



Volume 1 | Issue 8

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2011 Initiatives

Recruitment and Admissions with the help of IT Services is working on two initiatives for 2011 that will build on recent successes such as the Become a Student portal, the online calendar and the new Classfinder.

We want to provide even better information and communication to applicants and students, with a focus on web, email and, eventually, mobile technologies.

We are implementing a Client Relationship Management (CRM) system and moving to a paperless admissions process. Both will help us achieve our objectives, which are:

- To promote a consistent, personalized voice that engages applicants and students.
- To transcend department and regional campus boundaries and communicate in a seamless and coordinated manner - pan-institutionally.
- To gather data on our applicant pool to identify trends and to better respond to specific groups (Aboriginal, International) important to the mission, vision and values of Okanagan College.
- To encourage applicants to continue in the application process and become Okanagan College students.
- To communicate with applicants and students electronically, which supports OC's commitment to sustainability and green initiatives.
- To provide timely, accurate and comprehensive information about admissions and registration issues that are important to applicants and students.

Students applying for the 2012-13 academic year will move through the paperless admissions process. All communication between applicant and Admissions will take place via email or through myOkanagan.

We will continue to update you on both initiatives, so please watch for more news in *Reach Out* next month!

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Jump Start helps prepare new students to make a smooth transition to College. The program offers information to students, introduces them to their future campus and provides access to free programs and services to support new students.

Jump Start includes a series of events and seminars which help guide students through important activities such as: selecting courses and building schedules, navigating the College campus, accessing financial aid, and setting educational and career goals. Attending Jump Start sessions is also a great way to meet other students who have enrolled at Okanagan College.

Students who are admitted or conditionally admitted to Okanagan College for the fall and winter semesters will be contacted via email or postcard regarding upcoming Jump Start sessions.

New students can now register for a campus tour, one of the first steps in the series of Jump Start events, by visiting the Jump Start website www.okanagan.bc.ca/jumpstart.

Jump Start Campus Tours:

Penticton

Monday, March 28: noon and 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 7: 3:30 p.m.

Kelowna

Wednesday, March 30: noon and 3 p.m.
Wednesday, April 6: 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Vernon

Wednesday, March 30: noon
Wednesday, April 6: 4 p.m.

Salmon Arm

Wednesday, March 30: noon
Tuesday, April 5: 5 p.m.

Questions? Contact Karma Lacoff
klacoff@okanagan.bc.ca.

Campo and Rozniak on a Roadtrip

Paul Campo, Associate Registrar, Systems, Lianne Rozniak, SIS Data Coordinator, Jill Stamp and Dorie Burnham (both from IT Services) are planning to visit the Penticton (March 17), Vernon (March 15) and Salmon Arm (TBA) campuses to meet with Enrolment Services staff, campus managers and others that would like to join in. Sessions at the Kelowna campus are also being planned.

On the agenda is training on the new Banner matching process for students. A new form will allow anyone who creates a Banner ID to have new ways in which to search for existing records. We hope that this new process will stem the tide of duplicate records. Jill or Dorie will lead this training, and we hope everyone that creates new students in Banner (ID records) will be able to attend one of the sessions.

Paul and Lianne will also provide an update on various other projects, including:

- Online Intents

- CRM, our new Client Relationship Management system
- Admissions going paperless
- Document Imaging
- Security Audit
- FOIP training
- Scheduling

Our goal, in addition to the training, is to offer everyone a chance to ask questions about what will be happening over the next few months.

Please contact your campus manager if you would like attend.

Convocations



Convocation season is approaching - please let your students know that they need to apply to graduate.

Faculty are invited to attend Convocation ceremonies. If you do not have regalia, please contact Michelle Lowry. For faculty regalia orders please provide your height and highest credential awarded (i.e. 5'11" MSc Alberta), and the ceremony you wish to attend.

www.okanagan.bc.ca/ceremonies

March 2011

Education Council News

Below is a brief update on items approved at Education Council in March. Please view the *Items Approved* or *Minutes* to see details.

New Courses:

- ASTR 220 - Astrobiology

New Program:

Learner Centred Instructor Certificate

This six-course, 60-hour certificate was developed by Okanagan College's Institute for Leadership in Learning and Teaching. It is designed for new instructors working in an educational institution, or individuals with an educational focus who have access to a teaching/training position. It provides instructors the opportunity to increase their teaching skills while developing a learner centred philosophy on instruction.

Program Revision:

ARC/INFO GIS Certificate

The certificate was renamed to Geographical Information System Certificate and the admission requirements and program descriptions were also changed. With the name change came a change in the course code from GISA to GISS.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing Years 1 and 2

Minor changes were made to the Program Description, Completion Requirements, Program Goals, Nursing Policies and Progress.

Details of EdCo approvals can be found at www.okanagan.bc.ca/edco

The next regular Education Council meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2011.

