will be Academic Head until the end of June with Norma Kerby taking the role of Associate Academic Head during this same time frame.

[Guaranteed Core](#)

A three year slate of core courses and rotating courses has been identified and promoted. This is a welcome initiative and will enable current and potential students to plan their academic programs.

[Online Associate of Arts Degree specializing in First Nations](#)

This program will start this September. This program is being developed and offered in cooperation with six rural colleges in BC. Ross Hoffman is preparing Anthropology 112 for this initiative.

[Aboriginal Teachers Education Bridging Program \(ATEB\)](#)

NWCC will be playing a larger role in this UNBC initiated program. All first year university courses will be offered by the College, and together, the two institutions will review this year's program to determine how supports can be maximized for participants. In the first pilot of this program, ten students started in September 2005 with UNBC; it is anticipated six will be fully ready to proceed to the next academic year.

[Administrators Portfolios](#)

Katherine McIndoe is gradually returning to work. This has led a review of current workloads, program development plans (identified to date), as well as other criteria. As a result some changes have been made to Dean's portfolios. **Please see attached Portfolio Overview document.**

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International Projects continued...

4. Prof. Teng Xiangdong, Director of Human Resources Management Dept
5. Prof. Pang Ming, Director of the International Exchange and Cooperation Dept
6. Prof. Yin Fubin, Director of the Student Affairs Dept

The group will begin their visit in Prince Rupert and depart via Terrace. Given the short time frame, they will only be able to visit two of our campuses.

This visit is the result of ongoing discussions with Beijing Union University that began back in 2003.

Opportunities may exist for a partnership with BUU in the areas of Business Administration, Tourism, and Management.

From the Deans...

BTEC face-to-face becomes ABS - In consultation with the Business Technology program's advisory committee, a new Applied Business Support (ABS) program has been developed that will replace the current BTEC face-to-face program. The new ABS program is more in line with the identified needs of local businesses and industry.

The program is classroom based and will be offered at Terrace campus. The new program will be presented to Ed Council for final approval and subsequent posting to the web site. All students who applied to BTEch face to face have been notified of the program change. ABS is part of Dave O'Leary's portfolio with Ann Marie Merkel as the Program Coordinator. BTEch face-to-face program information will be removed from the web site.

Entrepreneurial Tourism Management (ETM) - ETM has been removed from our program line up. The College is reviewing the area of Tourism programming and will be developing tourism related programs in the near future. ETM will be removed from the web site.

Wilderness Guiding Skills (WGS) - WGS has also been removed from our program line up. It will be undergoing review and redevelopment as part of a larger Tourism program review initiative. WGS will also be removed from the Web site.

New to the College - The Ministry of Health has supported a new program offering at the College: Nursing Unit Clerk. Discussions with the Northern Health Authority are underway to determine how and where this program will be offered in the upcoming academic year.

Telephone Replacement/Renewal Installation Update

The installation of the new system is underway and will be completed by mid June 2006. Please call Paul Fleming, Dave O'Leary, or Diane Ready if you have any questions.

Centralized Student Application

May 1 is the 'official' start of all student applications being processed centrally in Terrace. Each campus has been involved in the process, and admissions, student records and the Registrar's office have been instrumental in managing this change.

The new centralized admissions and storage of records will protect student privacy, improve admissions turn-around time, lessen confusion, and reduce the amount of unnecessary faxing and copying of paper. For now, *BTEch Online* will continue to be processed by Mary Heimstra in Smithers. This will change when BC Campus updates their processes and system - anticipated by the end of 2006.

Facilities News

Building Audits

Two audits are currently underway: dormitories at the Terrace Campus and the entire Smithers Campus. The buildings are being examined for fire safety, heating and hot water distribution and overall condition. The Smithers campus is being targeted for replacement. Cramped conditions and lack of space are increasingly problematic. A business case is required to make a request for funding to replace the Smithers campus.

Acoustic work in the cafeteria

This project is underway and involves the extension of the mainline bulkheads to reduce noise between main kitchen and eating area. Like all of our projects, this work went out to tender, and the contract was awarded to UNI Construction.