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From the Executive

Kelly Pitman, CCFA President



Hello friends.

I've got that old January feeling, like I've been away a long time and at the same time like I never got away at all. I think you know what I mean.

I do hope you all had a good break and were able to put down your work burdens for a while. I spent my break travelling, so though it was not restful, it was a change of scene and thus was definitely rejuvenating. And now we're back. And in the midst of budget consultations. Or are we?

There are, in essence, two major categories of cuts on the horizon. First, there are the cuts that we expected we'd have to make, those based on increased costs and a proposed \$20 million cut to post-secondary across the province. Second, there are the further cuts connected to the cessation of ESL education funding transferred from the federal to the provincial government. These cuts are still a topic of debate and advocacy, still fraught with many troubling questions, and therefore not firm.

The consultation process we are meant to be in right now involves the first layer of cuts. I don't know about you, but many of us are feeling that the process this year is too much like the process for the 2012/2013 year. As of Friday, January 17, deans and directors have submitted to the College Executive Team (CET) prioritized lists for cutting 2.5% in their respective divisions. Chairs, I am told, know about potential implications for their own areas, but do not know where their departments fall on the list of priorities, nor do they know, at least officially, how other departments in their divisions are affected. CET will now take these lists and put together a draft budget, taking into account any new information that might trickle in from the provincial government, and get feedback from deans and directors before producing a revised budget.

I spoke with John Boraas this Monday (January 20) and let him know the bottom line: whatever information has been submitted from those of us on the ground, we have little way of knowing what the final recommendations are and even less knowledge of what role we might play in honing those recommendations. This leaves many people feeling uncertain and fearful. John is going to take my observations and questions to CET this week, so perhaps we'll get more information soon. The CCFA is working to get clarity.

As for the second layer of cuts, my understanding is that the college does not have confirmation as to the numbers. This raises questions about whether the old rules apply. Can the college produce a proposed budget by early March? It seems unlikely. I wish I had more certain news, and better news. All I can tell you now is that the CCFA is vigilant, keeping your interests and those of your

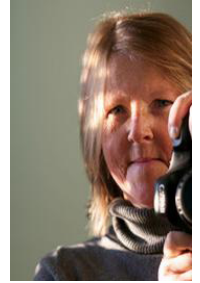
students first and foremost.

If you are of a letter-writing mind, start writing. Write to your MLA, your MP, the local newspaper. Get the word out. Education is foundational to the future, and we fear for the future of BC citizens in the current climate.

In the meantime, you will continue to do the excellent work you always do, and we will continue to advocate for that. If you have input for us on the budget process or any other aspect of the scene, we're eager to hear it. You know where to find us.

SD Reminders

Debbie Gascoyne, Chair, Contract Management Committee



SD Reminders

As the SD deadline approaches, here are a few things worth remembering:

1. Chairs get SD too! They have a right to release from regular duties, and that includes chair's duties.
2. If you were regularized into a continuing position as of January 2014, you are entitled to SD in the 2014/2015 year (but you must have been working in a term contract in September 2013).
3. Those who were hired into a probationary contract must have worked in September 2013 in order to qualify.
4. Deans may ASK you to consider x activity for your SD, but may not REQUIRE it. If you feel a sense of coercion, come and see us.
5. There is a difference in the application between your intention to take SD in the 2014/2015 year and in your proposal. All intentions must be submitted by February 1 (to your chair via SD Connect), but proposals may be submitted later, according to when you plan to do your SD. See the chart below:

Scheduled Development Due Dates

All faculty members must submit either their intent to take Scheduled Development or their detailed Scheduled Development proposal, depending on their Scheduled Development period, to the appropriate Chair by February 1st and to the Dean or Director by February 15th. The table below indicates the dates detailed proposals are due.

