

MEETING OF THE PLANNING COUNCIL FOR OPEN LEARNING

19 November, 2013

Time: 10:00 am - noon

A G E N D A

Place: OL 127

**PLANNING COUNCIL PRESENT:**

G. Tarzwell – Vice Chair (TRU)  
Anne Pappas (TRU)  
Christine Adam (TRU)  
Monica Sanchez (TRU)  
J. Sparks (TRU)  
I. DeVries (TRU)  
D. Stanley (TRU) (Teleconference)  
D. Loblaw (TRU) (Teleconference)  
M. MacDonald (UVic) (Teleconference)  
Kylie Thomas (NVIT) (Teleconference)  
M. Lamberson (UBC) (Videoconference)

**PLANNING COUNCIL ABSENT:**

U. Scheck – Chair (TRU)  
S. Read (TRU)  
C. Wihak (TRU)  
J. Coalier (TRU)  
K. Denton (Douglas College)

**EXECUTIVE AND OTHERS PRESENT:**

S. Jackson – Notetaker (TRU)  
L. Jensen (TRU)  
R. McGivern (TRU)

**PRELIMINARY ITEMS**

**a. Call to Order**

G. Tarzwell in the Chair. The meeting being duly constituted for the conduct of business, the Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

**b. Introduction of new members**


G. Tarzwell introduced the following new members:

- Christine Adam, Dean of Students
- Anna Pappas, Interim Dean of Law
- Monica Sanchez, Faculty Member, Faculty of Arts
- Irwin DeVries, Director, Curriculum Development, Open Learning
- Julien Coalier, OL Student. This would have been J. Coalier's first meeting, and also his last as students are only elected to the Planning Council for one year. Unfortunately, due to other commitments, J. Coalier could not attend so he was thanked in his absence for volunteering for

this committee.

**c. Adoption of Agenda**

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

**d. Adoption of Minutes – 28 November, 2012** 

**On motion duly made and adopted, it was RESOLVED to approve the minutes from the meeting of 28 November, 2012, as presented.**

It was noted that the June 2013 meeting referred to in the minutes was cancelled.

**1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**a. Graduate Studies**

G. Tarzwell explained that the Planning Council for Open Learning (PCOL) had asked for input from the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC), after the last PCOL meeting. The Chair of the GSC has sent a letter to the Chair of PCOL proposing two motions around residency. There are two issues:

- residency for graduate programs
- whether PLAR should count as residency for Graduate programs

**Motion duly made and seconded:**

**Be it resolved that Residency for all Open Learning Graduate Certificated programs be six (6) TRU credits and for all Open Learning Masters Programs be nine (9) credits.**

**Be it resolved that all PLAR credits applicable to Graduate programs not be counted as satisfying TRU's residency requirements for OL Graduate programs for the next five years.**

Discussion followed. Concern had been expressed that students could get a TRU credential without having done a single course here, and that may be too radical for other institutions to be comfortable counting credit for this.

PCOL members thought that five years is too long to wait for this to be evaluated, and an annual review was thought to be more appropriate. C. Wihak, Director of PLAR, was tasked with reporting PLAR statistics annually to PCOL, commencing at the November 2014 meeting.

**On motion duly made and adopted, it was RESOLVED to amend the wording of the motions above.**

**On motion duly made and adopted, it was RESOLVED that Residency for all Open Learning Graduate Certificated programs be six (6) TRU credits and for all Open Learning Masters Programs be nine (9) credits.**

**On motion duly made and adopted, it was RESOLVED that all PLAR credits applicable to Graduate programs not be counted as satisfying TRU's residency requirements for OL Graduate programs. This motion to be reviewed on an annual basis.**

**3. REPORT OF OFFICERS**

**a. Provost and Vice-President, Academic**

The Provost and Vice-President Academic was not able to attend the meeting, so no report was given.

**b. Vice-Provost, Open Learning**

G. Tarzwell reported on TRU Awards, which fall into the following categories:

- The Teaching Excellence Award for Open Learning Faculty Members is an annual institutional award, which has in the past been won by John O'Brien, Keith Whitmore, Ann Pollock and John Marasigan.
- The Distinguished Open Learning Alumni Award has been awarded once, to Craig Jones.
- The Distinguished Service Award, an annual institutional award, has been awarded to one Open Learning Faculty Member: Bob Verner.
- Within Open Learning, 4 awards are given out every 4 months: the Peer to Peer Award; the Open Learning Faculty Member Award; the Leadership Award; and the non-Open Learning Award.

G. Tarzwell also reported on TRU website changes. For the last two years, TRU has been working with an agency to redesign the web. The goal was to create "one TRU", regardless of the chosen method of study. At this point, the majority of sites have migrated over to the new template.

**4. OPEN LEARNING PROGRAMS/COURSES**

**a. Course/Program Report – Vice-Provost, Open Learning**

The Course/Program report was reviewed by the Planning Council. Any OL courses that have prerequisites need the Planning Council for Open Learning to approve the admission requirements.

**NEW COURSES:**

*For Information only:*

COMP 2681: Web Site Design and Development

Pre-requisites: Completion of the first year of the Bachelor of Computing Science or equivalent is strongly recommended.

