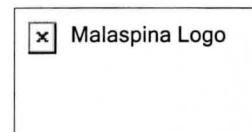


Marianne van Toor

From: Marianne van Toor
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2003 4:26 PM
To: Allemp-l@mala.bc.ca
Subject: E-Bulletin - decision from May 23 Board



Decisions from May 22, 2003 Board meeting held at the Nanaimo Campus

2003/04 Balanced budget approved

(text of news release)

The Malaspina University-College Board has adopted a balanced operating budget of \$80,327,082 for the 2003/04 fiscal year; up from \$76-million, last year.

The budget consists of the following:

- \$44,007,886 from the Ministry of Advanced Education for general operations and capital equipment – 54.8% of the total budget – up from \$43,355,571 last year.
- \$13,241,904 expected from student tuition fees – 16.5% of the total budget, up from \$9,585,612 last year.
- \$16,395,000 estimated gross revenues from international education, business and industrial training contracts – 20.4% of the total budget and \$2.3 million more than last year.
- \$4,720,459 projected gross revenue from ancillary services (cafeteria and bookstore) – 5.9% of the total budget.
- \$1,961,833 projected revenue from programs and services such as the hairdressing salon, trades programs, rental of facilities, and application fees – 2.4% of the total budget.

“This budget exceeds \$80-million for the first time in our 34-year history,” said Malaspina president Rich Johnston. “The budget reflects the continued growth of Malaspina University-College: from a budget of \$0.6 million in our 1969 opening year, to \$20-million in 1981, to \$41-million in 1991.”

Earlier in the year Malaspina projected a budget shortfall of \$2.7-million as a result of “fixed expenditures” for incremental progression of salary scales, salary and benefits adjustments (\$1.6 million); increased costs of delivering programs and services “in excess of provincial funding” (\$700,000); and \$400,000 towards the proposed library expansion.

The budget includes an additional \$125,000 “reinvestment” of projected tuition revenues for student assistance programs, to top up the \$500,000 Malaspina provided last year.

“We’ve increased funding for our special tuition bursaries to ensure that students continue to have access to post-secondary education, and we’ve also increased funding for our on-campus student employment programs,” said Johnston.

Since post-secondary educational institutions by law are not allowed to plan for an operating budget deficit the Board, in March, approved an increase in student tuition fees in order to avert cuts in programs and services for students.

As a result of high demand, Malaspina plans to add 475 student FTEs in such disciplines

like English, psychology, geography, anthropology, economics, mathematics, chemistry, and physical education. This includes 115 FTEs of the government's 'new era' initiative funding for nursing, computing science and child and youth care programs and on-line courses.

Two new Bachelor of Arts majors in criminology and global studies, as well as a minor in first nations studies will be added, and Bachelor of Science minors in chemistry and mathematics are planned.

"The continued growth pattern in international education, contract training, and ancillary services shows the positive contribution of our entrepreneurial activities," said Edwin Deas, vice-president of administration and bursar. "It now contributes 20.4% to our total budget and has allowed Malaspina to become less dependent on government funding and, ultimately, B.C.'s taxpayers, in order to offer quality programs and services."

Most of the net revenues from international education will be used to self-finance the new International Education Centre which is slated for completion later this summer.

The Centre will house classrooms, computer and language labs, offices and a meeting place for the more than 1,000 international students from over 45 countries who come to study at Malaspina.

Net revenue from international education also allows Malaspina to offer 60 extra courses - up from 54 last year - that create 1,450 extra seats for Canadian students.

Deas said the 2003/04 budget is "essentially a status quo budget" but he cautioned that he expects this to change in future years.

"In future, I expect the only funding growth to come from the government's 'new era' initiative [nursing, computing science, social work/child and youth care, and on-line courses], and expect that tuition increases will slow down," said Deas.

Malaspina's tuition fees were increased significantly over the past two years as a catch-up measure after six years of a tuition fee freeze.

"I expect much more volatile budgeting in future years because we anticipate government funding only for provincial priorities, not inflation," said Deas.

"If we're to address program growth that serves our region, as opposed to provincial priorities, and we're to address the quality of our programs and services, versus quantity, we're going to have to provide the funding from within our existing budget. This will lead to a combination of growth and reduction of our budget," Deas said.

ABE Commitment and Support Fee approved

After much discussion Board members approved adoption of a \$50 per course Commitment and Support Fee to be charged for Adult Basic Education courses, effective for the September 2003 intake. The fee is an alternative to the original proposed introduction of \$306 per course tuition fees for ABE students who already hold Dogwood Certificates, or equivalent. The fee will apply to all ABE students in levels 3 to 6, at all four campuses. Literacy students at the Foundation stage of ABE will continue to be exempt from the fee.

The fee recognizes the special services provided to ABE students in support of their introduction to post-secondary education and their successful transition to college and university programs. It is anticipated that the notion of commitment is likely to improve ABE drop-out rates, which average approximately 40%.

Use of Information Technology policy proposed

The Board gave first reading and notice of motion to a proposed policy on Use of Information Technology, text of which is available on the Policies & Procedures website: <http://web.mala.bc.ca/board/policies>.

The Board will vote on the proposed policy at the June 26 regular Board meeting. To provide comments, please e-mail board@mala.bc.ca before June 17.

2003/04 Board Meeting Schedule

June 26, Nanaimo
September 25, Nanaimo
October 23, Powell River
December 4, Nanaimo
January 22, Nanaimo
February 26, Parksville/Qualicum
March 25, Nanaimo
April 22, Nanaimo
May 27, Nanaimo
June 24, Nanaimo

All approved Board minutes are available at: <http://web.mala.bc.ca/board/archive.htm>.

Board Members

Jane Gregory, Chair
Don Hubbard, Vice-Chair
Hans Brennert
Richard W. Johnston, President, ex officio
Robin Kenyon
William (Bill) King
Will Lymer, student representative (on leave)
Virginia MacCarthy, Education Council Chair, ex officio
Jean Maltesen, faculty representative
Patti Miller
Dr. John Moss
Mary Story, support staff representative
Melanie Vogels, student representative
Bob Waldhaus

Policy on Presentations to the Board by Employees, Students and Members of the Community (Policy 11.20)

The Board encourages persons or groups to address it on issues related to the University-College. A period of time will be set aside at each Regular Meeting of the Board and any person or group may speak to an issue. In addition, at the request of a person or group or on the decision of the Chairperson, presentation may be made at an in-camera meeting of the Board. Written briefs should be in the hands of the Vice-President of Administration & Bursar at least 5 working days prior to a regular meeting in order to be included in the agenda of that meeting. Every effort will be made by the Board, through the Chair, to provide answers, if called for in a presentation. If no advance notice of the subject matter has been submitted, the Chair will reserve the right to refer the questions to University-College Administration for preparation of a written response.

Marianne van Toor,
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Coordinator, Information & Privacy
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**"The single biggest problem in communication
is the illusion that it has taken place."**

- G.B. Shaw