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From the Executive



I imagine that almost everyone reading this is aware that this College, along with others in the province, is facing a serious shortfall in funding for the delivery of English as a Second Language instruction to domestic students. I'd like here to provide some background to the issue, partially in preparation for a Board of Governors Meeting on October 6th. More on that below.

A few years ago, the Federal Government advised the Province that the Canada-BC Immigration Agreement, which funded approximately \$22.5M in annual funding for the province to deliver ESL programming, would not be renewed following its April, 2014 expiry. As a result of that, the Ministry of Advance Education advised the Colleges that it would in turn proportionately withdraw funding from the Colleges. Thus, College was/is to lose \$2.5M in annual funding because it provides approximately 2.5/22.5ths of the ESL instruction in the post-secondary system (i.e. about 11%). Note that Camosun's budget for delivering domestic ESL instruction is less than that, approximately \$1.6M, and thus the College was/is in effect being punished for its efficiency and is facing cuts from this that go beyond ESL. As a result of the Ministry's withdrawal of the funds, the College announced almost a year ago its intention to end domestic ESL instruction failing a restoration of funding.

Around that time, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, which now directly administers funding for ESL programming, offered an opportunity for ESL providers to apply to CIC for funding. Camosun and other postsecondary institutions did so, and to my knowledge none succeeded, save and except funding for LINC programming ("Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada") at such places as Vancouver Community College. LINC provides only a fraction of the programming currently offered at VCC and is in any case only available to landed immigrants.

It's important to note that community service providers generally do not provide programming at the more advanced levels of ESL—necessary for success in post-secondary education—and do not offer courses that articulate to College or University offerings. Thus, the withdrawal of funding will mean a large gap for those wishing to pursue post-secondary education.

As a result of protests at a variety of levels, the Ministry of Advanced Education supplied about \$17M in one-time funding for the current year. For Camosun, Kwantlen, and Douglas, this allowed domestic ESL programming to be offered until March 31, 2015. VCC, the largest provider of ESL instruction in the province, is planning to end its programming in December of this year.

All this puts the College in an uncomfortable position, to say the least. As noted above, it is instruction to domestic students that is at risk, given the higher

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tuition fees that the College is able to charge international students. The College thus faces the possibility of offering instruction to international students and denying it to domestic student. Even the rather unpalatable option of charging higher tuition fees to domestic students is limited by public policy on tuition fees. In any case, it is problematic to require domestic students to pay more for their ESL instruction than they would for their other courses.

It's important to realize that for Camosun, this issue affects not just the English Language Development department. In the first place, as noted above, the shortfall in funding appears to be greater than the funding allocated specifically to ESL instruction, meaning that any cuts would go beyond the ELD department. Second, given that students taking ESL instruction at Camosun often go on to other courses or are taking other courses concurrently, a reduction in ESL instruction has the potential of reducing enrollments elsewhere. Finally, I suggest that cuts to ESL instruction challenge our identity as a community college, an identity that includes providing accessibility and serving our local community.

Therefore, I encourage everyone to attend the Board of Governors meeting on October 6th. This meeting is devoted entirely to ESL at Camosun and is intended to elicit input from a far wider range of views than have previously been provided to the Board. I applaud the Board and Peter Lockie for widening the scope of the meetings in this way and hope that many people support this with their thoughtful participation.

Finally, [here](#) is a link to the website for the ESL Matters campaign, where you can find more information on the fight to restore ESL funding and send a message to the Premier Christy Clark and Advanced Education Minister Amrik Virk.

PD Fund Tips

Erin Waugh

The PD Committee has asked me to include this updated "Things You Can Do To Make PD Applications Process Smooth" –also known as "Keeping Approvers Happy". This is for you, whether you have accessed the PD fund, or are planning to do so in the coming months:

1. Applications should be in the CCFA office a minimum of one month prior to your activity. While the committee does consider late or even after the fact applications, these will be approved as a last priority, and only if funds are still available in that quarter. If there are extenuating circumstances, please include an explanation in your description.
2. Please use the electronic versions of all forms, when possible. The forms conveniently do the math for you and make it easier for us to process them (mostly because they are easy to read and the consistent format helps us find the data we are looking for in approving the activity and the claim).
3. If you are travelling outside Canada and the US, per deims are based on the Government of Canada International per deims, which can be found [here](#). You have to be sneaky with the forms in this case... as the amounts are automatically calculated based on \$44.50/day. Call the CCFA office for help, or include the per deim rate on a separate page and we can manually change the application.
4. The committee has agreed, within reason, that you should have a travel day on either side of your activity. If you are asking for extra days, include an explanation in your original application to save the committee delaying your approval.
5. Always ask for Government Rates when booking your hotel. In some cases these are better than conference rates. If your hotel costs are very high, please include a rationale for staying there, rather than a less expensive alternative.
6. Only ask for meals that are NOT included in your conference. The committee should not have to review your conference material so see if there meals included. While it might seem trivial, costs included in conference fees add up and will not be approved.
7. Claims are approved by Erin Waugh or Peg Ford, the CCFA Administrative Assistants. They are NOT approved by your Dean, or Chair, or the admin person in your school. If you send your claim to them, there is a real possibility that your activity will be charged to your department. Or, worse, to you. It is your responsibility to read the approval email we send you so that you know how to submit your receipts once your activity is done. We even include a claim form for your use so you don't have to search around the intranet for one.

