

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.  
Present: D. Miles (Chair), N. Dardi, C. Gibson, M. Hemmingsen, B. Kendall, A. Kitching, K. McKitrick, A. Peacock, M. Russell\* N. Steinman\*, A. Taylor\*, A. Yang  
Ex-officio: S. Meshwork, S. Witter  
Administration: J. Lindsay, B. Jensen, K. Maynes, B. Barber, C. Worsley, M. Murray  
Other: S. Briggs (DCFA); G. Banania (DSU)  
Guests: W. Case, Y Irani  
\* attended portion of meeting  
\*\* for reporting purposes the minutes have been returned to agenda order
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as distributed.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of November 16, 2006 were approved as distributed.
4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** There was no business arising from the minutes.
5. **INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS:**
  - 5.1 BCGEU: There was no report.
  - 5.2 DCFA: Susan Briggs reported that she attended the BC Federation of Labour Convention and the December 6<sup>th</sup> Day of Remembrance (held on December 5 at Douglas College). Turnout at the latter event was not as good as in past years and it was felt that there needs to be more education of students, faculty and staff regarding violence against women and gender equity. The DCFA held an Open House on December 13 and it had been a pleasure to see faculty socialize at that event.  
  
S. Briggs referred to a letter she recently sent to the Board asking the Board to raise its voice in support of the DCFA collective bargaining proposals.
  - 5.3 DSU: Glen Banania introduced himself as the DSU College Relations Coordinator and the DSU representative to attend College Board meetings. He reported that the DSU is engaged in activity around the National Day of Action for tuition fees scheduled for February 7, 2007. The DSU plans to meet with faculty early next month to discuss the granting of academic amnesty to students who want to attend the Day of Action. Recently the DSU hired a financial advisor to help implement controls and aid its auditors in completing the 2005 and 2006 audits. It is anticipated that the documents will be available for presentation at the March 2007 DSU Annual General Meeting. In response to a question on the background of the Financial Advisor, G. Banania indicated that he was not clear about that.

## 6. REPORTS:

### 6.1 Board Chair:

.1 Chair's Report: Diana Miles reported that on December 3 she attended the *Light the Lake* festival of lights in Coquitlam, now in its second year. She acknowledged the work that went into this event by the Douglas College Foundation and the Eagle Ridge Hospital Foundation. It was well attended and a successful fund raising event. She encouraged others to drop by and see the lights.

.2 Report on Board Chairs' Meeting with Minister: Nov 16/06: D. Miles gave details on the Board Chairs' meeting she attended on November 16 when representatives from B.C. post secondary institutions met with Minister Coell, Deputy Minister Quayle and other Ministry executives. Part of the function of Campus 2020 is to consider the evolving role of the Ministry. The Ministry wanted to let us know that time has been spent re-evaluating its values and focus. Discussion took place on the Ministry's values of Respect/Learning, Integrity, Balance and Excellence. A lengthy discussion took place on public/private education and on a statement made by the Minister that these models need to learn to co-exist. A number of challenges were voiced around the recent issues of failures concerning private institutions and the impact of these failures on all post secondary institutions' reputations. This emphasized the need for clearer criteria to be established about private institutions being funded. These failures shake the confidence of foreign students who do not differentiate between public and private.

Three areas of significant focus for the Ministry are Aboriginal access; skilled trades; and the provision of graduate seats. Additional areas of focus are literacy; K-12 relationship; and ABE linkage.

There were indications that we may expect to see some reallocations of the 25,000 student spaces announced two years ago. A meeting is planned at each institution awarded seats to find out what was done to date with these seats and what the plan is to utilize the balance. The reallocation of seats taken away will go to graduate student spaces, trades training and aboriginal programs. The meeting with Ministry officials, referred to above, has already taken place at Douglas and the results were very positive.

The Ministry is also rethinking the funding model with particular emphasis on rural colleges. Work is being done with those involved as the FTE formula is probably the wrong model for rural colleges. Funding for programs with significant community impact, such as ABE (Adult Basic Education) and Continuing Studies, also needs to be revisited.

