

The Aggregate

Business Division worried about future

Spurred by fears that the Ministry of Education is planning to cut back or eliminate business programs, delegates passed a unanimous motion to strike a task force to immediately examine the role of the Business Division and report on its future direction at BCIT.

Rumours of program and job cuts began circulating when the Ministry released its Report by the 'Committee to Consider Extending Technological Education Beyond Two Years at BCIT' in November.

Answering questions at the meeting were President Gordon Thom and Business Division dean John Kyle. Lundy Sanderson, head of Broadcast Communications was chairman and moderator.

Kyle, in a hard-hitting introduction, told his colleagues that he had called the meeting, 'because we need to put the rumours to rest and clarify our position.'

He said the Business Division would have to fight to keep its programs intact because the Ministry's reports have emphasized strong support of high technology programs while discouraging business and nursing. Among the several factors cited as contributing to this lack of support were the Ministry's perception that business programs should be offered in community colleges and universities, shortage of funds, and the fact that the Ministry is 'community college oriented'. Kyle said community colleges had been overbuilt and that moving BCIT business programs into them would seem like a natural solution to the Ministry. He likened transferring BCIT business programs to community colleges to transferring a Harvard degree program to SFU. 'It still won't get you a Harvard M.B.A.' he said.

Thom expressed general agreement with Kyle but said he didn't think the Ministry would instruct BCIT to eliminate the Business Division.

'My guess is that they will curtail the budget and tell us what we can't cut. I think the situation is very serious and if the Ministry has its way we will gradually be reduced to a service component, with business programs being shifted to community colleges.'

Kyle said the Ministry sees business programs as expensive and doesn't realize their importance as unique, in-depth programs that are constantly changing to reflect the needs of the business world.

This plain speaking may have had a moderating effect on the audience who were calm and attentive throughout, contradicting a fear by some that the meeting would become emotionally charged.

It was agreed that the Ministry would have to be convinced of the value of business programs offered at BCIT, and that a concentrated campaign should be mounted.

Kyle talked of mounting a campaign on two fronts.

'We have to make changes to bring our delivery system into the eighties', he said, referring to upgrading professional development, developing one of a kind programs that couldn't be offered at community colleges and, 'we have to get support from our friends in business to create

a carefully orchestrated lobby'.

The Alumni Association and the Advisory Committees were suggested as groups where support could be rallied.

Before and after the motion to strike a task force was carried many questions were raised from the floor.

Among topics debated were the form the task force should take, where to look for support, how much support was forthcoming from the administration and other divisions, data available to the task force and whether the task force should take an aggressive stance or one of 'intelligent statesmanship'. Also raised was a suggestion to establish a lobby group separate from the task force.

The whereabouts of a document referred to in the Committee's report as 'A study of the feasibility transferring business and nursing programs from BCIT to colleges' is unknown and many delegates wanted to know how they could get a copy. Thom said he was attempting to track one down.

Financial Management instructor Ernie Iannacone said it was important to use positive rather than negative terminology when referring to the Business Division

situation. He objected to words like 'survival' and 'emergency'.

A motion put forward by acting head of Computer Systems Gordon Farrell was withdrawn after some discussion about the appropriateness and tone of the statement. In essence it said that BCIT should recommend to the Ministry that business programs not be adversely affected until the task force report had been presented to them.

Sanderson said that although the motion had been withdrawn, the general intent and spirit had been recognized.

Kyle now has the responsibility of forming the task force and setting out the terms of reference. Although a time-frame was discussed no one was willing to set a deadline for completion of the report, except Thom who indicated he would like to see it by next summer, preferably earlier.

The meeting ended with a motion being passed unanimously that the Business Division 'stand together'.

This Story was reprinted from Developments, the institute newsletter.

New Board of Directors

The new board of directors of the BCIT Alumni Association has some new faces and some old faces. New people to the board include Michael Deane, joining as Vice-President; Vinod Chandra and Guy Foyle as Engineering representatives; and Cheryl Hallum as one of two Business representatives. Moving into the position of President was former vice president Robert Fawcett. Taking over as Secretary was Barry McKinney, a former Engineering rep. Debbie Cull stayed on as Treasurer and Linda Bell retained a Business rep position. The two Health positions are currently vacant, as are the Engineering and Health educational council positions.

Former President Don Wright commented that he was disappointed by the number of graduates that attended the Annual General Meeting in November.