*For approval:*

1. BUSN 5011: Managerial Statistics  
Pre-requisites: Admission to the Graduate Certificate in Business Administration.
2. BUSN 5021: Financial Accounting  
Pre-requisites: Admission to the Graduate Certificate in Business Administration.
3. BUSN 5031: Management Accounting  
Pre-requisites: BUSN 5021
4. BUSN 5041: Global Economics  
Pre-requisites: Admission to the Graduate Certificate in Business Administration.
5. BUSN 5051: Marketing Management  
Pre-requisites: Admission to the Graduate Certificate in Business Administration.
6. BUSN 5061: Human Resource Management  
Pre-requisites: Admission to the Graduate Certificate in Business Administration.
7. BUSN 6011: Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility  
Pre-requisites: Admission to the MBA.

8. BUSN 6021: Corporate Finance      Pre-requisites:  
Admission to the MBA.
9. BUSN 6031: International Business  
Pre-requisites: Admission to the MBA.
10. BUSN 6041: Leadership and Organizational Development  
Pre-requisites: Admission to the MBA.
11. BUSN 6051: Supply Chain Management  
Pre-requisites: Admission to the MBA.
12. BUSN 6061: Strategic Management Information Systems  
Pre-requisites: Admission to the MBA.
13. BUSN 6071: Project Management and Consulting Methods  
Pre-requisites: BUSN 6041
14. BUSN 6081: Strategic Management  
Pre-requisites: Completion of all other MBA Core Courses.
15. BUSN 6151: Advanced Marketing Management  
Pre-requisites: Admission to the MBA.
16. BUSN 6211: Advanced Corporate Finance  
Pre-requisites: BUSN 6021
17. BUSN 6251: Decision Analysis and Modelling  
Pre-requisites: Admission to the MBA.
18. BUSN 6311: Innovation and Entrepreneurship  
Pre-requisites: BUSN 6021
19. BUSN 6951: Research Methods, Preparation & Presentation  
Pre-requisites: Approval of the MBA Committee
20. BUSN 6961: Graduate Thesis  
Pre-requisites: BUSN 6951
21. BUSN 6971: Graduate Project  
Pre-requisites: BUSN 6951

**NEW PROGRAM:**

1. Master of Business Administration  
**Education Requirements:** To be admitted to the TRU MBA, students must complete the courses in the MBA Foundation (Graduate Certificate in Business Administration) with a grade of B (GPA 3.00) or higher or be exempted. (**Note: all students must first be admitted to the Graduate Certificate in Business Administration.**)

**Residency Requirements:** If the thesis route is chosen a residency of 30 credits.  
If the non-thesis route is chosen a residency of 27 credits.

**(Note: In either case students are allowed only nine (9) credits of transfer credit and zero (0) credits of PLAR.)**

**Maximum PLAR Allowable:** Zero (0).

Discussion ensued, and the following issues were raised:

- Courses 1 – 21 on the report require students to be registered in the program, which is not really open admission.
- Given the motion passed earlier by PCOL, one big difference between the campus program and the OL program would be the OL program would allow a great deal more transfer credit and would allow PLAR.
- Rather than admission to MBA program, an alternative prerequisite could be, “Satisfies requirement for MBA admission to program”.
- If a student had completed, say, an undergraduate Degree in Commerce, they may have gained all the learning outcomes required for the Graduate Certificate. Could they then enter directly into the MBA? If yes then why would they need to apply for the graduate certificate? If no, then they cannot graduate with the graduate certificate since they would not be able to satisfy the residency rules.
- PCOL approved guidelines for admission requirements/prerequisites on 25 November 2009 – see website [http://www.tru.ca/\\_shared/assets/Admission\\_Guidelines30030.pdf](http://www.tru.ca/_shared/assets/Admission_Guidelines30030.pdf)
- The MBA proposal does not meet PCOL’s open requirements as it is written. An overview of the program would be helpful, together with a statement of, and a commitment to, openness.
- PCOL would like to hear from Graduate Studies as to why the cohort aspect is important.
- PCOL requested representation from the School of Business and from Graduate Studies be present at the next PCOL meeting, to answer questions/concerns.

Consideration of the above BUSN courses, and the Master of Business Administration was tabled. G. Tarzwell will communicate back to the Graduate Studies Committee and the School of Business and request their presence at the next PCOL meeting.

### **REQUEST TO REDUCE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR THE ADULT DOGWOOD PROGRAM:**

Rationale: The ABE Provincial Requirement state in the FAQs:

Q: Does a student have to take a minimum number of courses used towards the Adult Dogwood from the institution granting the Adult Dogwood?

A: Yes, at least one course from the institution granting the diploma. The other eligible courses may be brought from another institution or institutions.

**On motion duly made and adopted, it was RESOLVED to reduce the residency requirement for the Adult Dogwood Program, offered by Open Learning, to one course.**

## **5. ENROLMENTS**

a. Enrolment Report – Lauren Jensen, Director, OL Planning & Effectiveness

In the first 6 months of the fiscal year (April – Sept, 2013), Open Learning has experienced a 12.8% increase in enrolments, a 10.3% increase in FTEs and a 11.9% increase in headcounts from the previous year’s first 6 months. Domestic enrolments and FTEs are up 14% and International enrolments are 97% (FTEs are 67%) of the previous year. October and November 2013 have seen about 5% enrolment growth so far. The three sub-categories of ABE, PLAR and Consortium are as follows: ABE

enrolments and FTEs are up approximately 5%. PLAR enrolments are up 10%, with a 33% increase in domestic PLAR and a 67% decrease in international PLAR enrolments from last year. Consortium enrolments and FTEs are down from the previous year. We are at 80% of the FTEs from last year and 92% of the enrolments. The decrease is greater in the UVIC courses than the SFU courses.”

8. **CLOSING REMARKS**

- a. Next Meeting – tentative date: 14 May 2014
- b. Adjournment