Everyone weighed in on the demographics of faculty and administrator positions to ensure the Minister and staff understood how critical this situation is becoming. There was lengthy discussion on compensation and the need for B.C. to regain a

competitive position in the market, particularly if we want leaders to run institutions and to hire faculty. The Minister left knowing how strongly the Chairs felt that serious efforts should be made to work on this in B.C. in post secondary education. In responding to a comment that there are institutions already feeling the crunch of being unable to fill vacant positions when they get to the compensation discussion, D. Miles indicated that there were no dissenting positions at the Board Chairs' meeting and the Minister had a clear idea of where institutions stood and the kind of action the Board Chairs were recommending.

The Board Resourcing staff made a presentation at the meeting to ensure that everyone understood the processes in appointing people to Boards. Boards need to articulate any particular requirements and if there are suitable candidates Board members know, the Board should put these names forward for approval. The caveat to this is that any candidate a Board member speaks to must understand that he/she is a candidate only and not that an OIC (Order in Council) appointment is forthcoming. There is another approval process at the Ministry level as candidates come from many sources.

.3 Report on Visit to Beijing Language and Culture University and Signing of Agreement: D. Miles reported that on November 17 Susan Witter and she departed for China as part of the Premier's delegation. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was ready to be signed by the College and the Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) who we have been working with this summer. The Premier's Day for Education in Beijing was very timely as the day to sign the MOU.

On November 20 Diana Miles and Susan Witter spent the day at BLCU meeting with Dr. Cui Xiliang, the President, and senior administration to discuss the MOU, talk about BLCU and what they offer, partners they already have, and where BCLU sees opportunities. D. Miles talked with the Director of Business about their Harvard summer program where eight weeks are spent learning the Chinese language and culture. A tour of the residences, classrooms and grounds of the Campus took place.

As background BLCU is a key public university with a 44 year history, currently enrolling 13,000 full-time students and 8,500 foreign students from 138 countries. There are 500 universities in China. Twenty years ago BLCU was the only one accepting foreign students. Their programs include 20 in science/liberal arts; 16 Bachelor degrees; 32 Masters; and 9 PHDs. BLCU has academic relationships with 160 foreign universities, many in the US, Europe and Australia and none in Canada. McGill administers Chinese literacy tests for students trying to transfer to China and faculty/student exchange and research. BLCU has a research centre and a publishing house that specializes in textbooks and specialized books.

The evening of November 20 was spent with the Deputy Minister and the 15 institutions from BC to review the format for the following day and the intent of the 'roundtable' sessions with all the Chinese guest institutions.

At the roundtable sessions each of the institutions hosted their partners. In the afternoon there were impressive speeches from the Premier and the Minister of Education for China followed by the formal signing of the agreements. D. Miles added that the Douglas College delegation were proud of the MOU signed with BLCU as we are privileged to have this partner. BLCU is one of the most significant universities in Beijing. She highlighted the distinct advantage the College has in Dr. Guangwei Ouyang working with and for us. His fluency in the language is amazing and so are his contacts. This trip also provided a great opportunity for Dr. Ouyang to network with other institutions from the BC international education scene, particularly when it became clear that international education is no longer discretionary.

D. Miles continued that it is impossible to imagine/visualize what it is like in China until you have seen it. At a meeting the following day with Deputy Minister Quayle a review of the 2005 statistics indicated that foreign students in the US increased by 7% and in Canada decreased by 6%. It was evident that changes need to be made as the fragmented approach to international education is creating a net loss situation in this market.

In China, annually there are 8 million high school graduates who must write the Chinese University Education Examination, and approximately 5 million who gain access to university. There are 1,700 institutions of higher learning in China, 500 grant degrees and there are 20 million students in the education stream. Some of the top students with undergraduate degrees are looking for post secondary education outside of China. These students are encouraged to come back to China. At BLCU, four of the faculty members Douglas College is working with had gone out of the country for education and come back to China.

There was discussion on the coordinated approach in attracting Chinese students and whether there have been further discussions on Douglas College's activities and what coordinated activities would lever a better base. S. Witter indicated that the government will involve the BC Centre for International Education in taking a bigger lead role in a coordinated approach in BC.

## **6.2 Education Council:**

.1 Chair's Report: A written report was included in the package. Susan Meshwork highlighted the Animal Health Technology full program proposal which went forward to Education Council as a notice of motion at the November meeting and was given program approval at the December meeting. It is an exciting new program for Douglas College.