'The turnout was poor, but I think the new group has some ideas that will get graduates more interested in the activities of the association' said Wright.

At the first meeting of the board of Directors in late November, new president

Robert Fawcett immediately struck an executive management committee, a financial committee, and a constitutional change committee. The executive committee will deal with the day to day business of the association, and be composed of the four executive members.

Perhaps the most important of the three committees will be the constitutional change committee. The board has identified several problems with the association's constitution, and would like to give it a substantial overhaul. Fawcett says the constitution is 'unworkable' and 'very restrictive as to what it allows the association to do'.

He said he would like to see a mail-in ballot/election procedure incorporated in the constitution.

Fawcett also feels the administration should provide more funding to the alumni association, and that membership in the association be automatic upon graduation. This year the association received 'level 1' funding from the institute which amounted to approximately \$12,500.

Out of town education

BCIT's Division of Continuing Education and Industry Services will again offer a selection of credit courses in Business Management in Surrey, Langley and Richmond, in co-operation with Kwantlen College and the school districts.

The service, which began in September 1981, is proving very popular with students in these areas.

Classes start January 11 in Surrey and

Langley, January 18 in Richmond. All courses are regular CE&IS 1.0 unit credit courses which take place in the evening and last for 12 weeks.

For information on course offerings, registration and program consultation, please contact CE&IS at 434-5734, local 204/205 or visit the Information desk in Building 1A at BCIT.

The Aggregate

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Letters and articles are welcome, and may be edited for taste, libel and clarity.

This issue edited by Don Wright and produced by BCIT Student Publications.



Cheryl S. Hallum assumes one of two Business Representative positions on the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

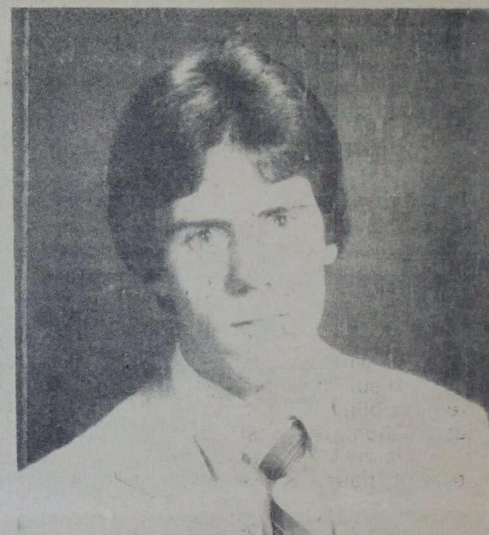
Cheryl graduated from Marketing in 1979 and has been a member of the association since that time, volunteering her services during many Alumni activities.

Currently, Cheryl is employed by Panduit (Canada) Ltd. as a marketing and sales rep. a position which she has held since July, 1980.

Previously she was employed as an Electrical Sales Rep in Alberta.

Cheryl says she is primarily concerned with maintaining the reputation of BCIT and making it a valuable tool for students and grads.

Guy Foyle, new to the association board, graduated from Instrumentation in 1979, when he went to work for H.A. Simons. He is still at Simons, as a control systems technologist, and designs control systems for pulp and paper mills.



Guy feels the association should be more powerful in matters of course content. He admits he is new with the association, but Guy is also involved with the Instrumentation Society of America where he recently joined their executive as 'education assistant'.

Next Issue:

Next issue, Barry McKinney, Vinod Chandra, and Linda Bell.

Introducing...

Robert Fawcett assumes the role of President of the Alumni Association Board of Directors after serving as vice-president.

Prior to that he was a business rep on the Alumni Association board and on the Administrative Management Advisory Committee from 1979 to 1981.

He graduated from BCIT in June 1979 from Administrative Management.

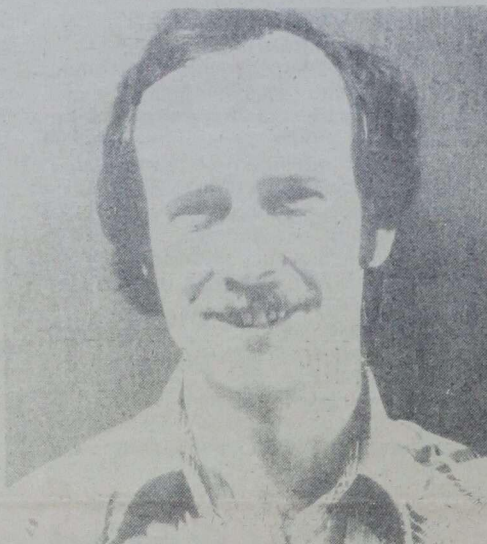


At present, Robert is Assistant Secretary for the Real Estate Council of B.C.

