



May 1, 2008

Hon. Murray Coell
Minister of Advanced Education
Room 247, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Coell,

Bill Dobie is one of our members and he copied us on your answer to his query regarding the Drafting program at VCC.

We fully understand the part of your reply in which you cite the local control that Boards of institutions like VCC have over management and administration. We recognize that the Ministry made across the board cuts which have affected all institutions and that they are now re-examining their options.

While we respectfully continue to disagree with those cuts and will continue to speak out about them, we do not think that they are the heart of the 08/09 budget issue currently causing so much concern at VCC.

It seems VCC is handling the across the board cut. What the current executive at VCC is doing on top of that is deciding on its own to restructure the offerings at VCC; in order, we suppose, to create more fiscal flexibility in the future.

We grant that every program should periodically expect to be reviewed. At VCC as at all colleges there are program renewal and review processes which should regularly be invoked. However, that's not what is happening to VCC programs like Drafting.

Mixing up "review for termination" with "structural deficit panic" and the annual budgeting exercise cannot in anyone's mind be confused with the "careful consideration" you rightfully expect. We have called several times upon the VCC Board to look at other options which we believe they have rather than the draconian vertical and horizontal cuts the current college executive is pushing.

Our programs are not afraid of fair reviews and this is the community's college, not a college run by this small executive group.

We request that you use your good offices to also call upon the Board to allow "careful consideration" to happen; to use the utmost restraint in dealing with the issues before them so that good programming that is threatened and programming that may need improvement, not termination, can continue to flourish at VCC.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Frank Cosco', is written over the typed name.

Frank Cosco
President
VCC Faculty Association