

LANGARA COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting
held on Tuesday, September 20, 2016
Room C408 at 0930 hours

Members:

Jim Bowers	Ian Humphreys, Chair	Pamela Robertson (regrets)
Michele Bowers	Gerda Krause	Desmond Rodenbour
Jacqueline Bradshaw	Julie Longo	Roger Semmens
Lynn Carter	Robin Macqueen	Viktor Sokha
Patricia Cia	Clayton Munro (regrets)	Tomo Tanaka
Spencer Dane	Kristine Nellis	Daniel Thorpe
Leelah Dawson	Dawn Palmer	Lane Trotter (regrets)
Margaret Heldman	Ajay Patel	

Guest:

Laura Vail, Representative, Langara College Administrators Association

Recorder:

Alice Hsu, Executive Assistant to the President

I. Humphreys chaired the meeting in the absence of L. Trotter, who was speaking at Canada Revenue Agency in his role as 2016 Campaign Vice-Chair, United Way of the Lower Mainland.

Prior to the meeting, I. Humphreys welcomed guest L. Vail, attending on behalf of P. Robertson.

1. REVIEW OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

a) Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on June 14, 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on June 14, 2016 were accepted.

3. STANDING ITEMS

a) Building Update

V. Sokha advised that most departments, except a few including the Registrar's office, had moved into the new Science and Technology Building and he would like to thank all those who had helped with the move. Overall, the building is operational while the builder continues to work on some deficiencies as they are identified. IT is also working on some printer and printing issues that are expected to be resolved within a few weeks. V. Sokha also advised that a grand opening ceremony for the building has been scheduled for October 12, 2016.

Langara.

THE COLLEGE OF HIGHER LEARNING.

I. Humphreys added his thank you to everyone who helped the move and get the building ready for the beginning of the fall semester.

b) IT Update

V. Sokha gave a presentation to provide an update on the status of each key IT projects, Leapfrog program initiatives and capital projects being funded by the Ministry for 2016-2017 to improve IT and building infrastructures and must be completed by the end of March 2017.

In response to a question about acquiring a new ERP system, V. Sokha advised that frontline users will be consulted and will have the opportunity to test the systems being considered during the decision-making process.

In response to concerns around IT backlog resulted from staff shortage within the department, V. Sokha advised that IT is reviewing its staff structure and will be working on adding more resources to deal with the backlog. I. Humphreys commented that the staffing issue in the IT department is an ongoing problem across the post-secondary sector. Attracting people to work in the post-secondary industry in IT has been very difficult as we are not competitive in the marketplace. D. Palmer added that our ability to recruit into these positions is limited by the CUPE collective agreement wage scales. For management positions, we are restricted by the wage freeze imposed on the sector in September 2012.

In response to a question, V. Sokha advised that he will double check to ensure IT is working on finding a new survey software that will fit the needs of various groups in the College community.

4. CURRICULUM ITEMS

a) Education Council Meeting held on June 21, 2016

G. Krause referred to the summary report attached to the agenda for the Education Council meeting held on June 21, 2016 and highlighted the following:

- The Chemistry department has recently completed its program review and renewal and a few things came up that affected their approach to curriculum. CHEM 2100 – Science Projects is a new experiential learning course that will allow students to work as if they were working in the real industry setting. Projects will come from the real world allowing students to address problems as part of their course work. SCIE 1113 – Intensive Science Literacy and SCIE 1114 – Science Literacy are two versions of communications in science courses. UBC has been offering these courses for a while but our students are unable to take them as only first-year students at UBC are allowed to take these courses.

- GEOG 2275 – Applied Human Geography is also a new experiential learning course.
- SOCI 4860 – Introduction to Sociology Models and Concepts is a new higher level course created for the new Post Degree Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion Leadership program.
- Students in Creative Arts programs had been taking regular business courses. BUSM 1901 – Entrepreneurship for Creative Industries is newly created to focus on the needs of creative professionals.
- Continuing Studies got two new programs – Real Estate Trading Certificate and Career Development Professional Certificate and made some changes to its Strategic Resilience for First Responders program.

The Education Council summary report for June 21, 2016 was received for information.

5. FOR ACTION

a) Policies for Rescinding

Referring to the list titled “Vancouver Community College – Langara Campus Policies Proposed for Rescinding, June 2016” and attached to the agenda, D. Palmer advised that the Senior Leadership Team had reviewed these policies and supported them being rescinded as they had been replaced by new policies or they were outdated and no longer applicable.

Discussions ensued and members’ questions were answered.

It was moved by D. Palmer, seconded by G. Krause:

THAT, the list of Vancouver Community College – Langara Campus Policies Proposed for Rescinding, dated June 2, 2016, be recommended to the President for approval.

Carried Unanimously.

6. FOR INFORMATION

a) Budget Update

V. Sokha advised that the College’s 2016/17 budget is in a good financial position that has allowed us to address some immediate operational needs. He noted that the College is anticipating some items that will require larger investments and ERP renewal is one of them. These items will be taken into considerations as part of budget development cycle.

For 2017/18 budget, V. Sokha advised that the process for developing the budget started much earlier this year than our past practices per what had been presented to Langara

Council in April 2016. Budget enhancement requests had been reviewed and the draft preliminary budget is expected to be ready for presentation to the Langara Council and then the Board in November.

In response to a question, V. Sokha advised that the preliminary budget will allow time to make amendments if required. In addition, I. Humphreys clarified that the past practice was to approve the budget by the end of March for implementation from April 1st each year. To provide more lead time for implementing things planned in the budget, we accelerated the time for developing the budget but the steps in the process, including circulating draft budget to and getting feedback from departments, have not changed.

Discussions ensued and members' questions were answered.

b) Langara College Foundation Update

A. Patel distributed a Langara College Foundation Report to Langara Council at the table to provide an update on key initiatives the Foundation has been working on in the area of donor relations, fundraising campaigns, alumni relations and Foundation operations. A. Patel also announced the winners of the 2016 Outstanding Alumni Awards including a new Rising Star Award and advised that the award ceremony will take place on November 3, 2016 in the new Science and Technology Building.

On behalf of the Senior Leadership Team, I. Humphreys thanked the Foundation's Executive Director M. Gookstetter for her leadership and her team for their job well done in bringing people within and outside of the College community to recognize the importance of giving to the institution.

c) President's Report

In the absence of President Trotter, I. Humphreys advised Langara Council members to read the President's Report attached to the agenda and pass on any questions to the President through A. Hsu.

Other

J. Longo congratulated T. Tanaka on a very successful Makerspace Open House that was held on campus on September 19, 2016 and was well attended by students and faculty members interested in finding out how they can engage with the future makerspace at the College.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.