

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
DOUGLAS COLLEGE BOARD
Open Session**

**May 15, 2008
New Westminster Campus Boardroom**

Open Meeting File No. 2008-05-15

Approved June 19, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: G. Bowbrick, B. Clarke, C. Codrington, C. Gibson, A. Kitching, A. MacGrotty, S. Meshwork (Ex-officio), M. Russell, N. Steinman, A. Taylor (Chair), P. Wates

Regrets: M. Hemmingsen, S. Witter (Ex-officio)

Observers: Constituency Group Leaders H. Chaudhry, C. Ellson; *regrets* from S. Briggs

Administration: B. Barber, H. Postma, Acting Vice President, Educational Services T. James, Acting President J. Lindsay, K. Maynes, G. Ouyang, C. Worsley; *regrets* from M. Exmann, B. Jensen

Guests*: M. Ablitt, C. Areschenko, D. and D. Bruneau, E. Bruneau, J. Conran, S. Ding, A. Delaplace, N. Desmarais, F. Doyle, V. Doyle, C. Fabbro, G. Fabbro, J. Fabbro, N. Fabbro, S. Fabbro, C. Garneau, W. Harris, S. Hawkins, B. Hobson, D. Jamieson, D. Kelliher, R. Kivi, J. Laidlaw, C. Lee, B. le Nobel, D. le Nobel, R. le Nobel, B. Logelin, P. Leigh-Spencer, C. Livingstone, L. Lucas, M. McGuechess, V. Miller, H. Pearce, J. Pearson, A. Peressini, G. Peressini, L. Peressini, C. Shih, N. Spibey, R. Spibey, M. Steinbach, D. Swindells, A. Taylor, G. Taylor, S. Taylor, T. Taylor, K. and K. Toderas, S. Toderas, L. Walkow, C. Yanko, D. Yanko, K. Yanko; *regrets* from B. Robertson, S. Wells, S. Webber

Recording: S. Donnelly

* attended a portion of the meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Ann Kitching, seconded by Neal Steinman and resolved:

11/2008 *THAT the agenda be approved as distributed.*

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed all delegations and observers to the evening's meeting, and noted that Board members, senior members of the College administration and Constituency Group Leaders were at the table. He introduced and welcomed Acting BCGEU Constituency Group Leader Catherine Elson, new DSU Constituency Group Leader Hassan Chaudhry and Acting Vice President, Educational Services Ted James. As President Susan Witter was out of the country, the Chair introduced Vice President, Education Jan Lindsay in her capacity as Acting President and invited her to make a few remarks about the proposed 2008/09 budget.

Jan Lindsay reviewed the need for the College to reduce its original 2008/09 budget by \$2.3 million, which involved consideration of all services and programs, including strategically reducing the College's FTE (full time equivalent) student count in programs with low demand and enrolment. She noted work underway at the College to maintain services for a diverse population of students.

4. DELEGATION AND PRESENTATION PROTOCOLS

The Chair explained that each delegation would be invited to present in accordance with the published agenda, from the table directly across from that at which he was seated. Noting the protocols regarding presentations of briefs, he explained that, in deference to the many speakers awaiting their turns to present to the Board, Board Executive Assistant Shelagh Donnelly would assist with timing by holding up a “five minute” sign should a delegation reach the 10-minute mark of its presentation, and a “Time” sign should a delegation utilize its 15 minutes.

Andrew Taylor noted some speakers’ queries about protocol, as they wished to depart the meeting after making their respective presentations. He advised that the Board understood such interests, and asked that people make such departures between speakers. He further explained that, while the Board would not respond to each delegation’s presentation, individual Board members might, at times, have questions. In such instances, Board members would address their questions to a delegation only after that delegation had completed its presentation. Lastly, the Chair stated his expectation that Board members would defer final 2008/09 operating budget decisions to a special meeting planned for May 29, 2008, enabling them to reflect upon and give careful consideration not only to the evening’s presentations, but also to the written submissions received by the Board.

