



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 2, SEPTEMBER, 1978

REPORT ON THE CFF/MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

MEETING ABOUT DESIGNATION

By: Dave Mitton.

The meeting was held at the Ministry of Education, Lower Mainland Centre, Richmond, on August 30, 1978. Present were: Walter Hardwick, Andy E. Soles, Bruce Fraser (Ministry) and Dave Mitton, Fred Smith, Roy Duggan, Ross Fraser and Margo Hartley (CFF).

At a very relaxed, open and informative (if a trifle one - directional) meeting on August 30, Dr. Walter Hardwick spoke with CFF representatives in what is hoped will be the first in a more regular or formalized series of meetings with the Ministry (to be held every six weeks or so). Here are some of the highlights of that discussion:

1. Dr. Hardwick set out the sequence of events leading to designation:
 - a) An order-in-Council is already drafted to proclaim Sections 6,7,8 of Part III (See Act)
 - b) Orders-in-Council then would specify name of each College and the region it covers (School district or districts).
 - c) Board members would be appointed under Section 7.4 & 7.5
 - d) The objectives of each College would be registered (See Section 8).
2. A detailed timetable for the above is being worked out for each College; the WHOLE process will take place between the end of September 1978 and the end of January 1979. This Fall, the Minister, Deputy Minister and their assistants will be visiting each College (or Institute) to be designated; this should take place shortly after the Minister's return from holidays at the end of September.
3. Financing: The Minister is prepared to take to the Treasury Board a budget providing for 100% provincial financing for the 1979-80 fiscal year. This essentially adds \$25,000,000 to the current total budget for Colleges. This is a government decision, to find \$25,000,000 and remove the taxation burden from local property owners etc.
4. Personnel Relations: The Minister is recommending to Cabinet that only Section 36 (Division II: Fair Comparison Method) be proclaimed now. This provides for the legal right of an institution (Board & Employees) to try a new mode of personnel relations. It will not necessitate decertification of existing unions, since the other controversial sections of Part V (e.g. 33,35,37 etc) will not be proclaimed.

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5. Division II: Fair Comparison, Ad Hoc Committee

See Report (July 1978) - Chair: Dale Michaels.

Hardwick feels the report calls for continued debate and discussion, perhaps over a period of years, to move towards a new, more appropriate method of personnel relations. He also feels it is better to let the status quo stand, while encouraging a program of public education and moral persuasion towards changing the adversary approach.

Hardwick: "I believe strongly that we must develop new management/personnel relations within our Colleges or else there may be rough times after 1980 when growth stabilizes."

6. Program Advisory Committee (See Sections 13 (b) and 14):

It is meant to function somewhat like a University Senate. The name is perhaps unfortunate ("programs" are what faculty and students need input to, but not to broader fiscal or staffing questions).

The Ministry would ensure true faculty input by monitoring by-laws regarding composition/function of the PAC. This is perhaps the best area to explore provincially to ensure faculty, student participation in decision-making, a good "access point".

7. Continuing Education:

Hardwick gave a short description of attempts the Ministry is making to set "bench marks" or provincial standards here - perhaps a General Education diploma.

Division of Continuing Education (Ministry) or B. Fraser's Division of Program Services is working on this. The funding will be totally under the Ministry.

General Impressions:

"It was clear we were witnessing a major change in the thrust of the Personnel section of the Act (Part V). We will not be legislated into decertification, as anticipated last year, but the option of the "Fair Comparison Method" will be there for those Colleges who may be interested.

The Division II Report (D. Michaels & Co.) will serve as a basis for discussion in the coming year towards modifying the traditional adversary approach to bargaining. I am optimistic that the door is open to persuade the public of the wisdom of a participatory style of College Administration under the Labour Code."

Dave Milton
CFE President.

INTERVIEW WITH DR. JOHN ELLIS, PRINCIPAL

OF THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE (AUG. 16, 1978)

By: Margo Hartley.

Present: Dave Milton, President of CFE., Wanda Tilley, President of Capilano College Faculty Assoc., Margo Hartley, Newsletter Editor, CFE and....
Dr. John Ellis, Principal of OLI; Jack Patterson, Director of Information Services, OLI., and John Bottomley, Director of Institutional Planning and Research Analysis.

Introduction:

In March of this year a very charming representative from Britain's Open University, Dr. Jean Hilton-Birrell, spoke to the Faculty Association at Langara. Her soft-spoken, but very

lucid and thorough presentation of the history, function and operating method of Britain's "University of the second chance" left me with a rather idyllic picture of teams of scholars working together to produce course packages and supporting radio and T.V. programming for thousands of homemakers, clerks, farm labourers etc., who previously lacked the opportunity, means or academic qualifications to continue their education. The whole system, of course, was made more attractive and feasible by the presence of numerous tutors and counsellors at various study centres who injected the human element into the system and kept in touch by phone, letter or in person with the students assigned to them. It all sounded wonderful. Those study centres could be our Community Colleges, Universities, and High Schools - and the tutors could be found among local part-time or regular faculty wanting extra work or varied experience.

