

President's Report

Fall Semester, 2013

I thought I would add to our many streams of communication by compiling a summary of what we have achieved this semester. It is not comprehensive of course, but if you are looking for more detail about anything I have included or news from some specific faculty or division of KPU, I urge you to consult the reports to the Board which appear six times a year, and which are posted [here](#).

I have only been able to personally experience a fraction of the activity across KPU in this very busy semester, but I continue to be amazed by the many ways in which KPU interacts with and supports its communities.

My first-year evaluation has been concluded by the Board, which involved a self-assessment plus feedback from Board members and a concluding meeting with the Board Chair and Chair of the Human Resource Committee. As you can see, I am still employed, and a 360 review will be undertaken in January 2014 to provide the Board and myself with areas to pay attention to.

On November 18th I was the plenary keynote at the Canadian Association for Prior Learning Assessment's annual conference in Toronto, on the topic of "[Competencies and Personalization in a Digital Age: Le Nouveau Apprentissage](#)".

Senior Administration Changes

Gordon Lee will be returning to KPU on January 6 after his sabbatical to resume his role as Vice President, Finance and Administration. He will also serve as Deputy Vice Chancellor: the DVC role establishes Gordon as second in command and the person who represents me in my absence and as required.

Harry Gray has acted in the VP role for the past 16 months and we owe him a great deal for not only maintaining the diverse portfolios this entailed but also for initiating some important new processes and for handling several complex issues. We will be exploring the scope of his role as AVP in the new year.

As you know, Ron Maggiore is heading off to New York and we wish him and Fatima Sakarya all the best. Deputy Provost Jane Fee will act as interim Vice Provost for Students while we discuss the future organization of this area. Ron's role as Campus Principal for KPU Surrey will be assumed by Robert Hensley.

In a separate communication from Dr. Salvador Ferreras, further re-assignments in the Office of the Provost will be announced for January.

We have welcomed David Kent to KPU as our new Director of Athletics and Recreation.

Dr. Lori McElroy joins us in January as Executive Director of Institutional Analysis and Planning. Kathleen Bigsby will be special advisor to Finance and Administration until she retires in June; in this role she will be developing the Resource Plan for Vision 2018.

Some other changes have been taking place, with domestic new student recruitment now aligned with Joanne Saunders and Marketing, and international student recruitment located with AVP International Stuart McIlmoyle.

Communications and Public/Media Relations are now under the leadership of Marlyn Graziano.

The four Campus Principals now meet with me regularly and we are starting to see more focussed discussions taking place about improving the physical and other factors which affect campus life.

Selected KPU Activities

On September 20, we honoured the survivors, descendants and the communities of those who endured the Indian residential school system in Canada. The day-long series of events on each of our campuses aligned with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's British Columbia Reconciliation Week. The day culminated with a powwow in the gymnasium.

The three Fall Convocation ceremonies took place on October 3 and were tremendously successful, and my thanks go to all those involved in their organization, and to those who attended. The bigger and better-than-ever Foundation Board Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner was held on November 13.

I met with the KSA Executive in October and am following up on some of the issues that arose, such as access to child care, work for international students, and the perceived need for an Ombudsperson.

On October 9, KPU hosted Dr. Christine Wihak from TRU Open Learning to talk about new directions in the recognition of prior learning.

On October 17, KPU Surrey hosted a meeting of the Network to Eliminate Violence in Relationships, with Minister Stephanie Cadieux in attendance. On November 7, KPU Surrey hosted "Let's Make THIS Happen": a Poverty Reduction Forum in partnership with the City of Surrey.

On October 17 and 18, KPU co-hosted with SFU and the Conference Board of Canada a very successful national meeting of university provosts and business officers. This was initiated and largely driven by Gordon Lee and the team from the Provost's office.

On October 24, we hosted a lunch in honor of our new Distinguished Alumni: the Honourable Stephanie Cadieux (Business, '94), Maryanne Mathias (Fashion Design, 2002), Chris McCue (EPT, '94), and Baltej Dhillon (Criminology, '88).

On October 24/25, KPU hosted the annual fall conference of the Collaboration for Online Higher Education Research, which several people were able to attend, and which got very positive feedback.

<http://www.tonybates.ca/2013/10/26/examining-the-potential-and-reality-of-open-educational-resources-the-2013-cohere-conference/>

On November 1, KPU held its first Research Day in conjunction with the annual Sociology and Criminology event, with presentations and seminars held across the Surrey campus involving many faculty and students. The first compilation of research and scholarship at KPU for 2012 was also published.

