


# NEWS



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## Starwars plan launched by TC

Transition Council Monday approved the final version of a decision-making process for separation. The process, nicknamed starwars, is attached to this edition of the Exchange.

The first page of the two-page document indicates all of the "units" which need to be considered in the separation process; the second page outlines a step-by-step sequence for decision making prior to presentation to the College Board. The Board has the final decision on all of the elements of separation, based on the broad spectrum of input which is indicated on the second page.

### 'Future Conference' planned for January

The VCC Planning Team has taken the first major step in determining the shape and substance of the new VCC by deciding to hold a Planning for the Future Conference on January 14 and 15.

The number of conference members won't be determined until next week, although it looks like somewhere between 60 and 120 representatives from throughout the VCC community will be invited.

Pacific Leadership, the group which is helping facilitate the VCC Planning Team's activities, described the conference as a major initiative for determining the College's long-term vision, values and mission. These statements will become the foundation for arriving at departmental and divisional goals as well as a strategy which will take the College to the end of the decade.

Planning Team members, who represent all areas of the College, also decided that they

would widely circulate a package of possible concepts and scenarios to stimulate discussion at the conference. One member of the team described this package as "building blocks" which will allow conference members to consider a range of ideas, hopefully taking everyone to a level above the kind of special interests and polarization that has existed in the past.

Two members of the team, Aphrodite Harris and Nina Kozakiewicz, said some team members believe that the process must result in credible and practical outcomes which have a strong possibility of being implemented.

"Since many areas in the College have already put a lot of energy into producing action and strategic plans, many team members are hoping that any forum to be held will use these documents as a basis for discussion and future plans," said Harris. "It is understood that many within our VCC community, feeling job insecurity, increased workload and a fast-approaching April separation deadline, need real signs that the planning process is ready to address the major changes that are already affecting VCC."

Last week team members reached a consensus on several items, including:

- \* The activities of the team's meetings should be carried through the Exchange in reports that reflect both the positive nature of the work as well as whatever conflict might occur.

- \* Student involvement will be sought primarily through the classroom.

### Gerry Schwartz dies of cancer

For those who haven't already heard, College Board member Gerry Schwartz passed

### VCC Council... Who? What? When? Why?

*Faculty, staff and students are all invited to a lunch-hour discussion with John Cruickshank regarding the formation of the new VCC Council. It's an informal get-together so bring your lunch, and your comments and questions. Cruickshank will be in the KEC cafeteria on Thursday, October 28th, from noon until 1 p.m., and in the City Centre cafeteria on Friday, October 29th, also from noon til one.*



away October 21 following a lengthy bout with cancer.

As the chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. Schwartz was a tireless and dedicated worker for the College and he will be greatly missed.

Said John Cruickshank: "Beyond just the sheer number of hours he put in for the College, Gerry brought caring and compassion to the job which made his contribution so much more than just dealing with the bottom line. I'm sure I speak for everyone at the College in offering our sincerest condolences to Ann Schwartz.

A memorial service was held for Mr. Schwartz on Monday.

### ***College Board responds to Premier's 'welfare' remarks***

You may recall a report on the Exchange from the last College Board meeting where some Board members were critical of remarks that Premier Harcourt made regarding welfare recipients. On behalf of the Board, Chairman Bob Smith has now written to the Premier. Here are excerpts from that letter:

"VCC is a leader in offering opportunities for job training, training in Adult Basic Education and in retraining of students, many of whom are in receipt of social assistance. Single mothers on social assistance, for example, are not provided with sufficient financial assistance and cannot qualify for a student loan, which would enable them to attend job training or upgrading of skills programs. They are, therefore, trapped as welfare recipients. Many victims of abuse find themselves in the same circumstances.

"The recent drastic budget cuts at VCC have resulted in a reduction of vocational programs...and also essential student services.

The net effect is that we can no longer provide the degree of services and training you are advocating for those on welfare, or indeed for any of our students.

"The Board believes that it is unrealistic and unacceptable to suggest that the recipients of social assistance should become more productive members of our society, without simultaneously providing educational and other support services to do so."

The letter goes on to offer the College's willingness to work with the Ministry to provide job training for this group of people.

