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**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETING**

February 10, 2012

Room 208, Spruce Terrace Campus

Present: Adrian Carlick, Debbie Stava, Brian Butler, Beverly Moore-Garcia, Cheryl Wyatt, Gerry Gauthier, John Krisinger, Kathryn Fullerton, Melanie Wilke, Conal McKenna

Teleconference: John Turner, Lianne Gagnon, Reto Riesen, Sabine Lundman, Dave McKeever,

Guests: Dave O'leary

Observers: Diane Bell, Mia Reimers, Michael Brandt, Mikael Jensen, Bayani Generoso, CFTK, Cherly Paavola, Jessica Hrechka-Fee

Regrets: Margaret Brown, Denise Henning, Keisha Wilson, Annette Sorensen, Ali McDougall, Amanda Checkley, Amarilys Ducharme, Chantel Smeysters, Hillary Williams, Barb Henry

Recording Secretary: Allison Conway

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. in Room 208, at the Terrace Campus.

Northwest Community College would like to acknowledge the Tsimshian people of Kitsumkalum, especially the Laxgibuu Clan on whose traditional territory Education Council meetings take place. We particularly acknowledge SigidimnakXpisiunt (Vera Dudoward).

The Councils would also like to recognize and extend our respect to all First Nations; Tahltan, Gitxan, Nisga'a, Haisla, Wet'suwet'en, Haida, Heiltsuk, Nuxalk, Oweekeno/Wuikinuxv, and Dakelh, who, along with Tsimshian people, we continue to collaborate and share goals of educational success.

Motion: Brian Butler and John Krisinger

To approve the agenda of the February 10, 2012 special meeting.

Carried

Business Arising

Information Item – Cheryl Wyatt

Margaret Brown has resigned as Chair, but will continue on as a Support Staff Representative.

Elections will be held at the next EdCo meeting on February 24th for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair.

New Business

Priority Planning – *Review of Documents - Reto Riesen*

There was much discussion about the College's Priority Planning process and the research gathered through the recent community and employee meetings used to gather the information contained therein. Research was gathered to determine the level of awareness of the College and services in the communities, how the College should proceed in the future, and what the needs of the communities are.

The Board of Governors (BOG) will receive the Priority Planning documents to review for their next meeting on February 17th. Board members have access to the documents at this time via D2L. The Board has not discussed the Priority Planning documents at this time as the document has not been on the agenda yet.

John Krisinger highlights the low attendance in Terrace and questions the resulting data included to represent Terrace in the Priority Planning document.

Dave O'leary provided that data gathering was collected to determine the opinions of the community regarding the performance and direction of the College. Although attendance was satisfactory in a number of locations, attendance in Terrace was low and therefore created an anomaly in the statistics, which was reported to the Steering Committee and is in the draft report. The anomaly will continue to be recognized and accounted for as the analysis of the report continues.

There was discussion that the information used in the report was misleading due to the anomaly of the Terrace research sample, and that the information would be used by the Board to make decisions to cut programs and courses.

Beverly Moore-Garcia outlined the typical purpose of a Priority Planning document and how it could be used, to reassure the group that the intent of the research is not to directly determine which programs and courses to cut, if any, in relation to the College's deficit situation. Speculatively, the Priority Planning document could be used to inform a Strategic Plan with high-level outcomes, from which an Education Plan could be developed. The latter would be the document that could address the specific educational offerings of the College. The Board would not determine those questions through the information given in a Priority Planning document.

Beverly M.G. clarified for the group that the role of the Educational Council is to establish policies regarding educational goals and various academic issues, and is not necessarily to give specific recommendations on documents prior their deliverance to the Board. Furthermore, the Priority Planning document has been submitted to the Board for the purpose of determining if the process is complete, or if additional research is needed. The Board has not reviewed the draft, but has been updated throughout the process via Board representation on the Priority Planning Steering Committee, which itself is comprised of internal and external members.

At several points throughout the meeting the discussion moved towards the topic of College lay-offs. The meeting was re-focused on the purpose at hand - to discuss the Priority Planning documents and the next steps regarding which motions would be presented to the Board. Other items can be submitted for inclusion on the agenda for the next regular EdCo meeting. The group was also reminded that the College and employees need to adhere to their collective agreements, and that the College cannot speak to that process until it has concluded.

Cheryl Wyatt informed the group that the motions from this special EdCo meeting will be sent to the Board today. It was noted that the timeline for submissions to the Board agenda for their upcoming meeting may have been missed, and it is up to the Board Chair to entertain a late submission. Cheryl W. will not be at the Board meeting as a representative of EdCo as she has prior commitments.

Action Item: Cheryl Wyatt will send the motions from this special meeting to the Board Secretary for the next Board of Governors meeting on the 17th.

John K. expressed concern that the Board would not have sufficient input from EdCo about educational matters, specifically, the cuts to programs that would result from the lay-off a large number of faculty.

Motion: Reto Reisen and John Krisinger

To request of the Board of Governors that the Educational Council is given until the next EdCo meeting on February 24th, 2012, to review the Priority Planning documents for the purpose of providing the Board with recommendations.

Carried

Priority Planning – Input from EdCo to BOG - Reto Riesen

Section 23.1.e of the College and Institutes Act:

- 23 (1) An education council must advise the board, and the board must seek advice from the education council, on the development of educational policy for the following matters:
- (e) cancellation of programs or courses offered by the institution or changes in the length of or hours for courses or programs offered by the institution

Conal McKenna asks whether the Board is seeking input from EdCo, and suggests that EdCo put forth to the Board that in accordance to the College Act, the Board is supposed to consult EdCo.

There is much discussion about whether the Board is required to seek EdCo's advice on decisions, or policy. John K. questions what is meant by "policy" and who in the institution is in charge of making education decisions.

Clarity is needed about EdCo's role to the Board regarding input on the Priority Planning document. It is told that the Chair of EdCo sits on the Board of Governors as a non-voting member, and thus is able to represent the motions and concerns of EdCo.

Beverly M.G. summarizes Article 23.1.e of the College and Institutes Act to state that EdCo have education policies. In contrast, the responsibility of the Board is to set the broad direction - the vision. The Board is on draft 5 of the vision. The mission is set by the institution. Strategic planning

would be the first step to education planning, which would determine what is offered in terms of courses/programs.

Whoever is representing BOG next Friday should try to speak to the motion.

Motion: Reto Riesen and John Krisinger

That the College President and Board of Governors be reminded that, in accordance with the College and Institutes Act, Section 23.1.e, they are required to seek the advice of EdCo before decisions are made, including any lay-off to instructional staff, that will result in cutting programs or courses.

Carried

Kathryn Fullerton adds concern that the council will not be heard by the Board, and hopes that EdCo will indeed get an opportunity to review the plan and to be included in decisions involving where and how the College progresses forward.

Conal M. questions what EdCo can do to keep educational programs.

In response, Beverly M.G. notes that her role on EdCo as an administrator is to indicate what is written in the College and Institutes Act and to answer to the best of ability. No one wants negative impacts. The College has a legislative obligation and collective agreements to adhere to. Confidentiality needs to be upheld.

Representation for the next Board of Governors meeting -

Cheryl Wyatt is not able to attend the next Board meeting as the Chair of EdCo and asks for a volunteer to attend in her place.

Action: John Krisinger will attend the Board meeting on February 17th to represent EdCo.

Pending Items

Next meeting: February 24, 2012 at 10 a.m. in room 208

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Chair

Secretary