

Bulletin 08-5  
June 9, 2008

**Members authorize performance review of Dale Dorn's time  
as VCC President**

**College Board votes in administration's 2008/09 budget and education plan**

**Education Council recommends against cancelling  
Drafting and Information Technology**

**Cheryl Draper Scholarship Winners:  
Owen Leggatt Stewart & Yasemin Tulpar**

**June General Meeting**

**Members authorize performance review of Dale Dorn's time as VCC President**

At the June 4<sup>th</sup> General Meeting, membership unanimously endorsed a performance review process on Dale Dorn's time as VCC president since 1999. This faculty process will inform a future recommendation to the College Board.

This proposal was made by the union executive as a response to many calls for the President's removal or an immediate vote of non-confidence. It was felt that a comprehensive review would help inform the Board and the college community. The motion also stated that the review would be based on widely accepted criteria and attempt to gather as representative a sample of faculty opinion as possible. Mid-September is the target date for completion of the review.

Up to about five or six years ago, the VCCFA, along with other constituency groups, had been very involved in the various levels of review for Dale Dorn and for John Cruikshank. The current board changed that by adopting a "behind closed doors" approach. The board has not substantively responded to VCCFA calls to reopen that process.

Being a college president in BC is a tough job as one's freedom to be effective is never as great as others think it is and the resources available are never as abundant as anyone would wish. Nevertheless, faculty are essentially professional and in aggregate will offer a fair reading of performance.

It was suggested that several possible frames or topics of assessment be developed, such as the president's effectiveness in developing and maintaining:

- ~ inclusive strategic planning procedures
- ~ appropriate funding, infrastructure and facilities
- ~ program review mechanisms
- ~ faculty renewal
- ~ the profile and stature of the college within the community

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VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE Faculty Association FPSE LOCAL 15

~ productive relationships with and between governance bodies and constituency groups  
~ an atmosphere of innovation

Leadership and personal qualities such as communicative abilities, integrity and balance, and the ability to inspire commitment have also been suggested.

No doubt there are other frames out there. The executive will review published examples and literature and would also welcome members' suggestions. Please try to send them in by the end of June to [info@vccfa.ca](mailto:info@vccfa.ca)

## College Board votes in administration's 2008/09 budget and education plan

At the May 29<sup>th</sup> Board meeting those departments facing cancellation were allowed to speak at the public session. Department Heads and supporters from industry and the community gave tremendous testimony. Many expressed frustration at the lack of response from appointed board members. Silence was their watchword. Most questions came from student reps Vijay Krisnan and Charmaine Waters who did the best they could to explore alternatives.

The one benefit of the chance to defend one's program is that it clarifies why the transformative work we are skilled enough and fortunate enough to do is so important and so valuable.

Although the particular path recent board meetings have taken to get there was full of surprises, misinformation, a lack of total disclosure, pure intimidation, and moving, eloquent statements, the results of the meetings were predictable.

The Education Plan and the Budget for 2008/09 were passed\*. Last minute amendments saw Employment and Education Access for Women (only after a student board rep amended the main motion) and ASL/Deaf Studies (only after the direct intervention of the Minister of Advanced Education following a tremendous lobby effort by its students, the department head Vincent Chauvet, the SUVCC and the NDP) move off the cancellation list. There was also a last minute status change from cancellation to suspension for Business Management programs.

*\*For the record, the appointed members voted as a block for the motion, as did the staff member, Dennis Cummings. Sue Aro, the faculty member, voted against. The two students abstained because they had just been successful in getting the EEAW amendment.*

### **Appointed members of the Board:**

**Mark Stock, Chair, VP, Tree Island Industries**

**Rick Antonson, CEO, Tourism Vancouver**

**Donald Fairburn, DCF Consulting, engineer**

**Fiona Taylor, VP, Peace Software**

**Pamela Aikman, VP, BC Cancer Society**

**Lisa Coltart, BC Hydro, director**

**Marina Pratchett, lawyer, construction law**

**Thomas Wong, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, accountant**

## EdCo recommends against cancelling Drafting and Information Technology

Education Council has been defending education throughout this process. It deserves every credit for setting up extra meetings to allow programs to speak, for listening, and in the end for coming up with comprehensive, clear advice to the Board on why the damaging parts of the Education Plan should not be adopted. That advice came as an initial amendment to the Board's motion on the Education Plan but was defeated.

At its June meeting, EdCo, again after thorough and comprehensive input and discussion, determined their advice would be not to cancel Information Technology and Drafting. This question will be at the Board at its June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. The faculty members of Council and chair **Karen Shortt** have done a fine, inspiring job.

