

In Attendance:

Tim Atkinson, Vancouver Community College, Urban Colleges
Marc Breschuk, Alexander College, Associate Members
Melody Burton, University of BC (alternate)
Ken Cooley, University of Victoria (alternate)
Kate Cotie, Ministry of Advanced Education,
Innovation and Technology
Rosie Croft, Royal Roads University, Small Universities
Gregg Currie, Selkirk College, Rural Colleges
Charles Eckman, Simon Fraser University
Natalie Gick, Simon Fraser University Officer
Sybil Harrison, Camosun College (Chair)
David Pepper, BC Institute of Technology, Regional
Universities and Institutes

BC ELN Staff:
Anita Cocchia
Gordon Coleman
Korinne Hamakawa
Leah Hopton
Heather Morrison
Sunni Nishimura
Leigh Anne Palmer
Reece Steinberg (recorder)

Regrets:

Jonathan Bengtson, University of Victoria
Ingrid Parent, University of BC

1. Adoption of Agenda

The minutes to the July, 2012 meeting were approved by email. There were no additional items to add to the agenda.

2. BC ELN Budget Process 2013-2014

A. Cocchia outlined the BC ELN budget process in place for the past 3 years, based on submitting an accountability document that focuses on what BC ELN brings to the post-secondary system. A. Cocchia invited K. Cotie's input on this approach.

K. Cotie expressed that the Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology is moving toward favouring outcomes, and she acknowledged that BC ELN's Innovation & Success report has continued to evolve over years in response to Ministry feedback. She stated the document is very useful, and has been used as a model for other groups. Questions were raised about adding requests for funding additional projects into the Innovation & Success. K. Cotie recommended keeping additional requests separate from the Innovation & Success report, but that it could be beneficial for the Ministry to know BC ELN's priorities if additional funding were available. She recommended that requests be informal.

ACTION ITEM: Produce Innovation & Success report, deadline Jan. 31, 2013. It will not include a request for additional funding, but will include "teaser" information on additional areas BC ELN would prioritize if extra monies were available.

3. Vice-Chair Election

S. Harrison described term and responsibilities of Vice-Chair, and called for nominations.

The term is for one year. The Vice-Chair serves on the Executive Committee. At the end of the term, the Vice-Chair becomes the Chair and no longer represents a constituency. R. Croft was nominated. No other nominations were put forward.

R. Croft was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation.

4. Associate Membership - Proposed Fee Schedule Change

A. Cocchia provided an overview of the proposed changes to the associate member fee schedule, and the context for these changes. She provided all members with a print copy of the Updated Associate Member Fee Schedule.

A. Cocchia's speaking points included that the BC ELN Associate Member fees are overly complex, create administrative costs and barriers to participation, and are exceeding the goal of cost-recovery. The recommendation is for Membership Fees to remain the same, and to remove the research databases service fee (3%), the AskAway service fee (3%), and the AskAway start-up fee (20%). **The proposed change would not impact other costs or fees for public or associate members.** SFU will be eliminating service fees to align itself with the BC ELN fee structure.

Questions were asked about whether the goal in eliminating the fees was to simplify billing, and whether the membership fees compensated for the loss of service and start-up fees. A. Cocchia responded that the measures aimed to simplify billing, but also that the existing fee structure neglected to take into account the value associate members bring to BC ELN. Associate members raise FTEs, allowing BC ELN greater leverage for database negotiation. Associate members contribute staffing to AskAway, including evening shifts, which are difficult to fill.

A question was asked about the number of possible associate members. A. Cocchia responded that the number of institutions that meet BC ELN's criteria is small. K. Cotie added that of the 17 private degree-granting institutions in B.C., many are based in the U.S.A. and therefore ineligible. A. Cocchia added that few have accredited libraries, necessary to meet BC ELN's criteria for membership.

In response to a question about future changes to fees, A. Cocchia added that the fee structure could be easily changed in the future, e.g., the Associate Membership Fee could be increased if current fees were no longer recovering costs. The fee structure can be reviewed at any time by the Steering Committee.

MOTION: That BC ELN adopt the Revised BC ELN Fee Schedule as described on the Updated Associate Member Fee Schedule.

Moved: D. Pepper

Seconded: T. Atkinson

Motion Carried

5. Open Textbook Project

D. Pepper introduced the Open Textbook Project as an item of information, and for discussion of roles BC ELN could play.

Roles for libraries were discussed, leading back to the question of how BC ELN could assist libraries. Committee members mentioned ideas including a small group information meeting with BCcampus, and a leadership role in a repository or portal including existing open content. One member described BC ELN as acting as a conduit between BCcampus and libraries, communicating needs and abilities, and bridging the communication gap.

K. Cotie noted the value of communicating to Ministry that BC ELN was collaborating with BCcampus, working on the Open Textbook Project, which aligns with government priorities. She mentioned that B.C. is the first province in Canada to begin an open textbook project.

ACTION ITEM: BC ELN will set up a small group information meeting with BCcampus, including a designate from the Steering Committee, with the goal of determining potential role(s) for BC ELN in the Open Textbook Project.

6. New Business - None

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be a teleconference in May. BC ELN will send the date out early 2013.