On November 5, KPU hosted the inaugural meeting of the [Open Education Resource universities' Council of Chief Executives](#), which I was pleased to Chair (and was subsequently asked to continue to do). This followed a highly successful launch of the OERu by Sir John Daniel at Thompson Rivers University on November 1, with several KPU people in attendance.

From November 5 to 9, KPU proudly hosted the CCAA Women's Soccer National Championships at Newton Athletic Park. This involved dozens of KPU staff and volunteers who executed a very complex tournament splendidly, and our effective use of social media was widely acknowledged. Most importantly, the KPU Eagles played splendidly and represented us very well both on the pitch and off.

The December 6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women was recognised at a KFA-sponsored event in Cedar Court at KPU Surrey.

On December 11, I visited the Sociology class that was held this semester at Mission Institute, where inmates and regular KPU students studied together at the facility. This very innovative and bold endeavour has attracted considerable attention, and was a very rewarding experience for all involved.

This past semester we have been treated to expanded music performances across the campuses, including Music at Midweek performances. As well, the NATVAC conference in October featured performances from Cam Ryga and the choir.

The 2013 Employee Survey was released in October, along with some strategies we will be undertaking to respond to some key issues. It can be found at

<https://our.kwantlen.ca/sites/iap/internal/SiteAssets/SitePages/Home/Employee%20Survey%202013%20Final.pdf>.

Government Relations

With the legislature not sitting this fall, there has been a lot of opportunity to meet with our MLAs as they attended our campus, and at special meetings to discuss key matters. This fall, I have met with Minister of Advanced Education Amrik Virk, Minister of Children and Family Development Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of International Trade and Minister Responsible for the Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism Teresa Wat, Delta North MLA Scott Hamilton and with all the other Richmond and Surrey MLAs. I have meetings being planned with Ministers Rich Coleman and Mary Polak, and with our Independent MLA for Delta South, Vicki Huntington.

At meetings of the BC Business Council I have been able to meet with Ministers Virk, Wilkinson and (via teleconference) de Jong. I also attended the BCBC Summit on November 2 that included a presentation by Premier Christy Clark, and a panel session of global investors.

I attended the Surrey Board of Trade's Education Committee meeting where Minister of Education Peter Fassbender discussed skills training and pathways from school to higher education and to work.

On November 21, KPMG hosted a lunch for Minister Virk which several at KPU were able to attend.

Minister Virk paid his first official visit to KPU on December 3, and met with various staff and with students. He is urging KPU and SFU Surrey to collaborate on a joint submission for growth in the South Fraser region, and the first meeting to that end will occur on January 7.

The BC Association of Institutes and Universities met on October 7, and December 10 and included our first meeting with the new Deputy Minister of Advanced Education, Sandra Carroll. Provost Salvador Ferreras and I also met with separately with DM Carroll in Victoria to bring her up to date on Vision 2018 and its alignment with the BC Government's priorities, and on our plans for Trades and Technology, along with the core review of programs that AVED is expecting of each institution in the next year.

From October 20 to 23 I was in Ottawa at the National Skills Summit and the Day on the Hill organised by ACCC on behalf of colleges, institutes and polytechnics, and the AUCC fall meeting, and Sal Ferreras has attended meetings in Toronto and Ottawa related to the Conference Board of Canada's new initiatives and research in post-secondary education. KPU is a member of the CBoC's Centre for Skills and Post-Secondary Education.

Community Relations

On October 1, KPU and SD35 hosted the five school district superintendents in our region, and we have developed a proposal to share a coordination position for the consortium. This is modelled on similar successful approaches elsewhere in BC.

On October 2, I made a presentation on Vision 2018 to the Surrey Board of Trade, which was subsequently profiled in *Business in Vancouver*. Later the same day Jane Fee and I met with the Township of Langley's Economic Development Advisory Committee. On December 16, Jane Fee presented our Vision 2018 to the council of Langley City. We continue to be involved in exploring the building of a performing arts centre in the Langleys, which could have positive impacts on our campus.