5. 2008/09 OPERATING BUDGET: DELEGATIONS TO THE BOARD

The Chair then called upon delegations to present to the Board; in each case he invited questions upon completion of delegates’ presentations.

5.1 Joy Conran

Ms. Conran, a Douglas College Instructor, outlined the 1997 creation of Customer Service and Cashier Training programming for students with disabilities. She elaborated on a number of matters, including program focus, the intensive nature of such training, the program’s 2006 receipt of an innovation award, and on graduates’ employment experiences. She advocated for provision of equal opportunities for education and employment, and expressed pride in working with students who have disabilities and have taken active roles in changing their lives. Thanking Board members for listening and students for attending, she urged the Board not to take away such programming.

5.2 Natasha Desmaris

Ms. Desmaris introduced herself as a graduate of the Customer Service and Cashier Training program. She highlighted the skills and self confidence she acquired through the program, her successful practicum experience and subsequent attainment of her goals in securing a great job. Ms. Desmaris recommended the program as a good program for students with disabilities.

5.3 Gail Peressini

Ms. Peressini outlined her initial skepticism on entering the Customer Service and Cashier Training program, and her subsequent experience of a very supportive and diverse class that positively impacted her self esteem. The program provided her with skills to return to the working world; she continues in the same job she secured following her 2004 graduation. Ms. Peressini was so impressed with the program that she recommended it to her daughter, who has gained amazing skill sets and will be graduating from the program in June 2008. Ms. Peressini concluded by describing the program as amazing, adding that it would be a shame to cut it.

5.4 Sandra Wells

Ms. Conran conveyed Ms. Wells’ regrets, explaining that she had the flu. Ann Kitching and Andrew Taylor noted that the Board had Ms. Wells’ written submission, which they would carefully consider.

5. 2008/09 OPERATING BUDGET: DELEGATIONS TO THE BOARD, cont'd**5.5 Rachel Kivi**

Ms. Kivi reviewed her long term involvement as a Special Olympics coach and special coordinator, and the similar service the Customer Service and Cashier Training programs provide for adults who have barriers and disabilities. Speaking of the students' willingness and dedication, and of how impressed she was with the manner in which they presented themselves, Ms. Kivi outlined her experiences in conducting mock interviews with such Douglas College students. She expressed her hope that such unique programming can remain available.

5.6 Vanessa Miller, Katie Toderas, Daniel Yanko, Cindy Lee and Lori Walkow

Ms. Walkow, Douglas College Transitions Program Instructor, introduced herself and other members of the delegation; she also conveyed Brandon Robertson's regrets. She referenced the detailed submission she had provided the Board, and offered her perspective on the Transitions program, which is a joint pilot project between Douglas College and School District # 43 (Coquitlam). She outlined the program's primary goals: helping students transition to life after high school by determining realistic career goals and developing educational and vocational plans to achieve those goals and, secondly, connecting students with community organizations to ensure that they are provided with support upon leaving the educational system.

Cindy Lee, Work Experience Facilitator for School District # 43 (Coquitlam), spoke about having worked on this program for several years, having found that many such students are "Grade 12 +" students who earned their school leaving certificates but returned to high school because they have no where else to go. This program serves to help students on their way; Ms. Lee noted that the school district can assist with tuition if students require such funding or special support to enter the program. She acknowledged the smaller enrollment numbers during the first year of this pilot project, and stated that the program would be fully enrolled if offered again this coming year.

Ms. Walkow noted low enrollment as one of the rationales for cutting the Transitions program; she reported that she had received 18 applications from the 22 prospective students who'd expressed interest in a Fall 2008 program offering, meaning she would technically have a wait list for 2008/09. Referencing the second rationale, that the Transitions program is not part of the College's mandate, she acknowledged that such students are technically high school students but advised that they are beyond high school age, which she suggested qualified them as post-secondary students.

Ms. Toderas, currently enrolled in the program, spoke highly of the program and of her experience at Douglas College. She attributed the tremendous increases in her skills and leadership abilities to her work in the Transitions program, and explained that participation in the program has helped her learn what she wants to do with her working life.