AACP Course Add/Drops

In response to instructor concerns and after extensive consultation, the AACP department along with the Office of the Registrar have implemented a new policy.

Students wishing to add or drop courses after the first two weeks (the "add/drop period") will require signatures from both the instructor and the coordinator. Adding and dropping courses after the first two weeks is an "exceptional practice" and will, perhaps, take some pressure away from individual instructors.

Registrar's Office Summer Hours

During May, June and July, the Registrar's Office in Kelowna will implement summer hours Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Regular hours will resume in August (Mon. to Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

Student Mobility

by Jane Muskens

*published in the Kelowna Capital News
March 4, 2011*

You may, or you may not, be surprised on how many college and university students move from one school to the next.

A few weeks ago, under the Student Transition Project, the government published a report which showed just how much movement there is between the B.C. colleges and universities.

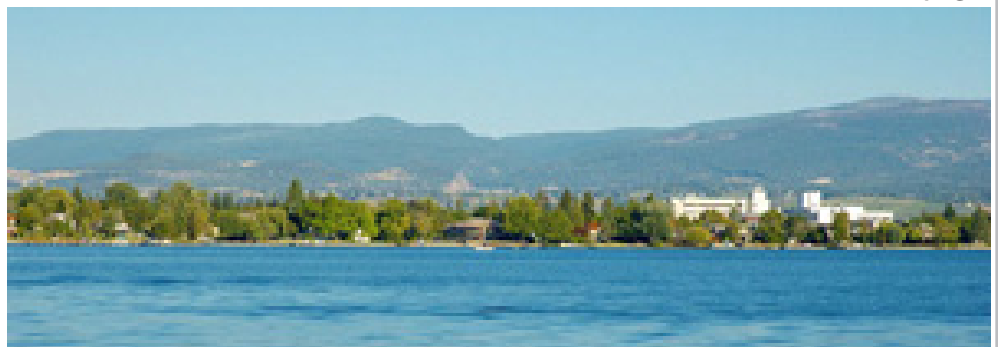
This data looked at students moving from credit-based programs to similar credit-based programs; in other words, it paints a picture of students transferring credit between institutions.

Although most of us who work with students know just how often their plans can change, some of the data that came out of this report was quite an eye opener, even for someone like me.

For example, most of us think that students who get accepted to a large research university right out of high school are probably there until they graduate.

This is because entering a large B.C. research university straight from high school often requires much higher secondary grades and frequently

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Important Dates

March 2011

- 4** Last day for a course withdrawal
Last day to change registration status from credit to audit
- 21 - 25** Study break for Penticton, Vernon, Salmon Arm, Revelstoke ABE/AACP
- 31** 2011-12 Calendar to go live online:
<http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/calendar>
- 31** Deadline for students to apply for spring convocation

April 2011

- 8** Regularly scheduled classes end for all baccalaureate degree, associate degree & two-year diploma programs (except ELEN)
- 11 - 21** Ten-day final exam period
- 22 - 25** Easter weekend, College closed
- 28** Last day to submit final grades
- 30** Deadline for students to apply for summer convocations (Kelowna and Vernon)

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students compete for seats based on these grades.

In B.C these universities are UBC, UVic, SFU and UNBC. The teaching universities (which are Thompson Rivers, Kwantlen Polytechnic, the University of the Fraser Valley, Capilano, and Vancouver Island) have more varied admission requirements as they offer a wide variety of programs from certificates to master's degree.

What the student transition project showed us is from the school year of 2007/08 to 2008/09 there were 3,300 students who left one of B.C.'s large research universities and moved to a community college or BCIT.

Why is this number so interesting?

Because for years community colleges were seen as a bridge between high school and university; many students who couldn't get into the research universities, usually because of grades, started at a community college and later transferred in. It was rare to see someone transfer from a university to a college. Even though I have met some of these students, I didn't realize there were so many.

This doesn't mean that students don't still transfer from a college to a university. During the same time more than 4,000 community college students transferred to a research university and another 2,300 transferred to one of the teaching universities.

2,400 students transferred from teaching universities to research universities where another 1,500 students went in the opposite direction.

So what does this tell us?

Simply put, students don't always know where they want to be and what they want, and will move around to access the program or community that works for them regardless of the school.

It also tells us that just because you are academically capable of entering university right out of high school, that doesn't mean you shouldn't research all your options.

Right now in B.C. you can enroll in hundreds of different programs - you shouldn't base their decision entirely on type (or name) of school.

The decision should really come down to the end of the journey, not the beginning, which includes taking a hard look at the way you want to spend your working day.

Some people like to work with others, some would rather spend their time working alone, while others want active jobs where they travel and move around. Believe it or not there are also those people who are more content with going to the same place every day and spending their time in front of a computer.

Based on these questions you need to find a program that interests you instead of looking at just one college or university.