It was with this vision in mind that I arrived on August 16, at the old PEMC building on Juneau Street with Dave Mitton, and Wanda Tilley, expecting to find a mini British Open University; in short, a fait accompli, albeit B.C. style. I had, of course, failed to take into account the fact that the Open Learning Institute of B.C. had only been designated on June 1st and Dr. John Ellis appointed Principal on June 5th. Thus, making allowance for holidays etc., Dr. Ellis and his associates, Jack Patterson and John Bottomley, had only been here, in operation, one month. The Open Learning Institute on August 16 thus consisted of an appointed Board of Directors, Dr. Ellis, Jack Patterson, John Bottomley, a Bursar hired the day before, a stenographer-receptionist hired 3 weeks earlier, and a cablevision consultant.

All the specific questions that Dave, Wanda and I wanted to ask Dr. Ellis, thus, largely went unanswered - not because he didn't care to communicate but because he simply didn't have the answers yet. Just as the fabric-covered room dividers were piled up at one end of the huge office waiting to be placed so that the room could take form; so, too, the sheets of brown paper (no blackboards yet, either!) taped to the walls of the Conference Room were waiting to be filled (organizational structure, priorities, objectives etc.) so that the Open Learning Institute could begin to take shape.

We did, however, manage to glean the following bits of information about the Open Learning Institute (OLI) in its present form (as of August 16, 1978):

1. Board of Directors:

James S. Pritchard, Prince George (Partner in Kellett, Pritchard & Sabiston, Chartered Accountants),
Chairperson:

J. Fred Weber, Terrace (President of TK. Cablevision);
 Lloyd J. Hooile, Cranbrook (President, CKEK Radio);
 Dr. Dugald MacGregor, Summerland Research Station;
 Terry G. Ryan, Courtenay (Crown Counsel for Ministry of the Attorney - General);
 Dr. Bryon P. Beirne, Coquitlam, (Professor, SFU);
 Dr. Sam L. Macey, Victoria, (Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, University of Victoria);
 Mrs. Betsy McDonald, Vancouver (Vancouver Community College, former School Trustee and Goard Commission);
 Basil Stuart-Stubbs, Vancouver (Head Librarian, UBC)

2. Missions of the OLI

The "missions" of the Open Learning Institute are seen as being:

1. to engage in teaching distance learners in all areas of interest to adults.

2. to manage items of "common concern" to all the provincial educational community, as, for example:
- a) the Union Catalogue project, which is of interest to all B.C. Colleges, Universities etc., and which has been given here, in the OLI building, an "administrative home". Dr. Ellis is to recommend to the Board of Directors at their September meeting whether or not to continue to administer the Union Catalogue project.
- (Editor: They did decide to continue to administer the project at the September 15th meeting).
- b) the Anik B satellite project - they have asked the Minister for clarification of what their role in this project will be. If the Board agrees, the OLI may manage this project, which involves programming 18 hours a week for 2 years.
 - c) management of an educational television channel.
 - d) to consider microwave possibilities.

3.

MANDATE

Thus, Dr. Ellis sees their mandate as being "to reach out and teach at a distance" and to do this with a minimum of overlapping with other institutions and courses. He, hence, emphasizes "co-ordination" and sees the OLI as operating within the provincial educational system, and equal to existing institutions such as UBC, Simon Fraser, etc.

4.

FIRST TASK: A BUDGET -

Their first task will be to devise a budget for this year and next, to establish program priorities (cost centres) and then to determine the fiscal consequences of this. At the Board of Directors meeting, thus, on September 15th, they will be prepared to present this budget and a gestalt of what the organization should look like.

5.

NO PROGRAM PRIORITIES AS YET ! (as of Aug. 16th)

Ellis said that they have established no priorities yet as to what programs they will begin with (whether academic, vocational, career etc.), but the discussion seemed to centre on academic programs, and the nature of an undergraduate degree, rather than on vocational or career programs.

(Postscript): A phone call to John Bottomley on Wednesday, September 20, resulted in the information that the Board decided at the meeting on September 15, to begin developing programs in all four areas:

1. Career/Vocational/Technical.
2. Academic or University
3. Adult basic education and 4. Community or Continuing Education.)

6.

BASIC ADULT EDUCATION:

As the Ministry's Basic Adult Education program, Correspondence Division, and the OLI perform complementary functions, Dr. Ellis suggested that it would be natural for them to co-operate. The OLI might re-write some of their programs for adult learners, perhaps using a variety of media formats, and could provide student support services for the more than 13,000 B.A.E. Correspondence students.

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7. EXISTING CORRESPONDENCE COURSES IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES:

Existing courses will continue as is, at least for the next few years, while the OLI is still in the planning stages. Presumably, the Academic or Universities Council will eventually have to establish a set of guidelines as to who offers what and where in order to avoid duplication and constant adjudication.

8. POSSIBLE OPERATING METHODS: NO DECISIONS MADE YET:

a) Open University material:

There is presently a mound of materials from Britain's Open University, which have been purchased by the Ministry, stored somewhere in Richmond, waiting for evaluation. ("Is it what we want and is it in as appropriate a form as possible?").

