

News Bulletin

17 May 1990

DECISIONS OF MAY 17 BOARD MEETING

Phase II Liberal Arts building starts

The Malaspina College board has awarded local construction firm Precision Civil Installations the contract for phase two of the new Liberal Arts building.

This phase includes the construction and finishing of the two demountable buildings, totalling 19,000 sq. ft., to replace the former Liberal Arts 200, 300, and 400 buildings.

The buildings will consist of a 12,000 sq. ft. classroom block—which will house 11 classrooms and two seminar rooms for psychology, history and general purposes—and a 7,000 sq. ft. structure to house a computer lab and 38 faculty offices. Both buildings will be fully accessible for the disabled.

Work on the first phase—installing footings and foundations—will be completed by the end of this week by the same construction company, and completion is slated for August 15. Furniture and equipment will be installed in time for September classes.

Construction cost of both phases is budgeted at \$ 1.6 million.

The buildings have been designed by the Victoria architects firm of Wade Williams Inc. The liberal arts building is the first of 10 major construction projects planned for the college, which will see an estimated 32 percent increase in facilities in the near future.

The building expansion program is a result of the addition of third and fourth year university degree completion programs made pos-

sible by the provincial 'Access for All' initiative announced in March of 1989.

Operating budget process outlined

College board members were told Thursday afternoon, that they will be presented with a balanced operating budget for 1990/91 at the June regular monthly board meeting, to be held at the Cowichan campus.

Edwin Deas, vice-president of administration and bursar, outlined the budget process to board members and explained that deans and directors carried out an extensive planning process over a three-month period, in which they ranked budget elements in four categories ranging from essential items and enhancements to items not approved in principle until the final budget was known.

Deas said that the first round of budget projection—prepared before the college's operating budget was announced by the Ministry on May 10—showed an overrun in expenditures, and deans and directors are now going through the second phase of the process to bring the projected expenditures in line with the confirmed levels of funding.

"It's very common in the first draft of a budget process to have an overrun. Based on the work carried out before and after the provincial budget announcement, I am confident that we'll be able to realign the expenditures to within budget limits to present you with a balanced operating budget for 1990/91," he said.

Deas also told board members that the college is now having to face the "chronic problem of dependency on non-recurring funding."

"For the past eight years we've relied on these so called 'soft monies' to balance our budget. As the institution grows and the budget gets larger, we have to try to bring the recurring



expenditures in line with the recurring funding to ensure fiscal responsibility," Deas said. "This year we'll continue the process of reviewing all our existing programs and services based on current success and perceived needs, which we started in September of 1989. It may mean capping some of the programs in terms of enrolment and service levels to bring them in line with actual funding. This process will also ensure carefully planned and managed growth in the institution so we can deliver quality education," he said.

Deas explained that program analysis is also needed because the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology now places a greater emphasis on longer range planning.

Hiring process reviewed

Glenn Johnston, Vice President of Instruction and Student Services, gave board members an update on the hiring process for faculty. He said that six candidates have accepted positions in history (1), political science (1), anthropology (1), and psychology (3); five offers have been made and are pending acceptance; seven candidates have been recommended by the hiring committee and are now undergoing the salary placement process before an offer can be made; and one candidate has rejected the college's offer.

Johnston said that the college received more than 1,200 applications in response to faculty vacancy ads placed in the Vancouver Sun and Globe and Mail.

Seminar series on undergraduate education proposed

The board approved, in principle, a proposal for a seminar series on Issues in Undergraduate Education, which will bring a number of high profile educators to Malaspina in the fall and spring semesters. The program will be managed by Vice-President of Instruction and Planning, Dr. Gary Bauslaugh.

Board approves leaves

The board approved unassisted leaves for two E.S.L. faculty members, who hope to complete their Masters of Education degree at the University of Victoria, and a six-week secondment of a staff member to the ministry.

Christine Norris will be at UVic from July 30 to December 31, and Allan Brown from August 21 to December 31, 1990, while financial aid programs manager Karen Aird has been seconded to the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology from the middle of May to the end of June.

Japanese immersion program planned

President Rich Johnston reported that the college will be offering a Japanese immersion summer program for secondary school students, grades 9 through 12, in conjunction with the Nanaimo school district, during the month of July. Canadian students will spend a week of intensive living and learning with Japanese language teachers and students from Okayama Junior College in Japan. The students will spend all day together, starting with breakfast and proceeding through morning language instruction, afternoon cultural activities, and finishing with supper.

Board members also heard an update from Sam Bailey on the industrial training performed by the college, while Rich Johnston told board members about the excellent work that is being done at the downtown Industry Training and Business Development Centre by the director of industrial training and business development, Kari Lehtinen.

Next board regular board meetings are scheduled as follows:

June 21: Cowichan campus

July-August: at call of the chair