.2 Board Member Liaison Report: Ann Kitching commented on the Vision part of the Strategic Plan sent to Education Council. A few Education Council members were surprised that the Board would decide to put forward a vision statement. Ann spoke to this explaining that it is one of the main priorities of the Board to set a direction/vision for the College. Ann felt it pointed out the distance

between the Board and the employees within the College as they often do not know what the Board function is.

**6.3 President:**

.1 President's Report: Susan Witter referred to her written report and reiterated that at the meeting with Ministry of Advanced Education officials approximately two weeks ago they were complimentary on the planning that had been done. They felt we had accomplished the best planning and the College is not on the list of reallocated seats. S. Witter added that the College was part of the Auditor General's review on the risk factor of the 25,000 seats. The College had input into the draft report. Although something was reported on the news today it was because of a leak to which the Ministry had to respond. We have learned that there are a number of Auditor General's Reports waiting to go through Cabinet. S. Witter will ensure that the Auditor General's Report on the 25,000 seat will be made available to the Board when approved.

**7. BOARD COMMITTEES:**

**7.1 Finance Committee:**

.1 DSU Compliance with Section 21 of the College & Institute Act: Blaine Jensen reported that the DSU Impeachment meeting was to be held on November 29. That meeting did not gain quorum and as a result the action died on the table. That process has ended.

Ben Kendall added that there was a rumour that a DSU staff person had been fired, but no official communication has been received on that. He asked Glen Banania, the DSU representative at the meeting, for confirmation, and Glen indicated that he was not too aware of what is happening. G. Banania will get back to the Board. In response to another question G. Banania indicated that he did not know if the DSU Union Market was closed and would find out. K. McKitrick indicated that FastTrax stickers, normally issued by DSU, have been issued by CEIT (Centre for Educational and Information Technology) since the beginning of the term.

.2 Monthly Financial Report: B. Kendall indicated that the College is on target to meet budget by the year end. There were no questions.

.3 Planned Activities: B. Kendall reported that work will continue on DSU issues, and more importantly the Committee will be working on the budget for the next 2-3 months.

**7.2 Human Resources Committee:**

.1 Planned Activities: There was no report.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GENERAL INFORMATION:** There were no further requests for information on this item.
9. **ISSUES ARISING FROM BOARD MEETING:** There were no issues arising from the meeting.
10. **BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mary Hemmingsen, Ben Kendall, Ann Kitching and Andrew Taylor attended “A Class Act” the major fund-raising event of the year and were impressed with it. A. Kitching commented on this being the first year it was held at David Lam Campus. Many of the people in attendance had never been into that campus. She promoted having events on campus, where possible, as it brings people into the College environment who would not normally come in. She also felt that the Douglas College Hospitality students should be showcased more and have name tags showing they are our Hospitality students.

Diana Miles, Nav Dardi, Cathie Gibson, Mary Hemmingsen, Ben Kendall, Ann Kitching, Adrienne Peacock and Alan Yang attended the College-wide Holiday Celebration prior to the Board meeting.

Susan Meshwork indicated that she met with DQAB (Degree Quality Assessment Board) on their visit to the College, in support of the Bachelor of Physical Education and Coaching.

Ann Kitching attended the Opportunities Enabled Program Graduation on November 23. There were 16 graduates, all of whom expect to have full-time employment. There are 50 people on the Advisory Committee to keep this program going. These people play an active role in the program itself, interviewing students before they come in, while they are enrolled and helping them find work experience and employment. A. Kitching represented the Board at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Employee Recognition event on November 30. She also attended the Envision Financial VIP Reception for *Light the Lake* on December 6. They are one of the major sponsors.

Cathie Gibson took family to *Light the Lake* and really enjoyed it. She attended the I-CARE Holiday party on December 7 and indicated it was always a fun event.

Ben Kendall attended the Employee Recognition Event on November 30 when employees with 10 or more years of service were recognized as well as the 2006 Team Excellence Awards presented. He commented on the excellence there is in the College and the long tenure of some of the employees with up to 35 year awards given out.

11. **DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING:** The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2007 in the New Westminster Campus Boardroom.
12. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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CHAIR

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PRESIDENT