

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY
PLANNING COUNCIL FOR OPEN LEARNING
MEETING OF MAY 24, 2007

Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning Council for Open Learning, held in the CN Boardroom of the Clock Tower Building, Kamloops, B.C., commencing at 9:30 a.m.

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
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Planning Council Present:	M. Evered, Chair J. Murray, Vice-Chair C. James D. Noakes M. Young I. Rich-McQuay D. Loblaw (Teleconference) D. Stanley (Teleconference) J. LaBrie L. Jacques J. Gaskell A. Tucker	Planning Council Absent: J. Keller L. Krohn D. McBain
Executive and Others Present:	G. Tarzwell, Associate Vice-President, Open Learning D. Johnson, Faculty of Trades & Technology and Member of Senate J. Sparks, Associate Vice President, Legal Affairs D. Sproull, Secretary, Academic Governance	

CALL TO ORDER

M. Evered in the chair.

The meeting being duly constituted for the conduct of business, the Chair called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

The Chair introduced D. Johnson and explained that at the next Senate meeting, he will be nominated to the Planning Council to fill the vacancy due to B. Daly's resignation. As well, the Chair introduced G. Tarzwell, Associate Vice-President Open Learning, who will replace C. James at the end of June.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** to provide D. Johnson and G. Tarzwell to participate in the May 24, 2007 meeting of the Planning Council for Open Learning as non-voting participants.*

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ADOPTION OF AGENDA

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the agenda as circulated.*

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the meeting of December 1, 2006 as circulated.*

D. Sproull

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Provost and Vice-President, Academic

M. Evered reviewed the development process of the TRU Strategic Plan 2007 – 2012. The document contains the history of TRU, mission statement, value statements and the following strategic goals:

- The University of Choice for Student Engagement
- The University of Choice for the Integration of Research and Scholarship with Teaching and Learning
- The University of Choice for Aboriginal Students and First Nations
- The University of Choice for Open Learning
- The University of Choice for Environmental Sustainability
- The University of Choice for International Opportunities
- The University of Choice for Career Success

He explained that the document will be presented to Senate at the May 28, 2007 meeting for approval and recommendation to the Board of Governors. It was suggested by J. Gaskell that “The University of Choice for Student Engagement” might include reference to the “on-line community” in addition to the geographic location.

M. Evered provided an update on the new Senate committee structure which involves an integrated academic and budget decision-making process. It was noted that Senate has a role in the academic matters of the Open Learning Division with the exception of the admission and residency requirements which resides with the Planning Council.

He announced that this is the last Planning Council meeting that C. James will be attending. M. Evered reviewed C. James educational background and career with TRU which began in 1981 as a faculty member in Chemistry. Since then he has served in many

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capacities that include the Chemistry Department Chair, the Associate Dean, Interim Dean, Dean, Associate Vice-President Academic, Chief Operating Officer of Open Learning and the Associate Vice-President Open Learning. M. Evered conveyed his sincere appreciation to C. James for his outstanding service to the University and leadership with the recent relocation of the Open Learning Division.

Vice-President, Open Learning

J. Murray provided an overview of TRU Open Learning. She explained that we are not an open university, rather an Open Learning Division of TRU. The definition of open learning is that of a philosophy of education aimed at making higher education accessible. The foundational elements include: open admission to courses and programs, low residency requirement, and credit for prior learning through formal education, informal education and experience.

It was noted that the term “residency requirement” is often misunderstood and that a different term be considered such as “home residency credit”.

J. Murray reviewed the modalities of delivery for distance learning which include self paced (print & web) and paced (conventional on-line).

She reported that the Open Learning Division currently has more than 12,000 students. The demographics are predominately working adults, more women than men, vast majority live in the lower mainland, 25 years and older, and taking courses one at a time and many for transfer to another institution. They are currently offering more than 200 courses in Arts & Science, Business & Management, Health & Human Services, and Information Technology. There are 43 programs with credentials leading to Adult Secondary School Completion, Certificate and Diplomas, Associate Degrees and Bachelor’s Degrees. There are 16,273 course enrolments for 2006 – 2007. J. Murray indicated that the number of enrolments is expected to increase. As well, there is a challenge with the base funding provided by the Ministry and that a different level of support is needed.

J. Murray provided an overview of the following Open Learning Division relocation:

- Restructuring, re-staffing and relocating while OL continues to operate
- BCCOL building completed April 1st, occupancy began on April 16, 2007
- Total relocation from Burnaby to be completed by June 30, 2007
- Moving approximately 170 jobs from Burnaby to Kamloops (32 employees are

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expected to relocate, 100+ new hires)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Planning Council for Open Learning Bylaws (Notice of motion served)

J. Sparks, Associate Vice-President, Legal Affairs, summarized the Bylaws that he had prepared for consideration of the Planning Council for Open Learning.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Planning Council for Open Learning Bylaws as presented.*

D. Sproull

Open Learning Designation on Transcripts and Credentials

As requested at the last meeting of the Planning Council, Senate has been asked to work towards the elimination of the open learning designation on transcripts and credentials. It was noted that Senate has served notice of motion for the removal of the open learning designation from the remaining programs which include the Bachelor of Arts (all programs), Bachelor of Tourism Management and Bachelor of Technology (Computing). The motion will be considered at the May 28, 2007 Senate meeting.

Open Learning Medal Criteria

At the last meeting of the Planning Council, concern was raised with the policy on Academic Achievement (ED-9-1), in that the requirements for the TRU medals exclude many open leaning students. It was reported that this concern was brought to Senate's attention and that the matter will be addressed by the newly constituted Awards and Honours Committee.

REPORT OF OPEN LEARNING PROGRAMS

D. Johnson reviewed the recently approved program entitled Bachelor of Technology (Trades and Technology Leadership). He explained that the program will provide qualified trades persons and technologists with the knowledge and skills to be effective leaders. When the new program proposal was reviewed by the Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB), the residency requirement was set at 30 credits of TRU-assessed coursework. The residency requirement may be revisited in the future now that the program is part of the Open Learning Division.

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G. Tarzwell reviewed the closure of ADMN 465, PNRP 120 and the Practical Nurse Refresher Certificate Program. He also reviewed the suspension of PNAP 110, 112, 114, 116, 117, 118, 122 and the Practical Nurse Access Certificate Program.

CLOSING REMARKS

The Chair thanked the members of the Planning Council for their participation and also acknowledged D. Loblaw and D. Stanley for their patience with the technical problems experienced with the teleconference equipment. He indicated that he is grateful for the collaborative efforts of the Planning Council and welcomes input from all of the members.

The Chair reminded everyone that after lunch, there will be a walking tour of the new Warehouse Distribution Centre and the B.C. Centre for Open Learning.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Planning Council Chair

Planning Council Vice-Chair