### ***Time for a change?***

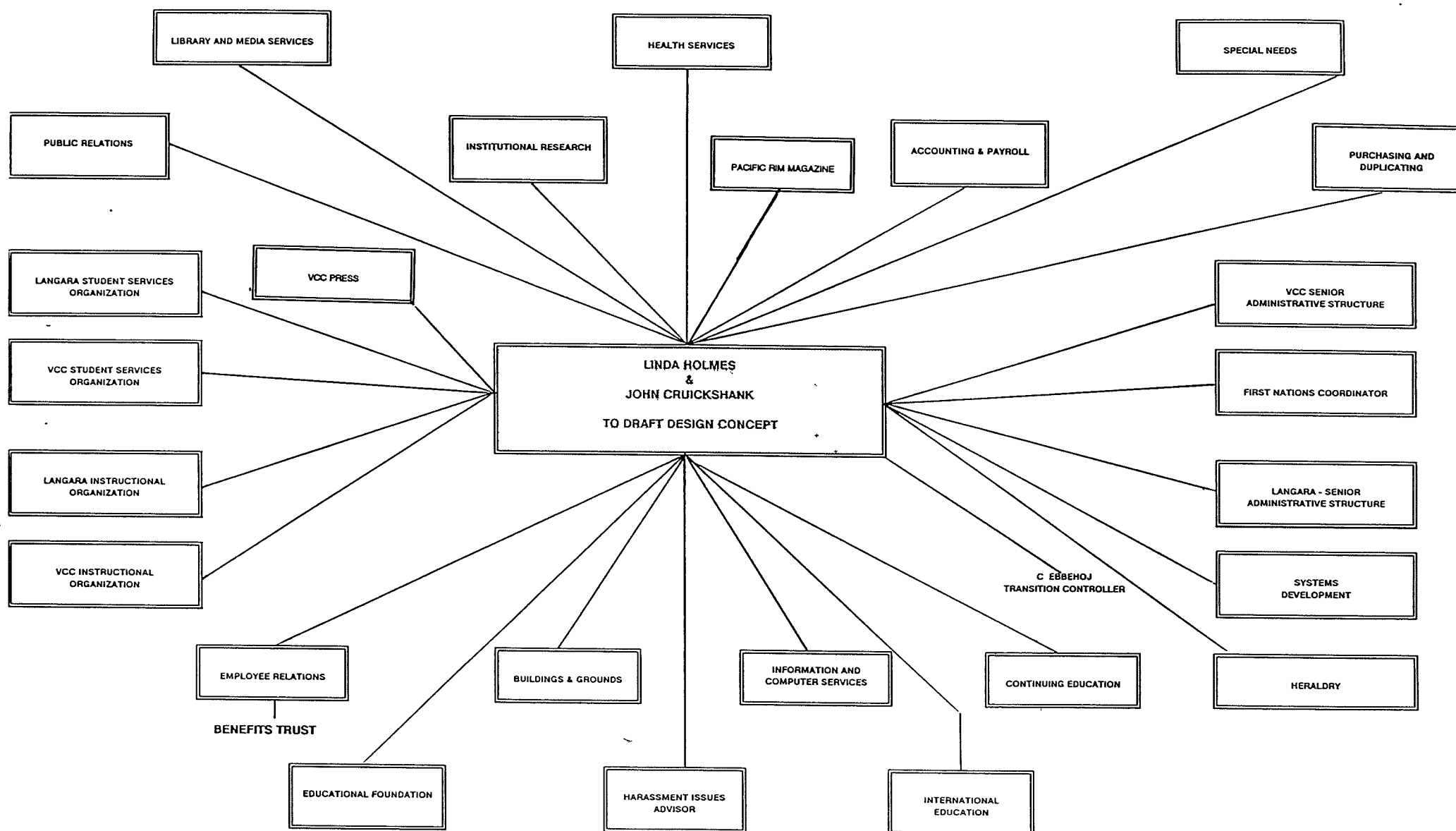
Some people at the College may be unaware that we have a membership in the Community College Exchange Program (CCEP).

CCEP is a network of 216 community colleges in the U.S. and Canada that promotes faculty and staff exchanges by matching the requests to work at a different college with whatever opportunities are available.