Scheduled Development Period	Date Detailed Proposal is Due to appropriate Chair	Date Detailed Proposal is Due to Dean/Director
Spring and/or Summer or Quarter 3 and/or Quarter 4	February 1	February 15
Fall or Quarter 1	June 1	June 15
Winter or Quarter 2	October 1	October 15

For a full discussion of some of these points, and more, see a previous Confluence article, now available on the CCFA website <http://www.camosunfaculty.ca/contract-management/confluence-articles/sd/>

CCFA Travelogue - the Best and Worst places for an SD Adventure

This is a new feature for the Confluence - tell us about your experience of the cities you've visited on an SD adventure - the best and/or the worst. You never know, it might just become a resource for choosing that next conference.

Submitted by *Kelly Pitman*. SD Project: *Creativity Workshop*

New York, New York!

Among the many famous cities of the world, New York looms large in the collective imagination. How many books, movies, plays, and television shows are set there? How many famous people have lived and worked there? From John Jacob Aster to John Lennon, from Gypsy Rose Lee to Spike Lee, the city is the nexus of making it big. The great hope, the new bohemia, the living symbol of change and chutzpah—it's hard to resist the gutter-smart romance of New York City.

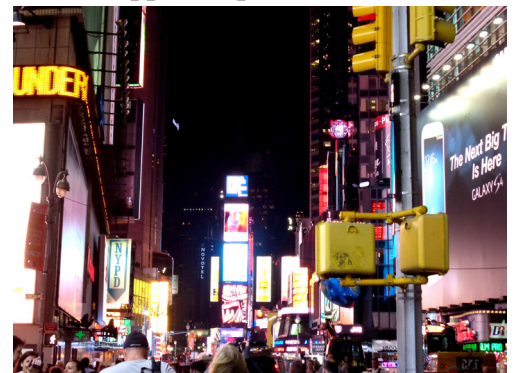
New York overwhelms. This is where George Washington was sworn in as first president of the United States. This is where Abraham Lincoln began his anti-slavery campaign. This is where the Stonewall Riots occurred. This is where television became the next great thing. This is where rock and roll developed its edge. This is where modern architecture grew up. New York is not the only city with a storied past, but for some reason, its history is everyone's history. The grittiness, the glamour, the simultaneously elegiac and cutting-edge vibe—it belongs to us all, whether we've been there or not.

I went to New York with a colleague last June to take part in a creativity workshop. The workshop was intriguing, but not nearly as intriguing as New York itself. During our spare time, my colleague and I walked and gawked, gawked and walked. We both came home with sore feet and strained necks. New York is infinitely navigable—a long time ago, they leveled the place and laid down a grid, making Manhattan easy to traverse. Except for the people, that is, thousands and thousands of them, moving through the streets like blood cells in arteries. New Yorkers are not, as they are purported to be, rude, but they can be curt, and no wonder—surrounded by that many bodies, one might by instinct keep to oneself. But pockets of joy erupt everywhere. Kids dancing for money. Boulevards thick with tables and chairs for coffee drinkers. A massive parade that shuts down the city. Grinning cops on almost every corner. Garbage piled high. Windows dripping with diamonds. It's a 24-hour show, and we lapped it up.

We did the New York things. Went to a show, shopped, saw the city from the top of the Empire State Building, drank a Manhattan in a jazz bar, ate ice cream in Central Park, squealed with terrified delight as a rickshaw driver powered us down jammed streets in the pounding rain, stumbled around an impossibly bright Times Square, stared in silent awe at the ceiling in Grand Central Station, and more. Day after day, I soaked up the nervy beauty of the most exciting city in the world.

It really is the city that never sleeps. And when you wake up in the morning and emerge into panoply of hucksters and the delivery vans and the cabs crowding the narrow streets, you are a little jealous. New York, what have you been up to, you ask? What have I missed?

Will I be back? You bet I will.





In November, 2013, four of Camosun's ISW facilitators travelled to Abbotsford to the ISW Facilitators Fall Institute. In attendance were Dianne Biin, Elizabeth West, Mavis Smith, and Nancy Sly, all of whom have delivered ISW workshops at

Camosun and internationally.