8. Whenever possible, please do not use College Credit Cards for PD activities. Use of the college credit card is the beginning of accounting nightmares for many of us.
9. If you requested and received an advance, your claim is due in FINANCE 10 days after your date of travel. (This has been finance policy for some years now; however, only recently have they asked that we enforce it). This means that it should be at the CCFA within a couple of days of your return.
10. Please do not staple your claim. The claims have to be copied before they go to finance. If you have several small receipts, put them in an envelope and clip them to your claim.
11. The fiscal year for PD is April 1, through March 31. For an activity to be considered within a fiscal year, the start date of the activity MUST be after the start of fiscal. For example, if the activity starts March 31, 2013, it is considered to be in the CURRENT fiscal year. Faculty members may not carry forward unused amounts from a previous fiscal.



Camosun College Faculty Association
Cordially Invites You to Our

November Faculty Social

November 6
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**WTCC
Lansdowne Campus**

Please R.S.V.P. by November 3 to
Erin Waugh
At waughe@camosun.bc.ca
call 250 370-3655.





The Creativity Workshop is a five-day intensive program held around the world. There are workshops in such desirable destinations as New York, Dublin, Florence and Barcelona. And there is one in Chania, on the island of Crete. When I'm wearing my English teacher hat, I teach Creative Writing (among other things), and in a previous life, long ago, I studied Classics, and have always dreamed of visiting Greece. Feeling that I wanted

to restore my spirit after some time working as chair of Contract Management for the CCFA, I applied for and was granted PD funding.

Chania is at the western end of Crete, huddled around a harbour in the lap of a line of hills. Flying in, I was reminded of home, if our islands were brown and dry and our ocean the azure blue of travel posters and magazine covers. The cost of the workshop includes hotel accommodation, and I had chosen one a little away from the center of town but right on the harbour. From my balcony, I could watch the fishing and tour boats coming and going and the sun going down behind the lighthouse at the end of a long breakwater.

Before flying to Crete, I had spent a few days in Athens, where the economic hardship that Greece has suffered in recent years was quite apparent. I had the impression that



the islands were less hard-hit, but, certainly in the area that I was staying, tourism was the main source of income. The old town, its architecture reflecting

Venetian influence, has the maze-like narrow streets of Venice and the waterfront appeal of Victoria, if Victoria's harbour were lined with restaurants. Like most Mediterranean towns, it comes to life after about 9:00 pm, with people strolling up and down the promenade, eating wonderful fresh fish and drinking extremely good wine.

For me, the passionate amateur photographer, there was an endless supply of visual delight, from the architecture to the brightly coloured boats and my favourite



subjects of doorways and windows. There were bright flowers everywhere and swallows swooping around the harbour in morning and evening. The lifestyle is friendly and easy-going and it's easy to slip into a pleasant routine of slow mornings, sleepy afternoons and sociable evenings.

As for the workshop itself, I thoroughly enjoyed it. It was a great way to refresh my spirit and get my creative juices flowing. I left it feeling energized and enthusiastic, with ideas to carry with me when I return to teaching. There was also a fascinating mix of people from literally all over the world – a handful of Canadians, some from the US and Australia, a woman from Brazil, one from India, one from Spain, two women from China, even a man from Greece. Most, but not all, of us were educators, and I made some friends as well as professional contacts. The workshop is well designed and would suit anyone from any discipline.

Crete is a large island, and there's a lot to see there. From Chania, it is possible to visit several beautiful beaches, hike the Samaria Gorge or take the 2 ½ hour bus ride down to visit the Minoan Palace of Knossos. I went there after the workshop, and travelled on to some other islands, but that's another story.

Call for Submissions

Please consider submitting an article to the Confluence - email Erin Waugh (waughe@camosun.bc.ca) with your feedback article, or your idea for an article. Don't forget that we want to hear about your SD project, your summer vacation, or really anything you'd like to share with your colleagues.



Ambassadors Needed!

If you want to...

- ✚ Be a helpful resource to friends and colleagues
- ✚ Encourage a healthy and respectful workplace
- ✚ Share knowledge and support your college community
- ✚ Decrease stigma around mental health issues
- ✚ Contribute to the campus-wide conversation on mental health
- ✚ Learn in an informal and supportive setting

Then consider joining us for...

- ✚ Free **Healthy Minds Ambassador** 5 session training in Fall 2014
- ✚ Tuesdays, Oct 14-Nov 18, 5:30-8:30pm (no class Nov 11)
- ✚ No previous training required - just a desire to contribute to maintaining healthy minds and building a healthy campus
- ✚ Open to students, staff and faculty!

To find out more, come to an Information Session on one of the following dates:

- Interurban: Monday, Sept 29- CC121, 4:00-4:45pm
Tuesday, Sept 30 - CC121, 12:10-12:50pm
- Lansdowne: Thursday, Oct 2 - F334, 4:00-4:45pm
Friday, Oct 3 - F334, 12:10 -12:50pm

Support generously provided by the Camosun College Student Society