Ms. Miller, also currently enrolled in the program, advised that it has taught her a lot of skills relating to life, learning and the workplace and stated that cutting the Transitions program would be throwing away students' futures. Ms. Miller reported that she had, throughout her school years, experienced numerous messages about what she couldn't do; through this program, she has learned that she *can* do things; that you can truly do whatever you want, and no one should stop you.

Daniel Yanko explained that he wants to one day get a job so that he can be more independent. Mr. Yanko outlined the skills that he has been working on in anticipation of entering the Transitions program, and thanked Board members for listening to him.

Delegation members offered additional comments, and Ann Kitching congratulated the three students for being well spoken, particularly in front of such a large crowd. She then addressed questions to Lori Walkow to clarify points on program funding and Campus locations.

5. 2008/09 OPERATING BUDGET: DELEGATIONS TO THE BOARD, cont'd**5.7 Ken Toderas**

Mr. Toderas thanked the Board for listening and spoke about the tremendous impact the Transitions program has had upon his daughter Katie, a member of the previous delegation. He provided context for this statement, and explained that he and his wife find the support Katie has received through this program and her Instructor to be amazing. He stressed that it is difficult to understand such matters unless one has a child in need of such a program, and spoke of the desire to ensure an independent life, one enabling contributions to society rather than receiving handouts. He cautioned against marginalizing such students, and urged the Board to give such kids a chance by working alongside the College's Finance people to maintain this exciting life skills program.

5.8 Kimberley Yanko, Lorrie Lucas

Ms. Yanko, whose son Daniel was a member of a preceding delegation, outlined her son's background and detailed his aspirations and hard work in anticipation of entering the Transitions program. She reported on school and community involvement to date in supporting Daniel's pursuit of admission to the Transitions program, and urged the Board to understand that it is not only Daniel's family, but all such children and their villages, being affected by this matter. She suggested that Douglas College has added barriers to the lives of disabled people, and stated that 1,000 signatures had been collected within 10 days via an online petition begun by a group of parents. Ms. Yanko thanked the Board for the opportunity to share her story and concerns, and presented Board Chair Andrew Taylor with a binder containing letters in support of such programs as well as the results of two petitions – one online and one hard copy petition.

Ms. Lucas thanked the Board for providing people affected by such cuts the opportunity to speak. She described the Transitions Instructors as impassioned, adding that the program has become so well known that two families would potentially be turned away in Fall 2008 due to high enrollment. Acknowledging funding cuts, she pointed out the relatively small cost of offering the program and suggested that such costs could be offset through program tuition fees and by making adjustments to other College expenditures. Ms. Lucas referenced mandate and suggested that Douglas College and Kwantlen University College have already established precedent for offering programming to high school students. She identified herself as a former Douglas College student who had been proud of the College's progressive approach to students with special needs but was now disappointed to see the College considering discontinuation of such programs. Ms. Lucas explained that her son will be eligible for disability funding when he becomes an adult, but that neither she nor her son have such a future in mind for him. She suggested that Douglas College is to be commended for the Transitions program, and cautioned that cutting such a program would be a devastating blow. She asked that Douglas College continue to show leadership.

5.9 Annette Delaplace, Rachel le Nobel, Danielle Kelliher, Jerry Laidlaw

Ms. Delaplace noted how encouraging it has been for the BC Association for Community Living to be near Douglas College, a college that has obviously put much thought and consideration into its ASE (Adult Special Education) programming. She was surprised, then, to learn that Douglas College is considering cutting the programs being discussed this evening. She suggested that funding cuts consistently impact programs for people with disabilities, and urged that the Board recognize that such programs can take people from a life of receiving assistance to one of earning an income. She cited research and acknowledged the College's budget shortfall and the costs of providing ASE programs, but urged Douglas College to maintain its commitment to such programs.