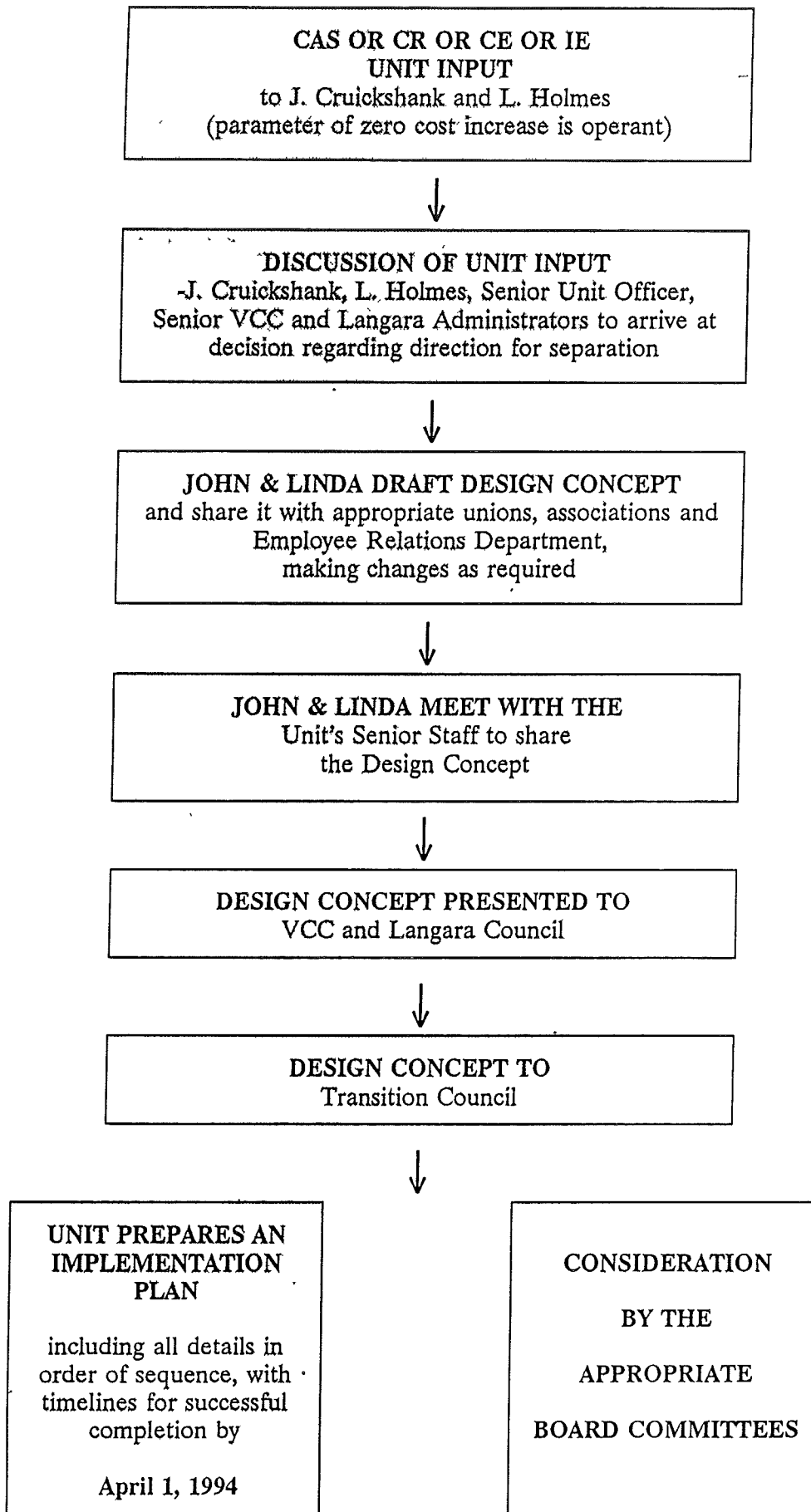
It's run by Gary Filan at Mesa Community College in Mesa Arizona. Filan is particularly anxious to point out that there is more to this program than just the normal one-on-one exchanges. He says it's becoming increasingly popular to use CCEP to arrange a work opportunity at another college without necessarily having to find someone at that college to trade places with. For example, this kind of opportunity can occur if a college has a temporary opening due to one of its people being on a sabbatical.

If you're interested in some form of exchange visit for yourself, phone Carol Harrison (in Employee Relations, Local 7142).

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



## DECISION-MAKING PROCESS



- Because the VCC and Langara instructional units will not be shared services, their issues will go directly to TC.
- Transition Controller may also be involved in first three steps.