

NORTHERN LIGHTS COLLEGE
EDUCATION COUNCIL
Special Meeting April 30, 2007, 1:20pm, in Dawson Creek
APPROVED MINUTES

Participants:	Eric Sehn Dave Owens Jean Valgardson	Patricia McClelland Greg Lainsbury Brenda Crocker Angie Johnsen (recording)
Absent:	John Birnie Janet Beavers Jael Rochon Roma Walker	Cyndy Lorincz Craig Herbert Lindsay Wyffels

President, Jean Valgardson, called a special meeting of Council out of courtesy and to involve Council on program decisions that have been made around budgeting.

Forest Ecosystem Stewardship formerly known as Forest Resources Technology program based at the Chetwynd campus, recently proposed changes to the program in hopes of strengthening enrollment, unfortunately minimal student interest was generated. Other British Columbia institutions including the College of New Caledonia (CNC), British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT), and the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) have been struggling to achieve class numbers in Forestry programs as well. The resignation of A. Johnson, Forest Ecosystem Stewardship instructor, left one instructor in the program. The decision was made to cancel this Northern Lights College program.

The program can be reactivated at anytime. Staff had to be notified of layoffs. G. Lay and A. Johnson were allowed to make program changes to try to resuscitate the program. The changes did not help increase student interest for the program. We need strong evidence to have it come back as a viable program. Front end staff should be informed that the program is cancelled. The marketing group should be involved to make a decision on how to handle interest from students over the next two years or so.

Professional Driver Training – has been to Council recently with changes involving a redesign of the program to try to make it more viable. Fort Nelson campus was provided with a truck and instructor to increase the productivity of the program. Numbers were not increased enough to support the program. There are three faculty members involved in this program. Some who have a lengthy history with the College. Looked at other factors, such as, possibly increase the tuition, but the tuition policy that the Ministry holds the College to, would not allow any exceptions. Capital equipment and maintenance costs, decline in enrolment, and design and cost of the program confirmed that the program would be cancelled. The contract training for Airbrake courses, etc., will continue through the Work Force Training program. The trucking equipment will be dispersed. The trucking organization feels that private trainers will come into the area to support training. The Commercial Transport/Heavy Duty Technician program is not affected.

Cancellation of both programs will be affective June 30, 2007. Very tough budget year and it has been felt across the province. We need to keep looking at the quality of our program mix. Accountable for our student numbers in each program and meet the expectations of the Board. We are responsive to new program opportunities as well. Operating costs is a reality, maintenance, and replacement of old equipment.

The public and general community will be informed at the end of the week. The BCGEU and faculty members will be notified prior to releasing the information to the public. The minutes are not to go out until approved at next Council meeting of May 23rd.

Adjourned at 1:55pm.

cc: Cindy Ravelli
Deans
Liz Magistad
Karen Erickson

These notes are not officially approved until initialed by the Chairperson. They could be subject to amendment. _____