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DEFEND EDUCATION SERVICES COALITION

Association of University and College Employees
British Columbia Teachers' Federation
Canadian Federation of Students
Canadian Union of Public Employees
College Institute Educators Association
Vancouver Municipal and Regional Employees Union

DESC MEETING
BCTF BUILDING
May 9, 1984

Suite 202
2235 Burrard Street
Vancouver British Columbia
V6J3H9
731-8181 Ext 247

Next Meeting:
June 11, 1984
09:00
BCTF, Board Room #1

Present:	Jim Gaskell	UBC (COCA)
	Tom Beardsley	CIEA
	Jack Finnboggason	CIEA
	Len Stair	CUPE
	Owen Dykstra	CUPE
	Gordon Bailey	VMREU
	Pat Clarke	BCTF
	Tom Hutchison	BCTF
	Tammi Roberts	CFS

Situation Reports:

1. UBC - Faculty of Education has had an eight per cent budget cut, with another five per cent cut to follow next year. It appears that UBC will lose 67 full-time and ten part-time faculty; other personnel - 85 full-time and 28 part-time. This cuts eight million dollars.

The faculty of education, having cut 1-2 million, mainly through early retirements and terminations for senior support staff without union protection is still \$300,000 short.

However, the president has not declared a "financial exigency" which would enable the termination of tenured staff. The budget has been approved, but with discretion. This means that if funds are not made available for buy-out of staff, staff may be cut further.

VMREU - Picture on Vancouver Community College cuts is unclear. Vancouver School Board has notices off to 28 staff assistants in English as a Second Language (ESL) and 20 staff assistants for next year. Ten-fifteen clerical staff will be cut from community schools.

CIEA:

Nine college budgets are up, eleven down. Close to 12 million has been cut, rather than the expected 10 million. There are 232 full-time staff layoffs, including the 37 from DTUC and 70 from BCIT. BCIT is cut nine per cent over last year and a 20-25 per cent cut over three years. BCIT can expect to lose 210 faculty over that period. In general the unorganized are being let go first.

The Justice Institute has been transferred to the Attorney General's budget which is down to 2.1 million from 4 million.

In vocational education, apprenticeship is down to 700 from about 1800 last year. All first level apprenticeship training funds have been withdrawn. The worst cuts are in drafting and welding.

In contrast to what has been happening to the colleges, their new priority is general education pre-university.

Colleges are supposed to demonstrate a five per cent productivity factor to maintain funding. Funding for community education is cut to two-thirds of last year's allocation.

There is some speculation that the college TRAC program in vocational education may be moved into secondary schools.

BCTF:

235 notices given in early May. Including those from January this gives a total of 300. There are probably 1,000 more to come. This projection is down somewhat from the more than 2,000 expected. Two factors that seem to be at work are the permission to boards to carry over surpluses and easier granting of leaves of absence. There is also some increase in part-time work. The most threatened positions in the system are counsellors and librarians.

One school district, Victoria, turned down a proposition for a give-back/system closure of four days. Another, Sooke, may go for a two day forfeit.

In general elementary schools are being hit harder in working conditions than the secondaries.

BC teachers' salaries were once leaders. Now, most West Coast North American teachers' salaries are higher.

The federal government has given assistance of \$100,000 towards BCTF assistance to unemployed. It is to be used for counselling, placement and job search, retraining possibilities and to reach out to other provincial employment action centres beyond the lower mainland. The provincial government is not, so far, prepared to be a signatory to the agreement. CUPE should contact the BCSTA re extension to support staff members.

The ministry is changing budget and fiscal year arrangements to match the fiscal year with the school year. The main concern for teachers is the change in the bargaining timetables. Teachers could have an initial 18 month contract under this arrangement and the arbitration timeline is shortened.

CUPE:

Not too much has happened since the fall. There is a noticeable cutback in hours, especially clerical. People are starting to lose full-time status and access to benefits.

Agreements are still being negotiated. More trouble is being experienced with school boards than with municipalities. There is concern that school rates will fall behind and that traditional local comparisons and relationships with industry will lose relevance. Typical offers are 0 per cent in the first year and three per cent in the second.

They are working at the moment at tightening up language on job security and seniority and seniority clauses applied unit wide. There is difficulty in gaining accurate layoff information. It has been noted that though the number of members is not declining, the average income of members is.

Bill 3 exemption clauses have gone well, with reasonable co-operation from Peck's office, other than in the Assessment Authority. All clauses now have severance pay.

CFS:

Main concern is with finding money to get an education. The work-study program has been cancelled. The provincial loan program is not ready. The criteria won't be ready in time for the June 1 deadline. Many students are caught in the bind of not having loans while post-secondary institutions are asking for payment in advance. Most institutions have done away with deferral of fees and emergency loans.

The summer employment - "calling card" program has taken all the funds. This program has the government re-imbursing employers up to \$2.50 an hour for students hired. The venture capital project for students is run by Chambers of Commerce and allocates loans of up to \$2,000 which have to be repaid by October 1. Students have figures of 26 applications so far.

A money for marks scheme on scholastic achievement was mentioned in the throne speech, but no money has been allocated.

DESC relationship to the Solidarity Education Committee:

Since the personnel attending both groups is much the same it was agreed that it would probably be better for DESC to meet and report to Solidarity. Solidarity to be informed of this and also of the date of the next meeting, (June 11).

The points that follow arose from a strategy discussion paper prepared by Larry Kuehn and Pat Clarke.

News Release:

It was agreed that a release would not be issued at this time, but that Finnboggason, Clarke and Hutchison would attempt to put a draft together on the 17th.

Release will feature not only what is happening with cuts, but also the inconsistencies in the government's positions and the aspect of the public being cheated.

Component groups will pull together information prior to the next DESC meeting. An attempt will be made to put on a media blitz in late August and September. This would include both individual organizations putting out information and material from DESC.

School board elections:

A letter will be sent under DESC auspices to presidents of CUPE and BCTF locals asking them to identify, or start the process of identification of potential candidates. The matter will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Day of Concern

Saturday, September 22 was identified as the date for activities highlighting education. This would be as widespread as possible and would include educational forums at various centres. It would tie in with build up to elections.

Commission

It was agreed that DESC should participate in any commission that was set up. It was also noted that the BC Fed would have to be involved in discussions of commission.

TH/jmb
utfc
May 28, 1984