

BC Electronic Library Network Steering Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, February 8, 2011

In Attendance:

Gohar Ashoughian, University of Northern British Columbia, Small Universities (Alternate)
Debbie Azaransky, Ministry of Regional Economic and Skills Development Representative
Ken Cooley, University of Victoria
Charles Eckman, Simon Fraser University
Mary Anne Guenther, North Island College, Rural Colleges
April Haddad, Justice Institute of British Columbia, Urban Colleges
Cathy MacDonald, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Regional Universities
Todd Mundle, Simon Fraser University Officer
Ingrid Parent, University of British Columbia
Marnie Swanson, University of Victoria, (Chair)
Rahel Umpherson, Ministry of Regional Economic and Skills Development Representative
Venessa Wallsten, Quest University Canada, Associate Member

BC ELN Staff:

Anita Cocchia
Korinne Hamakawa, (Recorder)
Heather Morrison
Sunni Nishimura, AskAway Coordinator
Leigh Anne Palmer, e-HLbc Coordinator

Regrets:

Gordon Coleman, BC ELN
Nancy Levesque, Thompson Rivers University, Small Universities

Opening remarks:

M. Swanson welcomed everyone and explained the teleconference procedures. This was the first BC ELN Steering Committee meeting held by teleconference.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Minutes of the November 22, 2010 meetings were approved by email.
Agenda adopted as tabled.

2. Items for information

2.1 Ministry Changes

A. Cocchia outlined recent ministry changes. In January BC ELN received confirmation that BC ELN will report to the new Agencies and Quality Assurance Branch (AQUA) of the new Ministry of Regional Economic and Skills Development. A. Cocchia has met in person with Dawn Minty, Executive Director of AQUA, and virtually with D. Azaransky, BC ELN's primary contact, and R. Umpherson.

D. Azaransky provided background on the new Ministry and AQUA. In the fall of 2010, the former Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development became the Ministry of Regional Economic and Social Development (RESD) and a new Ministry of Science and Universities (SU) was created. The Honourable Ida Chong is currently the Minister of both.

These changes were made to better reflect the dual nature of advanced education – skills and training, and research and degree granting. Colleges are well positioned to understand and meet the needs of their communities, providing the skills training and education needed by employers. Universities are our centres of research and innovation excellence, leading the development of our new knowledge based economy.

RESD retains all existing responsibilities with the exception of the universities, Student Aid BC and the Year of Science initiative, which move over to SU. RESD will focus on developing an integrated approach to regional economic growth by aligning labour market development, skills and training, immigration and settlement, and regional economic and community development. SU will focus on leading and promoting the significance of universities in strengthening the economy of the province. There will continue to be a strong collaboration between the two ministries.

AQUA is located within the Skills and Labour Market Development Division within RESD, which is focused on improving alignments of human capital to local economic opportunities. The AQUA Branch is made up of the Quality Assurance Unit (Director, Dorothy Rogers) and the Agencies Unit (D. Azaransky's unit). Through its work the Branch interacts significantly with BC's private post secondary sector and also interacts with the public post secondary sector directly through degree authorization and indirectly through agencies such as BC ELN. The private post-secondary sector under AQUA includes 17 private and out of province Degree Authorization Act (DAA) institutions, approximately 350 Private Career Training Institutes Agency (PCTIA) institutions, and 12 private theological institutions.

The functions overseen by the Agencies unit are:

- BC ELN
- Private Career Training Institutes Agency of BC (PCTIA)
- British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT)
- BCCampus
- Executive compensation and strategic labour relations, including liaising with the Post Secondary Employers' Association.

Overall Branch responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Quality assessment requirements for public and private degree granting institutions
- Reporting and monitoring requirements for private institutions under the Degree Authorization Act.
- Leadership and support to the private career training sector

In its 2010/11-2012/13 Service Plan, RESD's first goal is a dynamic and integrated post-secondary system that meets the needs of a knowledge driven economy and society. The first objective under this goal is for British Columbians to be able to fulfil their potential through access to quality education and training opportunities. *Skills for Growth: BC's Labour Market Strategy to 2020*, is BC's plan to drive economic and social prosperity for communities and families in all regions. The first two priorities of Skills for Growth are to increase the Skill Level and Labour Market success of British Columbians, and attract workers and entrepreneurs from

outside the Province who meet BC's regional economic needs. Details of this plan can be found on the WorkBC website
<http://www.workbc.ca/labour_market_statistics/skills_for_growth.htm>

2.2 Strategic Planning, 2011-2016 Update

H. Morrison presented an update on strategic planning since the last Steering Committee meeting. An environmental scan article was published in the December 2010 BC ELN Connect < <http://www.eln.bc.ca/view.php?id=1868&printformat=1#envi>>. The Community Garden online forum will be open until Friday, February 18. Invitations to the in-person session, coming up on the evening of Thursday, April 28 and all day Friday, April 29, are forthcoming soon. BC ELN continues to work with facilitator Myriam Laberge to create a session that is designed to be energizing, creative, develop the high-level goals or Bold Steps for BC ELN for the next 5 years – and be fun! Graphics facilitator Avril Orloff will be joining us for this session.

