

NEWS

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Budget deadline July 15

The College Board Wednesday set a fast-track deadline of July 15 to determine how many jobs will be saved--and how many will be lost--in the budget crisis.

Board Chair Bob Smith noted that the recent plea for cost-cutting ideas from employees had resulted in almost 300 suggestions which may help soften the blow of large-scale layoffs. "There was an extraordinary response from the College community," said Smith.

He added that although a Tuesday meeting with Advanced Education Minister Tom Perry provided a "full and frank" discussion of the issues, there was no last minute reprieve.

The Ministry has stated that the College must balance its budget and pay off its deficit by April 1, 1995. That deficit, which stood at \$2.1 million on April 1, 1993 would climb to \$9 million by April 1, 1994 without improved efficiencies and reduction in faculty, staff and administration.

The Board set the following schedule for finalizing the budget and beginning the program and service reductions:

June 23 - July 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Preparation of detailed reduction recommendations and impact statements.•Preparation of cost/revenue impacts of ideas forwarded by the College community.•Proposed accelerated meeting schedule for the joint VCCFA-College Enhanced Program Delivery Committee.•Review of detailed reduction plan by Transition Council.•Review of cost/revenue impacts.
July 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Joint private meeting of the Education and Student Services and Administration and Finance Committees of the Board. All Board members invited.- to consider proposed budget and reductions with impact statements.
July 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Consultation process on program areas affected by potential reduction to commence.
July 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•VCC Administration Public Information Forum.
July 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Special private and public VCC Board meeting to approve budget.
July 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Earliest date on which notification and consultation regarding layoffs may commence. The earliest date on which layoff notices may be issued depends on the time frames specified in each collective agreement.

For
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updates
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7099
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2:30 pm

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Langara CEO interviews July 7

On July 7, the Board will interview three candidates who have been short-listed for the position of Langara CEO. A cross-Canada search resulted in 39 applications for the job.

Harassment Affairs Advisor resigns

The College's Harassment Affairs Advisor, Heather MacFadgen, has resigned because she is moving, with her husband, to the Yukon. A procedure for hiring her replacement is in process.

Curtains for Stanley plan?

There is some disappointing news on the possibility of the Langara Theatre Arts students and KEC's Music students performing at the old Stanley Theatre. It appears that the Arts Club is prepared to enter the proposal for the renovation project, probably eclipsing the stage time that might have been available to the College.

Student loan proposal opposed

The Transition Council has voted to ask the College Board to oppose some of the new federal government proposals on student loans. One of those proposals recommends that the current 60 per cent course load eligibility requirement be increased to 80 per cent. President John Cruickshank said that while this might represent a cost-savings to the government, it runs completely contrary to the educational realities that colleges and their students are experiencing.

Perry stresses financial restraint

Advanced Education Minister Tom Perry's message to the annual general meeting of the Advanced Education Council of B.C. on June 18 was one that VCC and Langara can relate to: colleges must find ways to do more things with less money for many years to come.

"Governments have reached the limit of what tax payers will pay," said Perry. "Although B.C. is spending less than the (national) average on advanced education, that fact won't cut any mustard with the public. Colleges must find creative and imaginative ways to promote a renewal of the system without adding to the cost."

As a small example, but one that has been discussed at the College over the last few days, Perry said that free parking for employees and students may be an inappropriate utilization of space that should give way to the encouragement of rapid transit.

"We can no longer afford to waste anything, including space," said Perry.

The Minister also called on colleges to make the employability of graduates an urgent priority.

Said Perry; "A key criteria is whether graduates have acquired skills to earn a living. For instance, if you haven't taught students how to write a resume by the time they graduate, then you have cheated them."

Perry concluded his remarks by quoting Mikhail Gorbachev in his book *Perestroika*: "We have to find a new way of thinking and the courage to carry it through."

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



The deficit-reducing suggestions from employees generally fell into five categories: productivity increases, efficiency measures, revenue generation ideas, organizational/structural changes and proposals which have implications for the collective agreements.

Many cost cutting and revenue producing ideas are still being received and reviewed.

The Board also approved seven major criteria for making the reductions. They are:

- * Demand for the program.
- * Ability to bring back the program to production and quality.
- * Program costs relative to revenue.
- * Reduction of student and administrative services resulting from reduction of instructional delivery.
- * Availability of program/course elsewhere.
- * Availability of alternate delivery methods.
- * Analysis of community need versus student need.

Message from John Cruickshank

Thank you!

That's the first thing I want to say about the phenomenal outpouring of deficit-reducing ideas that have come in through department and divisional meetings, as well as the Exchange line.

I don't think anyone quite expected the depth of feeling and caring that VCC people have expressed for their college and the crisis that it's going through. It's renewed my confidence in the long term future for all of us.

But the sizable number of ideas has also presented us with a very large short-term challenge...and that is to do real justice to every contribution. This means thorough research. We must go through every suggestion, cost out its potential savings, and decide whether it's educationally viable.

Beyond that, but just as important, both the College Board and I understand that the collective agreements must be respected. That's why--in consultation and co-operation with the unions--many of the suggestions must be worked through the union-management processes that are already in place. One example is the Enhanced Program Delivery Committee...a joint VCCFA and Management group that has a mandate to make sure the College is delivering 100 per cent of the FTEs for which it is funded. That committee will be dealing with all of the articles of the collective agreement as they work toward that goal.

So once again, my heartfelt appreciation for your efforts and your patience. Every idea is going to receive serious consideration. Your opinion really does count...I guarantee it.

- John Cruickshank

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