It was a wonderful opportunity for Camosun faculty to meet or re-connect with facilitators from colleges and universities in Vancouver and the lower mainland; Whitehorse, Yukon; and Fort McMurray. ISW founder, Doug Kerr, was among the attendees.



Elizabeth West, Dianne Biin, Lynn Clark (Keyano),
Nancy Sly, Doug Kerr

The Institute was a 2 day community-building forum where new and experienced facilitators shared ideas, experiences, philosophies, challenges, and innovations

that inform their work as ISW practitioners and as post-secondary educators.

Facilitator trainers Jan Johnson (UBC / UFV) and Alice Macpherson (Kwantlen) led the process, but the Institute, like an ISW, was very much a peer-based participatory format. The Institute utilized an emerging design model of planning, similar to that used in The

Great Teachers Seminar. Individual presentations and workshop sessions were led by a variety of participants and resulted in a fruitful exchange of ideas and information that facilitators could take back to their institutions.

Part of the Institute was devoted to planning for the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the ISW. One of the highlights of the year will be the ISW Spring Facilitators Institute in June 2014 at the Naramata Centre at which many founding facilitators from across North America will be present.



Mavis Smith

Highlights for the Camosun folks included meeting with facilitators from a variety of academic disciplines, sharing new facilitation ideas and challenges, sharing print and electronic resources, and seeing the variety of formats in which the ISW can be delivered.

Dianne, Elizabeth, Mavis, and Nancy are grateful to the CCFA PD fund for supporting their professional development.

Curious about the ISW at Camosun? The next session will be offered in May, 2014.

<http://web.camosun.ca/cetl/learning-opportunities/instructional-skills-workshop>

The Best Thing (About My Work at Camosun)



The best thing about the work I do at Camosun College is engaging with students in the learning experience. It is new every time and such a privilege. Slowly, I'm getting smarter too. (Robin Fast, CFCS)

One of the best things about the work I do at Camosun College is passing on the kind of help I got as a new instructor. Our department shares lecture material and past quizzes and exams. The new instructors are always so appreciative and their enthusiasm is contagious. (Tana Kristjanson, Accounting)



FPSE International Solidarity Fund - Call for Submissions

Got an idea about a project to work jointly with an organization outside of Canada to build international solidarity and human rights? You should be checking out the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators (FPSE) International Solidarity Fund.

FPSE, the federation of faculty associations of which the CCFA is a member, has issued its annual call for proposals designed to support long-term projects that build partnerships between FPSE and people in the disadvantaged world. The fund supports solidarity partnerships engaged in helping community groups and organizations who are organizing themselves to advance social justice or to defend their basic human rights.

Projects given grants by the fund must originate from a FPSE local or have a demonstrated, long-standing relationship with one. Successful grant applicants will focus on the development of solidarity relationships that are stable and that encourage the creation of on-going relationships with others seeking to advance human rights, especially the right to publicly-funded education.

Each year, the International Solidarity Fund has a pool of about \$37,000 to allocate to qualified projects. Over the past six years, grants have been awarded to provide computers to assist education in Ghana, to help strengthen rural literacy in Colombia, to fund health clinics in Nepal and to promote human rights action in parts of Guatemala and Honduras affected by mining, among other projects.

The deadline for applications to be submitted to the International Solidarity Fund is February 21, 2014. Step one in any application process would be to get in touch with the CCFA executive to discuss the idea. Further information about the fund can be obtained from the George Davison, chair of the ISF Committee, who can be contacted at gdavison@fpse.ca. George is also the person to whom to address an application for a grant.

Larry Hannant
CCFA representative on the FPSE Human Rights and International Solidarity Committee

We are starting a new feature next time:

SHAMELESS PROMOTION

If you have a fundraiser or event you'd like to let others know about, send me an email with details and I'll include it here.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS :

We want you to contribute to the Confluence: tell us about your groovy SD project, or the creative work you are doing with your students, or what you did on your summer holidays! The deadline is ongoing, so no pressure...

Thanks.