Suggesting that proposed cuts run counter to the College's mission statement that it responds to diverse community needs in a rapidly changing society, Ms. Delaplace proposed working together to develop a plan beyond number crunching to ensure that all the College's ASE programs remain in place.

5. 2008/09 OPERATING BUDGET: DELEGATIONS TO THE BOARD, cont'd**5.9 Annette Delaplace, Rachel le Nobel, Danielle Kelliher, Jerry Laidlaw, cont'd**

Ms. le Nobel identified herself as the very proud parent of two young teens and future college students, one of whom may benefit from an ASE program. In her professional role with the Simon Fraser Society for Community Living, she is familiar with a number of Tri-Cities and New Westminster families who have children with intellectual disabilities. She noted that, while options for children with cognitive disabilities were historically very limited, the current generation of children is receiving education in far more inclusive settings, resulting in a much clearer knowledge of their capabilities and options. She suggested that the Transitions program is one that builds bridges for kids, and for families who would otherwise see their children leave high school for lives of dependence. She cited the Transitions program as one that can help students become valued, contributing members of society who achieve greater independence and require less assistance than they otherwise would. Thanking the Board, Ms. le Nobel encouraged Douglas College to consider the increased registrations for the Fall 2008 Transitions program, and to look at other options such as making general course offerings available to students who have disabilities.

Mr. Laidlaw, a Douglas College graduate and member of the BC Association for Community Living board, noted that he had served as a Douglas College valedictorian and as the Disability Representative for the DSU (Douglas Students' Union). He spoke against the proposed cuts, noting that such programs can make a huge difference in a person's life – they not only teach important life skills, but also make students feel good about themselves. Mr. Laidlaw stressed that the time he spent at Douglas College changed his life, and that he wanted to make sure that students now coming out of high school are given the same chance made available to him. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak.

5.10 Bob Logelin

Mr. Logelin, Coordinator of Douglas College's Adult Special Education programs, advised the Chair that there was little he could say that could add to what students and other individuals had already said, and so he withdrew his request to speak. Neal Steinman noted that the Board would also reflect upon Mr. Logelin's written submission.

The Chair thanked all delegates for taking the time to eloquently voice their concerns and views. He noted that the strategic position taken by the College in responding to a reduction in funding has been to reduce programming in low enrollment, low demand areas. He added that, while doing so, the College remains committed to its stated mission of responding to diverse community needs in a rapidly changing society, and that it has taken into consideration the need to continue to maintain the wide range of programming currently offered by the College. Andrew Taylor further assured guests that Board members would carefully reflect upon what they had heard during the evening.

The Chair then, in recognition of some guests' desire to depart the meeting following delegations' presentations, called for a brief break before returning to the agenda.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 17, 2008

It was moved by Cathie Gibson and seconded by Alysia MacGrotty:

12/2008

THAT the minutes be approved as distributed.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes of April 17, 2008.

8. INFORMATION/COMMUNICATION

8.1.1 BCGEU

The Chair thanked Catherine Elson for taking on the role of Acting BCGEU Constituency Group Leader, and advised the Board that Ms. Elson and other alternates would fill the role until BCGEU elections take place in Fall 2008. Ms. Elson responded to the Chair's invitation to address the Board by confirming that she would be among those serving as Acting BCGEU Chair until the Fall, and that she and others serving in the same capacity would be working hard to keep College and union relations strong.

8.1.2 DCFA

The Chair noted Ms. Briggs' regrets.

8.1.3 DSU

The Chair welcomed Hassan Chaudhry and thanked him for his first submission to the Board and asked if he wished to add anything to his report. Mr. Chaudhry thanked the Chair, and advised that he was looking forward to fulfilling this role.

9. REPORTS

9.1 BOARD CHAIR

Andrew Taylor advised that the opening ceremonies of the Health Sciences Centre at the David Lam Campus were highly successful, and that attendance was good. He reported on positive comments from the Premier, Minister Coell and MLA Iain Black, including the Premier's identification of Douglas College at a post-opening Chamber event as a role model for identifying community and demographic needs, assembling a business case and partnering with government to fund endeavours. The Chair commended all involved in coordinating the opening ceremonies, Education Fair and Counsellors' Day.

