

Academic Planning Bulletin #31

April 3, 2009

Moving Forward with the Academic Plan

On March 30th I met with three individuals in the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development (Julia MacDonald, Bill Parker and Brian Train) to review our Academic Plan and receive their feedback. Considerable support was expressed for the strategic directions outlined in the Plan. The concept of a University Partnership Centre was well received, as were the new program and curriculum directions contained in the Plan. I also took this opportunity to discuss “health priority programs” that Douglas would be prepared to offer if appropriate funding is provided. Health priority programs are designated by the Ministry as programs required to meet labour market shortages in the health field. The programs we have indicated Douglas would be able to offer, subject to appropriate funding, are ones that complement our current health and lab science offerings. Unfortunately, the Ministry is still questioning the labour market viability of our proposed Bachelor of Applied Music. However, they have expressed support for us proceeding with a Music Technology Diploma, while continuing to gather evidence of sufficient labour market demand to support another Music degree in the lower mainland.

Undergraduate Research Day

An extremely successful Undergraduate Research Day was held March 31st in the gymnasium on the New West campus. This was an inaugural event that I hope will continue to be held annually. It gave me great pleasure to welcome students, faculty and staff to this event. I feel the Undergraduate Research Day reflected many of the curricular changes that have been made at Douglas over the past four years, and the great strides we have made in expanding learning experiences for our students. I would like to express my very sincere appreciation to the Organizing Committee and the Sport Science 3240 Leadership class for all their work in preparing for this event. I would also like to thank the faculty who have worked so hard with their students to engage them in research activities. The activities on display on Tuesday represented the work of 17 faculty working with approximately 200 students. I look forward to this event growing in future years to include the work of many more faculty and students.

Scholarly Activity Fund Awards

At the last VPAC meeting the recommendations of the Scholarly Activity Fund Adjudication Committee were accepted. The awards being made in the \$3,000 grant category represent 15 funded projects/activities involving 19 faculty and a total amount of \$26,856.59. In addition to the \$3,000 grants, three one-section releases have been provided to support faculty engaged in major research projects. The names of the individuals receiving these funds and a brief description of their projects will be provided in the April President’s Report. My congratulations to the individuals receiving these awards.

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Educational Pathways and Connections

On April 28th from 12:30 to 3:30pm we will be hosting a meeting with representatives (Teachers, Department Heads and Coordinators) from three School Districts (Burnaby, Coquitlam and New West) and BCIT. Chairs and Coordinators from Douglas are being invited to attend and should RSVP to Sharon Smith at smiths@douglas.bc.ca by April 14th. The purpose of this meeting is to enhance transition from secondary to post-secondary by building curricular pathways.

Celebration of Teaching, Learning, Scholarly Activity and Research

The fourth annual Celebration of Teaching, Learning, Scholarly Activity and Research (CoTL) is scheduled for May 21, 2009. This year the event will be held for the first time on the David Lam Campus. Starting this year we will rotate the location of the event between the New West and David Lam campuses. Since we will be hosting this event on the David Lam campus this year, we plan to invite teachers from Pinetree Secondary School to join us at the celebration and gain a greater awareness of the teaching and research activities we are engaged in at Douglas College.

I am inviting all faculty and staff from both campuses to display either a teaching and learning activity or scholarly activity at the May 21st event. If your students developed a poster for the Undergraduate Research Day, it would also be very appropriate to display it at the Celebration of Teaching, Learning, Scholarly Activity and Research. This event is an opportunity for you to let your colleagues know what you are doing in the classroom or in your scholarly activity and research pursuits. As of last year, we are now posting on the VPAC web page a record of all CoTL presenters and the title of their display.

Those planning to display at this year's Celebration must submit an Exhibitor Support Form by May 1, 2009. You can complete this form by going to the VPAC web page (<http://www.douglas.bc.ca/about/governance-and-policies/vpac/celebration-of-teaching-and-learning/2009.html>). You are able to fill the form out electronically. You can also contact gappera@douglas.bc.ca to request a copy of the form. I look forward to seeing you at the May 21st celebration event.

*Jan Lindsay
Vice President, Education*