- As an aside here, I would mention that Ellis said that he does not feel bound (as he is not "an agent of the Ministry") by all the statements Dr. McGeer made about the OLI "while he was trying to sell the idea politically." Thus there may be much less of a tie with the British Open University than we were originally led to expect.

b) Permanent core plus contract work:

There will be an effort made to centralize the system ("not too many separate agreements") with the establishment of a permanent core of staff at the Institute and then courses may be developed on a contract basis or by seconding personnel from existing institutions.

c) Tutorials:

As our geographical distances are so much greater than Britain's, we will probably have to rely less on face-to-face tutoring and more on the telephone and tapes. They may also consider having full-time tutors who travel or regional master tutors.

9. ELLIS STRESSES ADVANTAGES OF CO-OPERATING WITH OLI:

Finally, Ellis reiterated his belief that the advent of the OLI will have a beneficial effect on the province-wide educational community and will ultimately increase the market and the pool of students, rather than decrease them. (As an example, he suggested that offering the third year of a program in Cranbrook would strengthen the enrollment in the first two years of that program at the near-by Community College). He stressed that it will be advantageous to work with them and suggested Langara's and B.C.I.T.'s Small Business programs and Capilano's Legal Assistant program as areas where co-operation and co-ordination would be beneficial.

PERSONAL CONCLUSIONS:

The enormity of the task in front of Dr. Ellis continues to awe me; the infinite array of alternatives possible at the moment intrigues me; and the impulse to butt in and help create something out of nothing is well nigh irresistible. However, the chances of influencing the process, of helping to shape the priorities and policies seem pretty slim for Community College personnel. It seems that we will have little, if any, input into the acquisition and development of course material. John Ellis and his associates were pleasant, but removed; willing to communicate their present position in a general way, but not much interested in CFF input or involvement in that planning.

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They were anxious to assure us of their good-will and their belief that all provincial educational institutes and colleges would eventually benefit from the emergence of the Open Learning Institute, but it was hard not to continue to see the OLI, at least at the beginning, as being in competition with the Colleges and Universities for the same students. For, as John Ellis said, "we must start with programs assured of clientele and then reach out." It seems evident that at least part of that initial clientele must presently or would potentially be ours.

We, thus, remain... interested... but, as Wanda Tilley concluded, "a bit cynical" as to the outcome. Or, as Dave Mitton said, "cautiously optimistic" that ultimately the OLI will generate new students and teaching methods for all, and that it will turn out to be a positive force in the academic community. In any event, Ellis assured us that the OLI will continue to keep us informed. We can but wait and see and hope.

Margo Hartley.

CAMPUS NEWS

1. CAPILANO COLLEGE

Ed Lavalle reports the good news that the increase in CFF fees was passed by the Faculty Association at Capilano.

2. CARIBOO COLLEGE

Cariboo College Council and CUPE representatives have been meeting in Vancouver this week (September 19) with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Labour, Frank Rhodes, to try and reach some solution to the month long labour dispute which finally led to the College Council closing Cariboo College for a week beginning Monday, September 18th. (No official word yet as of Wednesday afternoon, September 20th)

This closure occurred after the Cariboo College Faculty Association voted to withhold their services if the College and its locked-out non-teaching staff did not agree to seek binding arbitration - seemingly, a reasonable way of resolving the issue, at that point.

Telegrams were sent by the CFF executive to all the College faculty associations apprising them of the situation and asking them, in turn, to send telegrams of support to the Cariboo College Faculty Association and expressions of concern to the Cariboo College Council and to the Ministries of Education and Labour. Faculty Association Presidents were also asked to ensure that CFF Directors attending the Board Meeting in Vancouver on Saturday, September 23, had been instructed as to the measure of support that Cariboo College could count on from their association.

3. OKANAGAN COLLEGE

Faculty Association President, Douglas Cole, passed along the following news items:

1. the Labour Relations Board has dismissed the Okanagan College Faculty Association's application for a variance of its Certification in order to allow the Audio-Visual Coordinator to become a member of the bargaining unit. The panel decided that he was not "engaged in a substantial way in teaching functions" and hence "that it would be inappropriate for collective bargaining purposes to make the variance requested." Cole comments: "Needless to say, our view is that his work is integral to the teaching function.

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- Whether an appeal will be launched depends in part on the outcome of the application for certification by Okanagan College Administrators."
2. The Okanagan College Association of Administrators, which is the vehicle for negotiations with College Council, has decided that their interests would be better served by obtaining certification under the Labour Code. The Faculty Association has chosen not to intervene in this application.
3. Principal, Ron Jeffels, has been appointed to the Human Rights Commission, which "augurs well for the future", Cole says.
4. MALASPINA COLLEGE
- Jim Slater reports that the four short-listed candidates for the position of Principal (or President, as he is called at Malaspina) have been rejected by the Faculty Association (a resolution was passed to that effect), mainly because of the manner in which the four came to the College to meet the Faculty - apparently a rush job, a real "steam-roller" session.

In the next issue, watch for the first in a series of profiles of B.C. Community Colleges: Douglas College.

Final date for submissions to the next Newsletter is
OCTOBER 10th, 1978.

Please send all material to:

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