9.2 EDUCATION COUNCIL

9.2.1 Chair's Report – Susan Meshwork referenced her written report and offered to answer any questions. None were proffered.

9.2.2 Education Council Advice on 2008/09 Operating Budget

Susan Meshwork explained, for the benefit of newer Board members, that Education Council formulates its advice on operating budgets to the Board in accordance with the College and Institute Act. She reviewed the process leading to the formal advice submitted to the Board following Education Council's May 12, 2008 meeting and relayed Education Council members' hope that the advice would inform the Board's decision making.

9.2.3 Board Member Liaison Report

Ann Kitching attested to the diligence Education Council members applied to the process of formulating its advice to the Board on the 2008/09 operating budget.

9. REPORTS, cont'd**9.3 PRESIDENT****9.3.1 President's Report**

Acting President Jan Lindsay referenced the May 2008 President's report she'd submitted on behalf of Susan Witter, highlighting recent announcements of five new BC universities as well as the need for clarity of mandate for BC colleges. She explained that the Senior Management Team would host a series of College-wide discussions, beginning with a June 3, 2008 gathering. That event will focus on the "Future of Douglas College in Today's Post-Secondary Landscape"; such dialogues with employees will support the ongoing academic planning process, leading to a Fall 2008 draft update to the plan. The Acting President further noted that the College has received base funding to offer a new Aboriginal Child and Youth Care Training Stream; this will commence in September 2008. Further Aboriginal project work is also underway.

Jan Lindsay invited questions, and responded to Board members' queries about post-secondary system reaction to the transformation of BC's university-colleges.

9.3.2 Ministry Communications

The President's April 18, 2008 correspondence to the Ministry of Advanced Education was submitted in compliance with Ministry direction that all BC post-secondary institutions report on anticipated FTE (Full Time Equivalent) reductions subsequent to the 2.6% budget cuts. The correspondence confirmed that the College had followed Ministry directives in the manner in which reductions were proposed.

9.3.3 Fact Sheet: Education Planning in Response to Funding Changes

This document, initially developed in April 2008, was included for Board members' information.

**9.3.4 Recommendation on Credential:
Citation in Teaching English as a Second Language (ESL)**

It was moved by Ann Kitching, seconded by Cathie Gibson and unanimously resolved:

13/2008 *THAT the Douglas College Board approve the establishment of the credential, Citation in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL).*

**9.3.5 Recommendation on Credential:
Advanced Citation in Disability and Applied Behaviour Analysis Program**

It was moved by Ann Kitching, seconded by Paul Wates and unanimously resolved:

14/2008 *THAT the Douglas College Board approve the establishment of the credential, Advanced Citation in Disability and Applied Behaviour Analysis Program.*

10. BOARD COMMITTEES

10.1 Finance Committee

10.1.1 Planned Activities – Neal Steinman invited Karen Maynes to update the Board. She reported that the Finance Committee had reviewed the budget as it had been proposed to the Board, recognizing that any amendments that might be required subsequent to the evening's meeting would be incorporated prior to the May 29, 2008 meeting. She noted that the committee has also spent time on its Terms of Reference.

10.2 Human Resources Committee

10.2.1 Planned Activities – Committee Chair Cathie Gibson had nothing to report.

10.3 Policy and By-Law Review Committee

10.3.1 Planned Activities – Ad hoc committee Chair Ann Kitching reported that the committee expected to bring recommendations to the Board's June 2008 meeting.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

The Chair noted the reports and media clippings included in Board members' packages.

12. ISSUES ARISING FROM BOARD MEETING

There were no issues arising.

13. BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

It was agreed that, given the late hour, such reports would be deferred to the June 2008 meeting.

14. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The Board will hold a special meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 29, 2008. The meeting will be held at the New Westminster Campus, with a 6:00 p.m. start.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

CHAIR

PRESIDENT