

NEWS

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Budget information plan 'open and up front'

The Transition Council will develop an "open and up front" communications plan on the College's financial position--and the effect on employees and students.

"We will be accountable for providing information as it becomes known, and decisions as they are made," said President John Cruickshank. "This will be a continuation of the style which has been developed through the Exchange line and Exchange newsletter. We will provide clear and honest information, without minimizing the impact."

Cruickshank said that this "state of the economy" approach will be launched through the Exchange next week. He said that although messages on this subject won't be a daily event, full communications on the budget will occur over the next seven to 10 weeks, as events unfold.

He said that information and comment will be provided on:

- * The College's current deficit position, projections for 1993-94, and a vision for 1995
- * The roles of those involved and the time lines for making decisions.
- * The effect of decisions on all constituents, notably students and employees.
- * An explanation of the Ministry's directives under which the College must operate.
- * A view of what will be required to achieve long-term stability and success for the College.

Deadline extended for Issues Forum

An important reminder that we have an opportunity on May 28 to begin shaping the future of a new VCC. This is not just an opportunity for administrators to shape that vision, but a chance

for every KEC and City Centre employee and every VMREU member at Langara to play a part in designing what the new VCC should look like in the next three to five years, and the steps that need to be taken to get there.

By now you should have received an application form to attend this day-long Issues Forum at KEC. Because not enough time was originally provided for replies, **the deadline for returning the application has been extended from May 7 to May 15.**

If you have an application form, please fill it in and return it to the appropriate person mentioned on the covering letter. If you **don't** have the application form, call Dale Rasmussen at Local 7168...he'll send a copy out to you immediately.

Fairness checklist for administration

The Administration Council was provided Monday with a "Administrative Fairness Checklist" from the B.C. Ombudsman's office.

While the primary role of the Ombudsman's office is to investigate complaints of unfairness made by individuals against government and government organizations, such as the College, it is also the Ombudsman's job to advise those organizations on how to avoid systemic unfairness.

The fairness checklist, which is designed as a framework in which specific policies can be written, includes 34 suggestions. Here are a few excerpts from that checklist:

- * Are our information brochures, applications forms and personal letters written in plain, easily understandable language without legal, technical or bureaucratic jargon? Are all of our communications clear and courteous?

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Continued on the other side...



* Do we provide adequate telephone access, including toll-free or collect long distance services?

* Do the current or planned physical facilities accommodate accessibility for the disabled and the health and safety of the staff?

* Are all parties adversely affected by a decision given timely and complete reasons for, and details of, the decision? Do they have adequate opportunity to present evidence in support of their positions or to seek remedies through appeal?

* Do criteria for the selection, deployment and evaluation of personnel take into account the skills necessary to deal fairly and effectively with the public?

* Are personnel training programs adequate to meet performance expectations of management and the public? Are all front line staff properly instructed regarding the importance of treating all individuals with respect and courtesy?

* Are there appropriate mechanisms for the meaningful participation of affected individuals and groups in the planning of program initiatives and modifications?

Down with line ups thanks to LARS

A major prerequisite for registration at Langara--namely the patience and stamina to stand through monstrous lineups--is about to go the way of telephones with dials.

This is thanks to LARS--the acronym for Langara Automated Registration System. LARS will allow students to register for this fall's term from the comfort of their homes...or for that matter, from Timbuktu if that's where the student happens to be for the summer. All that's needed is a touch-tone phone.

Here's how it works: As usual, students study the Langara calendar. They then pick up the LARS guide book, which will be coming out by

July 1. The guide will provide the details, including information on how to set up a personal identification number based on birth date--and the exact date on which each student should phone in. These staggered dates will spread the process over a much longer period than the old system.

The student must also pay a \$100 deposit on his or her fees at least five working days before registration. This payment can be made to Langara or through any branch of the Bank of Montreal.

Valerie Nielsen, Acting Dean of Administrative and Student Services, said that when LARS is fully operational it will offer a number of other features for students, such as dialling in for transcripts or financial balances owing.

Welcome aboard!

A welcome to the newest member of the College Board, Kehar Sekhon.

Sekhon has 24 years of teaching experience with the Vancouver School Board. He serves on various community-based committees, including the School district's Staff Race Relations Committee and the Race Relations Committee of the B.C. Teachers' Federation.

He also teaches family life skills, decision making skills and conducts both sexual abuse and alcohol and drug prevention programs. Sekhon joins the Board following the recent resignation of Ruth Preston.

Hansen elected to TC

The VMREU election for the union representative on the Transition Council was as close as possible...a one vote win for Jo Hansen, with Paul Boissonnault finishing the close second. Hansen, now known as landslide Hansen, had been the temporary VMREU representative to the Council since it was formed about three months ago.

**If you have any
comments or questions,
please send them to
Chuck Poulsen, Manager
of The Exchange, in care
of College Administrative
Services.**