I have visited the Tsawwassen, Kwantlen and Musqueam First Nations recently, as well as attending a long list of special events:

- the Surrey Homeless and Housing Society grant awards celebration
- the Delta Chamber of Commerce lunch with the Honourable Perrin Beatty
- the Innovation Boulevard events in Surrey on October 17 and November 14

- the SUCCESS 40th Anniversary Dinner
- White Rock Council (to present Vision 2018)
- White Rock International Artist's Day Gala
- Surrey Mayor's gala dinner
- SFU Surrey gala dinner
- Burns Bog Conservation Society gala dinner
- Surrey Board of Trade Annual Business Awards (co-sponsored by KPU)
- Surrey Board of Trade lunch on the LNG initiative.

I was also profiled in *Business in Vancouver*:

<http://www.biv.com/article/20131029/BIV0201/310299953/alan-davis-school-work>

Strategic Initiatives

As Vision 2018 starts to roll out and influence our work, a number of new initiatives that will contribute to the achievement of our goals have come forward. KPU of course needs to apply due diligence to each of these to ensure sustainability and alignment with our mission, but it must also act nimbly and decisively to develop and respond to opportunities.

Innovation Boulevard

KPU has worked closely with the City of Surrey, SFU and Fraser Health to develop the concept of an Innovation Boulevard, stretching from the new City Hall to Surrey Memorial Hospital. This will be centred on the work of Dr. Ryan D'Arcy, Surrey Memorial Hospital Foundation B.C. Leadership Chair in Multimodal Technology for Healthcare Innovation. The vision is to stimulate research and investment in health technology, thus creating jobs and economic activity. To this end, KPU will be leasing some space in Health Tech Connex, housed in a new development across from the hospital where teams of faculty and students can work across disciplines to apply various technologies to improving health care.

KPU Tech

This is the new official contraction of Kwantlen Polytechnic University Trades and Technology Campus in Cloverdale, inspired by the demands for skilled workers in the trades and related technologies of local industries and the resource sector especially. We have developed a vision for the future of the 73 acres of land at Cloverdale, thus leveraging the facilities and programs we already have there.

It is important, as the province and employers look for solutions to the skills shortage, that KPU present a compelling option, and meetings with government and potential industry investors are on-going. We

are talking to government and industry about the opportunities that present themselves, and it is expected that major announcements in the resource sector will be made in 2014 that we hope will take advantage of KPU Tech.

KPU in City Centre, Surrey

I have shared with Senate and others the idea of adding capacity to KPU Surrey by building a location in the heart of “Surrey’s downtown” and adjacent to SkyTrain. An opportunity for a very high profile space has been presented to the university and the Board is considering the options we have to finance such a facility. Programmatically it would focus on continuing and professional education in business as well as senior level and graduate business offerings. Any vacated space at KPU Surrey will be carefully allocated to address issues of capacity for current and new programs. This proposal is still under consideration by the Board, with a decision to be made by the end of January 2014.

Phoenix House

KPU has had a long and fruitful relationship with Phoenix House in Surrey, and they have secured city support for a new facility that will include a centre that is open to the community with a coffee shop, a gallery and some studio and meeting spaces. KPU has been asked to partner in this initiative to provide programming and activities.

Residences

KPU has embarked on preliminary work to identify how we can build student residences across the campuses, starting most likely at KPU Richmond. Karen Hearn is leading this study and the results will be shared widely once the opportunities become apparent.

Brewing Program

The Board and Senate have approved a proposal for Brewing and Brewery Operations Program to be located at KPU Langley by the Faculty of Science and Horticulture, subject to AVED approval. The craft brewing industry is very strong and growing, and industry support for this diploma program (laddering to a BBA and potentially a BSc) is very positive.

Office of Open Studies

The concept of developing programs and services that support open learning and degree completion for adults has been shared across the university, and the latest thinking suggests an Office of Open Studies where adult learners can get targeted academic advice and can develop personalised and flexible pathways to degree completion. Key to this will be the approval by Senate of one or more open and competency-based degree programs. More will follow on this through faculty councils and the relevant Senate sub committees.

Core Review

A major thrust of the BC Government, as expressed through its June 10, 2013 mandate letters to ministers is the core review of all activities. For institutions of advanced education, this means a core assessment of the overall effectiveness of our programming. We will be developing a report that is due at AVED in spring 2014 that demonstrates how we align resources to programs to ensure high utilization, relevance and quality through the various budget and review processes that already exist, and to identify any area where we can partner with other institutions or streamline programming.

SAVE THE DATE

May 2, 2014 - KPU DAY

More information to come shortly