

3349 ACADEMIC ISSUES

D. Hart provided an update on the College-wide Professional Development day. The feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive and we will be seeking volunteers, in the near future, to begin planning another event. In addition to another college-wide PD event in August, the possibility of hosting a second event at another time (ie. Reading Week) is being explored. It was noted that \$10,000 was allocated for the event and the actual costs have totaled approximately \$10,500. Some suggestions received from members included:

- Spreading out the same number of sessions from the August 20th College-wide PD day over a couple of days
- Offering fewer sessions to allow for increased attendance at sessions from staff across the institution
- Looking at having a second College-wide PD day after classes are over in the spring rather than during Reading Week

D. Hart provided an update on the draft Roles and Mandates Policy Framework released by Advanced Education and Technology. At the last meeting of Council in May, he reported that Phil Gougeon (Assistant Deputy Minister) had been charged with the responsibility of writing a document that paved the way for institutions to collaborate more effectively and to buffer the competition that had permeated the post-secondary system in recent years. The document was predicated on several assumptions, but prominent drivers were the need for differentiated roles and a high degree of stem collaboration

The first draft of the document indicated GPRC would have degree granting in its mandate (as currently is the case) and all comprehensive colleges were expected to deliver apprenticeship and trades.

On August 14th (one week before the document was formally delivered) a phrase was added into the line that read comprehensive community institutions may provide baccalaureate degrees if feasible, and if in alignment with areas of specializations. Added to that phrase was and if in collaboration with a degree granting institution

Though the current Post-Secondary Learning Act opened the door to GPRC granting degrees and degree granting was added to our mandate in January 2005, it appears as though the new Roles and Responsibilities document closes that door once again. It is our belief that legislation will need to change to officially remove degree granting from GPRC's mandate



September 13, 2007

2424

It is our understanding that Red Deer College who has initiated approval for three different degrees was told that their request for degree approval will not be considered by the Quality Council.

Presidents and Boards of colleges affected by this recent direction are currently discussing how best to make their collective dissatisfaction known.

Members expressed grave concern regarding this direction from the Ministry when there is a community expectation and need to offer degrees in the region.



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