

NEWS

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Administrative restructuring plan expected next week

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A plan for the administrative restructuring of VCC and Langara will probably be unveiled next week.

Following a weekend College Board retreat, President John Cruickshank told the Exchange that he had outlined to Board members a process for restructuring the administration of services in the College and that he "made a commitment to communicate these plans with all College employees" following the November 25 Board meeting. If all goes as planned, a report will be issued on November 29.

He hinted that the Fifth Floor's "centralized services" as we have known them will change to Administrative Services for Langara College and Administrative Services for VCC. He said that this should not be interpreted as a loss of jobs, adding that "right now we have more jobs to be filled than we have people to fill them."

At least two other points came out of the retreat:

- * The Board is considering a governance model named after management consultant John Carver which directs Board members to devote themselves to "outcomes" rather than the process which is used to achieve them. This implies more orientation toward goals and objectives; less 'hands on' work from the Board. This also will be discussed at Thursday's Board meeting.

- * The Board examined its own performance after surveying all of the College's constituent groups and conducting a self examination. It was reported that the Board was "generally pleased" with its performance and that a proper letter grade would be "about a B".

Planners get on with job

VCC Planning Team members Friday appeared to clear some of the scepticism which has slowed their progress to this point and got down to the nuts and bolts planning of the Futures Conference to be held in January.

Here are the highlights of what was a wide ranging discussion:

- * John Cruickshank told the group that the strict legal deadline requirements of an April 1 separation date mean that some decisions--particularly those relating to shared/contracted services--will have to be made outside of the current planning activity. However, he guaranteed that the planning activity has the full support of administration and the Board and that the mission, vision and values statements which come out of the Futures Conference in mid January will "build the heart and soul of our new institution." He also said that all of the interim decisions regarding shared/contracted services will be open to review after April 1, should they be in conflict with the Planning Team recommendations.

Cruickshank added that students and employees "will not be able to perceive one ounce of difference before and after separation" in the day-to-day operation of the shared service areas, such as the libraries just to name one.

- * The Planning Team will finalize in its next meeting on December 3 the exact number of representatives to the Futures Conference, but it was decided that representatives will come from each of the constituency groups which were identified by representation on the Planning Team itself.



* Planning Team members decided to continue to have the Exchange report on their meetings, as one person put it, "warts and all." However, it was also decided by a vote of nine to seven that individual members would be quoted by name only after the Exchange sought their approval.

Ministry to shift funding priorities?

It appears that the new VCC may now have friends in high places.

John Cruickshank predicted on Friday that the new Minister of the Skills, Training and Labour Ministry, Dan Miller, and Deputy Minister Gary Wouters are very supportive of vocational and other job training programs.

"I think it's taken the NDP two years to begin putting its mark on priorities for advanced education," said Cruickshank. "But that mark is now becoming clear and I think that over the next three to four months we will see that the business VCC is in will be in a very favoured position in Victoria. I think the larger flow of funds will shift from academic to vocational and skills programs."

As a member of a four-person executive of the Council of Presidents, Cruickshank has been in weekly planning and policy meetings with the Ministry.

Cappuccino bar opens

The college is about to cash in on the popularity of cappuccino.

Monday marked the official opening of City Centre's Second Cup Cappuccino bar, located right across from the security office in the main concourse.

Second Cup is a franchise operation which Jackie Ehlert, Director of Food Services at City Centre, successfully brought into the Mount Sinai Hospital in Ontario, where she worked before coming to VCC.

The Second Cup operation is expected to earn a profit for the College as do two other

relatively recent developments at City Centre, the vending machine operation and catering.

Said Ehlert: "We used to make zero on the vending machines and now we're making \$25,000 a year. And catering is now bringing in even more revenue. We're prepared to take a look at any food service project that makes money."

The Second Cup idea grew out of the call to employees last spring to come up with cost-saving ideas.

Here's how funds distributed

Last week's Exchange message on the \$86,000 success of the Educational Foundation's Truck Lottery brought questions about how the proceeds of this type of event are distributed.

This year about \$20,000 of the funds will go to Langara to complete an original commitment to that campus; the balance to the KEC diesel program. Of course, some people are asking why none of it went to City Centre.

The long-term goal for distributing funds is to have an equal sharing among the campuses. On an annual basis the process begins with a needs assessment by the Foundation Board which is made at the beginning of each College fiscal year in April. Decisions on prioritizing needs--and this is the pivotal part--are made by the Foundation Board on the basis of requests, documentation and presentations made by the campuses.

The truck lottery proceeds are a bit different from other fund raising endeavours because a large number of tickets are purchased by those in the trucking industry with the expectation that at least some of the money will go toward the trades programs. But even with that considered, a portion of next year's funds will probably go to City Centre because of its omission from Truck Lottery proceeds this year.

--Sheilah Grant
Foundation President

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