

NEWS

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Transition Council off to an 'impressively co-operative' start

With a spirit which was described as "impressively co-operative", members of the new Transition Council have held the first of what will be weekly Monday meetings to determine the structures of VCC and the new Langara College.

The TC is comprised of the regular membership of the old College Executive Committee (CEC), plus a representative from each major VCC union. The TC now includes: VCC President John Cruickshank, Acting Langara Principal Linda Holmes, Acting KEC/City Centre Principal Joan Horsley, Richard Pearce, Acting Director of College Resources, Acting Continuing Education Director Gail Rochester, Tom Toulson, Director of International Education and Contract Services and Acting Bursar Fred Wylie. In addition, Langara Faculty Association President Lawrence Warren, VCC Faculty Association President Dalton Kremer and Vancouver Municipal and Regional Employees Union representative Jo Hansen join the group.

It was also noted that the separation has a solid legal basis with approval in principle from both the ministry and cabinet.

In an opening comment, Holmes asked that past quarrels be left behind in favour of a "full team effort."

"I hope we will develop a process that not only appears to be fair, but, in fact, will be fair," said Holmes. "All of the people of both parts (KEC-CC and Langara) need to be involved and we all need to pull together. At the end of this exercise, I hope we have two pieces

of the whole which are each happier with themselves and each other than they were as one."

Added Kremer: "Everyone's voice must be heard in this process. Money considerations must be made with a clear criteria and reliable data. And our decisions must be broadcast widely to the college community."

A guiding consideration for the council's discussions over the next 14 months (Langara will separate on April 1, 1994) will be how much--if any--additional money will be available from the ministry to accomplish the task. Although the government is stressing "zero-inflationary" increases in the funding of advanced education, Warren and others called for a "fair and equitable" approach to the split.

"Both of the institutions which are about to be formed must stand on a strong financial foundation," said Warren. "When one part suffers a loss, they must also know that they will make a gain in another area."

Cruickshank said he saw TC as a "hopper" into which all of the concerned constituencies would place information, ideas and concerns. TC would then refine the input and present subsequent decisions to the College Board for approval.

The first TC session was devoted largely to a philosophical view of the issues, but several specific resolutions were adopted to support the "fair and equitable" approach.

Continued on the other side...

Meetings to be held each Monday



Student input sought

Among those:

- Concerns from students and the general public must be actively sought and accepted. (It was decided that student representatives would not sit on the TC, but that a mechanism to involve them would be constructed, as a priority).
- Provide for total participation of all college constituencies in the process of developing two colleges from one.
- The emphasis would be on "open" meetings of TC. Private sessions will be kept to a minimum. Contributions to meetings from administration members and union staff will be welcomed.
- There will be full communications of TC discussions and actions to all constituents: employees, students, government and the public.
- To ensure that fair treatment occurs in each college and centralized service area relative to release time, professional development funding, curriculum development funding and other common elements, the budgetary allocation process will be based on clear criteria and concise data.
- Cruickshank will chair the TC, with deputy chairpersons acting on a rotating basis.