Robert would like to see all graduates of the institute become automatic members of the Alumni Association. He feels the Alumni Association should act as an information network for graduates on what is happening at the institute and details regarding continuing education.

Michael Deane, a 1981 Administrative Management grad, joins the Alumni Association Board of Directors as Vice-President. Although he is new to the Alumni Association board, he served as President of the Student Association in 1980/81 and is presently a member of the Educational Council.

Michael says he wants to see the Alumni Association become a strong representative voice of past graduates at the Institute and



Government levels.

Michael is currently employed as Operations Co-ordinator for Stuart Plastics Ltd. in New Westminster.

Debra Cull is a familiar face on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. She retains her position as Treasurer which she has held since 1980. She graduated from Administrative Management in '79 and was hired by Woodward's Stores as an Internal Auditor. Since then she moved to her present position as Sales Rep in the local general office of Benndorf-Verster.

Debra would like to see the Alumni Association act as a link between the institute and past graduates to keep them better informed and aware of campus life and politics.



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by Don Wright

Phase one of the long awaited new Campus Centre will be built and ready for use by the time school starts in September.

This is the good news from the student association who have been planning, meeting, designing, and working on financing for over three years on the building some thought would never get off the ground.

The reason for such optimistic news is the recent decision by the BCIT Board of Governors to grant a 'non-repayable loan' to the Student Association of \$250,000. The money is from the 'Campus Life and Residence Fund', collected in the past through an allocation of day school tuition. The Student Association will have to borrow \$550,000 from a bank as a result of this board grant. An additional \$152,000 from the SA Building Fund will also be used.

The concern over the past few months has

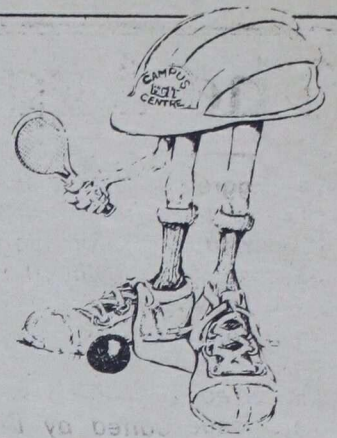
been the refusal of the Provincial Treasury to guarantee a larger bank loan of \$800,000. However, the Board grant is the go-ahead the SA needed.

'We're elated that the project is finally ready for tender' said Linda Smibert, SA Treasurer. Linda added that a sod-turning ceremony is

"Finally ready for tender"

already planned for February 12, and that Phase 1 should be completed by September which she considers 'a conservative estimate'.

The first phase includes three racketball courts, two squash courts, a games room, lounge area, and a Deli Bar. Phase two will see new SA offices and working areas and phase



three provides a new cafeteria, pub, and meeting rooms. The complex is to be built against the north wall of the existing SAC gymnasium, stretching to the east and west.

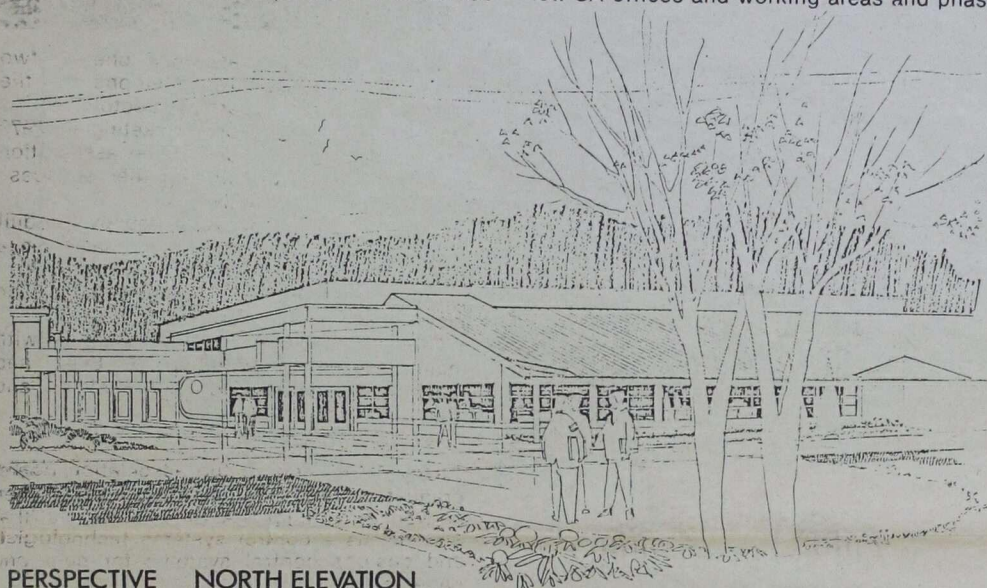
The architectural work is being completed by Ronald Howard and Associates.

