



2016 Information Note Advice to Deputy Minister

Date: April 7, 2016

Cliff #: 102106

Issue: Thompson Rivers University (TRU) meeting with the Deputy Minister on April 13, 2016.

Conclusion / Next Steps (if any):

- TRU is meeting with the Minister on April 15, 2016 and is expected to discuss its interest in expanding program offerings in computer and electrical engineering.
- The Ministry is reviewing the new federal Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) and is working collaboratively with public post-secondary institutions on meeting the submission requirements for accessing federal funding by the May 9, 2016 submission deadline.

Background / Facts:

TRU has identified the following topics for discussion with the Deputy Minister:

- TRU's BC Tech Strategy Project (IT programs)
- Maple Leaf High School Project
- Industrial Training and Technology Centre – status update
- Science and Health Sciences Building – Nursing Wing Expansion – discussion of federal Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund (SIF)
- Institution Accountability Plan and Report (IAPR) timelines

A list of meeting attendees is provided in Attachment 1.

Analysis:

TRU's BC Tech Strategy Project (IT programs)

- TRU has indicated an interest in expanding its program offerings in engineering, focusing on computer and electrical engineering.
- Currently, TRU offers an Engineering Transfer program which allows students to complete first and second year Engineering studies. There are 60 seats available for year 1 and 20 seats available for year 2. The first year is a foundation year, after which students can transfer to the University of British Columbia (UBC) or University of Victoria (UVic) in any of their engineering disciplines or continue at TRU for a second year in electrical or computer engineering. Upon completion of the second year at TRU, students transfer to UVic for degree completion.
- UBC, Simon Fraser University, UVic, British Columbia Institute of Technology and the University of Northern British Columbia (in partnership with UBC) offer undergraduate degree level engineering programs. UBC Okanagan offers electrical, civil and mechanical engineering.
- Engineering is a regulated profession. In order to become professional engineers, students must graduate from an accredited engineering baccalaureate degree program. National accreditation standards are rigorous, with stringent requirements for facilities and resources.
- The Ministry provides annual block operating funding to TRU. TRU is able to determine the allocation



of the majority of its resources and programming.

- Software engineers and designers and electrical and electronics engineers are identified on the Top 100 High Opportunity Occupations list.
- One of the pillars of the #BCTECH strategy is to continue to deepen BC's talent pool.
- TRU offers a number of other technology-related programs in computing science, information technology, and architectural and engineering technology. (See Appendix 2.)

Maple Leaf High School Project

- Maple Leaf Educational Systems (MLES) operates BC off-shore schools in China.
- A MLES representative has met with Ministry of Education (MEd) officials to discuss MLES' desire to extend their program into BC. This would enable students currently studying in a BC offshore school in China to finish their studies in BC.
- MLES is proposing to locate a satellite campus of a Maple Leaf International School in China (MLIS) at TRU, starting in September 2016. The satellite campus would offer the same BC grade 10, 11 and 12 program that is offered at MLIS offshore schools in China.
- MEd has indicated to AVED staff it is supportive of MLES opening an independent school at TRU.
- The MLES proposal is consistent with MEd policy to increase the transition of BC off-shore school graduates to BC post-secondary institutions. It is anticipated that MLES' proposal will encourage international students to consider an institution outside the Lower Mainland as an option for post-secondary studies.

Industrial Training and Technology Centre

- The project is notionally approved in AVED's 10-Year Capital Plan, pending Government approval.
- The total project budget is \$30.00 million, with a provincial contribution of up to \$15.00 million.
- The project is the top priority in TRU's Five Year Capital Plan 2016/17 – 2020/21.
- AVED is working with TRU to review the business case in preparation for submission to Treasury Board in Spring 2016.

Science and Health Sciences Building – Nursing Wing Expansion

- This project is the second priority in TRU's Five Year Capital Plan 2016/17 – 2020/21.
- The total project budget is \$24.00 million, with a provincial request of \$16.80 million.

Federal Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund (SIF)

- The new federal SIF is a time-limited program that will provide up to \$2 billion over the next three years to accelerate infrastructure projects at universities and colleges across the country.
- The total contribution from federal sources will cover up to half (50%) of the project's eligible costs, leveraging the remaining amount from non-federal partners. Applications are due by May 9, 2016. Projects are required to be substantially completed by April 2018.
- The Ministry is reviewing the program and is working collaboratively with public post-secondary institutions on meeting the submission requirements for accessing federal funding by the May 9, 2016 submission deadline.

Institution Accountability Plan and Report Timelines

- IAPR s are due to the Ministry July 15, 2016.



- TRU has concerns about meeting this timeline, given the timing of its board meetings. TRU is sensitive to this issue as the February 2014 Auditor General report on University Board Governance Examinations included a recommendation that TRU's Board review and approve its IAPR prior to submitting it to the Ministry.
- The Ministry is expecting to provide data to institutions for inclusion in their IAPRs in April this year. Last year, the data was delayed and was not provided until May.
- The Ministry has provided extensions to other institutions in previous years where there were extenuating circumstances.

Attachments: 1 – Meeting Attendees
2 – TRU Technology related programs

Contact: Kevin Brewster, Assistant Deputy Minister (250 952-7410)
Nicola Lemmer, A/Assistant Deputy Minister (250 952-0697)

AVED

- Sandra Carroll, Deputy Minister
- Kevin Brewster, Assistant Deputy Minister and EFO, Financial and Management Services
- Nicola Lemmer, A/Assistant Deputy Minister, Institutions and Programs

TRU

- Alan Shaver, President and Vice-Chancellor, TRU
- Christine Bovis-Crossen , Provost and Vice-President Academic
- Matt Milovick, Vice-President, Administration and Finance
- Christopher Seguin, Vice-President, Advancement
- Tom Dickinson, Dean of Science
- Baihua Chadwick, Associate Vice-President, International and Chief Executive Officer, TRU World Global Operations

Program	FY 2014-15 FTEs (Domestic)	FY 2014-15 FTEs (International)
Engineering Transfer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engineering Transfer, Year 1 (foundation year, common to all engineering disciplines) Engineering Transfer, Year 2 (electrical or computer engineering) 	52	5
Computing Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Computing Science (BCS) BCS/Bachelor of Business Administration double degree Bachelor of Science (B Sc), major and minor in computing science B Sc, Computer Science and Mathematics combined major Associate of Science (with in-depth study in computing science) Computing Science diploma 	95	116
Information Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Technology certificate Information Technology and Management diploma 	18	1
Architectural and Engineering Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 year Architectural and Engineering Technology diploma, accredited by the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board 	72	8

Sources: <http://www.tru.ca/programs.html#fndtn-tabAlpha> accessed on April 6, 2016 and Central Data Warehouse