

February 7, 2007

Students' Day of Action Justified at VCC

"High Fees result in surpluses, more administration and student money going to building projects."

"Today's Day of Action against high tuition fees is particularly justified at Vancouver Community College," said VCC Faculty Association President Frank Cosco.

"This college, which has the highest percentage of developmental students in the province, doubled fees in 2002/03 and has kept increasing them as much as they can every year since. In fact, another 2% increase is planned for the coming school year."

"The result:

VCC has run large surpluses every year since and is currently running almost a \$4 million surplus.

Since 2002 the number of students attending has gone down by more than 10% while the number of administrators making as much or more than top step faculty has gone up 60% to 46 positions at a cost of about \$2 million a year.

In order to help fund the \$11 million shortfall in its current building plan, VCC has tacked on an extra surcharge on to student fees designed to produce about \$2 million. In effect using tuition as a way to tax current students for buildings they'll not use."

Cosco concluded, "The provincial government set up this system of funding colleges and even college capital projects through student fees. It's hurting our students. It's keeping potential students away. It's not good for our society in the long run."

"The VCCFA is supporting the actions of the Canadian Federation of Students and particularly the actions of the Student Unions of VCC and calls upon the government to use the upcoming budget opportunity to take positive action that will allow everyone to get the training and education they need without fear of hardship or debt."

"As our provincial faculty campaign for better investments in BC's post-secondary system says, 'Better Funding, Better Futures.'"

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