Phase 1 will cost close to one million dollars, with the additional phases costing several million more. Bank financing for the first phase is under negotiation, and according to a LINK report, the SA will not necessarily deal with the on-campus Bank of Commerce, who reportedly want prime plus 1 percent. According to the report, Robin Williams, SA President, feels that the SA may be able to get a loan at prime elsewhere.

The SA estimates revenue from the courts will be as much as \$180,000 a year, about half of which will go towards paying off the loan. Two thirds of the remainder will go into a new Campus Life and Programming Fund, to be used by Campus Life and the SA to provide more athletic and recreational activities on campus.

Alumni will have access to the facilities according to Smibert. 'We haven't set the rates yet, but the schedules will allow for usage by students, staff and alumni'.

According to the 1981 Annual Report of the Student Association, the SA is planning a corporate donations drive, which is expected to include an approach to the graduates of BCIT through the Aggregate.



PERSPECTIVE NORTH ELEVATION

Student housing promise

FROM THE LINK:

Burnaby's new mayor has committed himself to finding ways of providing more housing for students.

Bill Lewarne, elected mayor on Nov. 21st, feels one of Burnaby's problems is a lack of student housing. Solving that problem is 'a commitment I would make to you,' Lewarne said.

Lewarne said the municipality has a 'major problem with student accommodation'. He said the solution to the problem 'is partly our responsibility and partly the student association's responsibility'.

'There are considerable funds available for student housing,' Lewarne said, the only

problem is knowing how to get access to the money.

Lewarne said he is ready to work with students to find ways for them to get at those funds. 'If you people are interested in working with us to show you the ropes, we would strike a committee to see what we can do for you.'

Lewarne said student housing 'closer to the campus is more a part of campus life'.

Until new housing is built Burnaby will not endorse its bylaws against illegal suites Lewarne said.

Lewarne, a long time Burnaby alderman, was endorsed in Saturday's election by the Burnaby voters association, a group connected with the Social Credit party.

Message from CEC

I am sure that all of the BCIT Alumni members will be pleased to hear that BCIT graduates, and undergraduates enjoyed an excellent employment year. For all types of employment, the Centre recorded over 2,400 vacancies and placed about 1,400 people in jobs.

Perhaps of particular interest to Alumni is to learn that the average salary received by a new graduate increased for Business Technologies from \$1,143.00 to \$1,353.00, Health \$1,428.00 to \$1,639.00 and Engineering from \$1,348.00 to \$1,549.00. The overall school average increased \$200.00 per month from \$1,306.00 to \$1,506.00.

The outlook for jobs in 1982 could be

somewhat disappointing because of the weakness in the Forest Industry which has a very significant impact on the economy of British Columbia. However, there are many expansion projects and new resource developments taking place in B.C. that should help to offset some of the weaknesses in the labour market created by the slow down in Forestry.

The Canada Employment Centre is still operating year round and is open from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm except for weekends and holidays. Although our thrust in the labour market is to place the recent graduate, we do serve the Alumni and you are welcome to use our services.

Best wishes for 1982.

Advertise in The Aggregate

For information

call 437-5734, local 757

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BCIT Alumni Association
3700 Willingdon Avenue,
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Winter 81/82

The Aggregate

This Issue:

Some thought it would never get off the ground. A grant from the BCIT Board of Governors gives the Student Association the go-ahead on their most ambitious project yet. The Campus Centre. Story page 4.

In December the entire Business Division sat down together and discussed their future. The last time they were all together in one body was about nine years ago. Story page 2.