## Cheryl Draper Scholarship Winners: Owen Leggatt Stewart & Yasemin Tulpar

Congratulations to Owen and Yasemin each a winner of \$1000 scholarship from the VCCFA. Owen was present to accept his award at the June meeting, unfortunately-since we changed the date – Yasemin could not attend.

## June General Meeting

In addition to the scholarships and the motion regarding the evaluation of the president's performance, Chief Steward Ingrid Kolsteren\* reported that **many term instructors have started to lose work** as a result of the budget. She also dealing with layoff processes that have begun and she unfortunately expects more.

With help from computer whizzes Marlena Vanderwal and John Marshall, VP Brenda Appleton got the technology working and we were able to show excerpts from recent media coverage of the cuts at VCC. We also watched the impassioned questions of MLAs Jenny Kwan and Rob Fleming from the May 13<sup>th</sup> **Question Period in the Legislature**. (One can see the latter at [www.leg.bc.ca/hansard/8-8.htm](http://www.leg.bc.ca/hansard/8-8.htm) and checking for May 13th)

From President's report at the General Meeting:

### ***FPSE Annual General Meeting***

The AGM happened in the midst of all this other activity and all in all it was extremely successful for this local. All of executive and five other activists saw our policy initiatives passed:

- ~setting up two conferences, one on bargaining and one on post-secondary governance;
- ~establishing an advocacy and policy statement on Trades and Apprenticeship Training
- ~a survey of the unrestrained growth in senior administration
- ~examining options for democratizing college governance
- ~ **Pauline Barratt** raised the issue of asbestos in college and off-site worksites.

The next newsletter will have a fuller report.

***\*Congratulations to the proud, new grandmother!  
If you ask nicely, she just might show you the first photos.***

## ***Media and Vancouver City Council***

With the help of our allies we were able to get extensive and continued coverage centered around the three board meetings in March, April and May and the day of the Education Council vote in May. American Sign Language Department Head **Vincent Chauvet** and the students were especially effective. Despite the significant failure of the major print media to pick up the story, we certainly made the public aware of funding problems and by contrast clouded the week of new "university" announcements the government wanted to trumpet.

## ***Statement to the Board on the Education Plan Cuts and the Budget***

At the May Board meeting we summarized the main points of our campaign:

- ~ Cuts may be necessary but these are too extreme – an alternative horizontal cut approach is possible
- ~ A public college has established ways and means to change programming; this "budget crisis" approach is too executive driven and has cut off program and community input
- ~ VCC is actually hiding the province's funding problem by cannibalizing itself
- ~ Once again, VCC will be left in a damaged state

## ***Statement to the Board on the "C.3.3" Program Cancellation Process***

We criticized how administration is using this device to build cases against departments it wishes to cut. We asked, "Doesn't it speak volumes about the inadequacy of this "review" that tonight the board is officially authorizing several; while the completed result is already in the EdCo package for next Tuesday's meeting?" This "process" is fast, efficient work because it's a private "review," with no place for real discussion or input.

## ***Response to Administration Assertions regarding the absence of a VCC "Culture of Quality"***

We told the Board that at the May 13<sup>th</sup> Education Council meeting administration members made some very provocative statements regarding the lack of a "culture of quality" at VCC and the need for "accountability." To us, those are very rash, loaded and unfair statements. In our view they carry more weight if directed at administration at VCC.

## ***Thanks and Appreciation***

*The six weeks since our last meeting have been extremely busy with our efforts to influence the misdirection of the Board in making VCC even smaller.*

- ~ **Brenda and Ingrid** have been involved with every effort and have worked extremely hard while also carrying their normally heavy load of work.
- ~ Our office assistant **Audrey** has been there coordinating and supporting all our efforts.
- ~ FPSE president **Cindy Oliver** has included us in every media and ministry briefing she gave. Media staff **Phil Legg** has been very effective in spurring media outlets to cover us.
- ~ Student leaders **Vijay Krisnan and Charmaine Waters** have consistently spoken out and at the Board voted in support of student learning and faculty members. SUVCC staff **Tiffany Kalanj and Rob Mealy** have been great, always working their contacts to get access to the media and the Ministry.
- ~ Executive and members have been great in sending over 200 letters, and getting over a thousand petition signatures.
- ~ Members and students in concerned departments and their supporters have spoken eloquently and often in every forum available to show the value of their work and the folly in cutting them

## ***Whatever your Situation, Have the best Summer possible under the Circumstances***

*Next Scheduled Membership Meeting ~ September 25th*