Discussion:

M. Swanson commented that this reflects what has been brought forward in the previous meeting, and encouraged everyone to “go into the garden”.

2.3 Innovation and Success 2010 – Update

A. Cocchia reported that the 2010 *Innovation & Success* report was submitted to Ministry on February 3rd, and thanked everyone who provided us valuable feedback, especially our new Ministry representative D. Azaransky. In the near future the document will be posted to the BC ELN Directors list and website. BC ELN typically receives the Ministry funding letter in April or May.

Discussion:

T. Mundle – Innovation & Success is great document that shows how much work BC ELN does on behalf of the post-secondary community, and it fits nicely with the ministry's dynamic and integrated approach.

3. Items for decision

3.1 AskAway Advisory Committee – TOR Revision

M. A. Guenther reported that the fall 2010 term was the busiest to date, a 12% increase in traffic over 2009. Over 9,000 questions were answered. Qwidget placement on library websites was a key driver of this increase. An Emerging Technology Sub-committee has been formed, comprising 12 members from a wide range of institutions.

AskAway is in the process of preparing a BCcampus Shared Services funding request; the deadline is the end of February.

The major changes to the revised Terms of Reference are as follows:

1. Added additional Member-at-large position
2. Removed AskAway public library representative (as the service has closed), and CPSLD chair position
3. Official start dates for representatives changed to October 1, to reflect changes in the BC ELN Steering Committee Terms of Reference

Motion: To endorse the revised Terms of Reference for the AskAway Advisory Committee.
Moved: Cathy MacDonald
Seconded: Mary Anne Guenther

Discussion:

There was a question regarding the removal of the CPSLD chair. T. Mundle explained that the original reason for this position on the committee was because AskAway started as a CPSLD project. It was felt that the Chair's presence is no longer necessary, as there is much overlap of CPSLD directors already on the advisory committee.

Motion Carried

4. Items for Information

4.1 WriteAway – Online Writing Help for BC's Post-Secondary Learners

A. Cocchia spoke to the WriteAway proposal, which was included in the agenda package, and about BC ELN's involvement so far. WriteAway is designed to be an online writing tutor service, very similar to AskAway, with writing tutors rather than reference librarians. Over the last 4 or 5 months an informal working group has been working to gauge the level of interest in WriteAway, both within the community and with funding sources. BC ELN has been acting as an expert consultant to the committee. BCcampus has been involved in the initiative since its inception, and provided monies to second a BC ELN staff person in early January to work on the proposal in the agenda package. BC ELN has been asked to host some information pages on our web site. Unless directed otherwise by the Steering Committee, BC ELN will agree to this request

Discussion: there was a question of who is leading the WriteAway Concept Committee. The unofficial lead is assumed to be Elaine Fairey, with whom A. Cocchia has had the most contact.

There was a question about the content to be put on the BC ELN website. At this point it would be just information about the project proposal, no resources for learners or the like.

There was a question as to whether there is software associated with this project as of yet, similar to Question Point for AskAway. At this stage the committee is looking for seed money and interest. Software has not been selected.

Discussion: I. Parent expressed excitement about the project and believes that it will improve the educational environment, and provide an opportunity for students to learn new skills. The collaborative manner in which this project is moving forward has much support.

4.2 Resource Sharing – Status Update and Future Possibilities

H. Morrison spoke to the BC ELN Resource Sharing Consultations 2010/11 DRAFT Report included in the agenda package. This report provides an overview of BC ELN resource sharing services, and ideas arising from the consultations to inform the BC ELN strategic plan. A. Cocchia and H. Morrison conducted a teleconference with Associate Members to determine interest in participating in BC ELN resource sharing services. Interlibrary loans, the portion of BC ELN resource sharing services that impact on other libraries, is an area of interest, but not for immediate participation; it is recommended that this area be revisited when Associate Members are ready to participate. The reSearcher suite, and particularly the A to Z journal list,

is of immediate interest. Since this does not impact other libraries, it was suggested that BC ELN explore this option with Simon Fraser University Library.

Discussion: there was a question about whether the consultation document will be made available on the BC ELN website. The answer is yes, it will, after final formatting.

5. New Business

There was no new business.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will July 8th, 2011. Details will be send out closer to the date.