

MINUTES PROVINCIAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION STAFF MEETING AUGUST 8/83

PRESENT: Kathleen Kaerne, Okanagan College-Kelowna; Lina Meagher, Douglas College; Mark Rogen, VVI; Connie Kovalenko, Kwantlen College; Rhonda Lavigne, Jeff Berg SFU; Janice Eden, Stephen Tram and Peter Grant, BCIT; Donna Morgan, CFS-PR; Marc Rovner, Capilano College.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ROUND TABLE

The meeting began with a roundtable, which included a description of our responsibilities as staff people and the kinds of services that our student associations provide on campus. There is a wide variety, ranging from those of primarily a recreational nature at BCIT, to mainly student advocacy at VVI.

The discussion was free and open in debating the pros and cons of each end of the spectrum, but there is a consensus that both kinds of services are important. The direction of each association depends on financial resources, our job descriptions and the priorities of the elected executive.

PROBLEMS OF STAFF

The problems we have as staff are varied as well. Concerns were expressed over job security and benefits, lack of time to be effective in both business and political areas and inexperienced executives who have a lack of trust of their staff and who also want to direct the business end without adequate knowledge.

SHARING RESOURCES AND SKILLS AND WORKING TOGETHER

We had a brainstorming session to come up with ideas and suggestions of things we would like to see, ways of helping each other and topics for future meetings. There were lots of ideas - but so far only a few have been taken on for further investigation.

- 1 handbooks - done collectively - ie advertising and article exchange.
- 2 exchange of articles from student newspapers - should contact CUP features exchange.
- 3 higher profile for student association - marketing - contact Stephen Tram at BCIT.
- 4 Services exchange - Marc Rovner, Capilano College Student Union
- Rhonda Lavigne, Simon Fraser Student Society
- 5 table of wages and benefits - Rhonda Lavigne will put together if information is provided.

- 6 dealing with internal politics - staff and exec and conflict between exec members.
- 7 CFS-BCIT exec communication.
- 8 job description exchange and job observing.
- 9 workshop on facilitating meetings and problem solving.
- 10 orientation packages for incoming executive.
- 11 effective ways to run elections and recruitment of candidates.
- 12 joint student functions.
- 13 further discussion of campus differences.
- 14 housing resources.
- 15 sports - fundraising.
- 16 government grants - information about and creating employment.
- 17 capital purchases.

It was agreed that many of these topics warranted further discussion and that future meetings should focus on these issues. A more productive method for expanding our communication and exchange of ideas would be to hold shorter meetings on specific subjects, for example, one meeting devoted to campus services and another on doing the support work for the executive's political responsibilities.

We decided to organize another meeting for the end of October at Capilano College. Rhonda will draft the agenda and would appreciate suggestions for a particular topic for the discussion. She can be contacted at 291-4494.

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