



BC TEAL Annual General Meeting

Friday, April 26, 2013 - 4:45 pm - 5:15 pm – Lecture Hall 2203

Douglas College, 700 Royal Avenue, New Westminster, BC

ALL ARE WELCOME!

AGENDA

1. Greetings and Introductions
2. Announcement of Quorum
3. Appointment of Recording Secretary
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes of May 4, 2012 Annual General Meeting
6. Reports of Officers and Standing Committees:
 - 6.1 President Shawna Williams
 - 6.2 1st Vice-President / Chair PAAC Joe Dobson
 - 6.3 2nd Vice-President / Co-Chair TEAL 2013 Conference Laura Blumenthall
 - 6.4 Treasurer Janice G T Penner
 - 6.5 Secretary/Chair Membership Committee Sheila Mattila
 - 6.6 Past President / TESL Canada Michael Galli
 - 6.7 Co-Chairs Professional Development Committee Susan Peake
Rebecca Kullman
 - 6.8 Newsletter Chris-Anne Stumpf
 - 6.9 Chair Special Interest Groups / Website David Munro
 - 6.10 Writing Contest Jennifer Walsh Marr
 - 6.11 Marketing Yalda Ahmadvand
 - 6.12 Teacher Inquiry Groups Amea Wilbur
Augusta Avram
 - 6.13 Social Media Michelle O'Doherty
 - 6.14 Regional Reps Karen Densky
7. New Business:
 - 7.1 Policy and Action Advisory Committee Joe Dobson
 - Position Statements
8. Special Orders
 - 8.1 Nominating Committee Michael Galli
 - Newly Acclaimed BC TEAL Board 2013
9. Next Meeting
May 9, 2014 at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Richmond, BC
10. Adjournment

BC TEAL 2012
Annual General Meeting - Minutes

Friday, May 4, 2012
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Capilano University – Birch Building Theatre

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** at 1:05 pm by Michael Galli, President.
2. **QUOROM ESTABLISHED.** Thirty-three members were present at the meeting.
3. **MOTION by** Susan Peake that Sandra Boehm (Administrative Manager) be appointed Recording Secretary for the Annual General Meeting. **SECONDED by** Joe Dobson.

CARRIED

4. **MOTION by** Shawna Williams to Approve the Agenda. **SECONDED by** Janice Penner.

CARRIED

5. **MOTION by** Karen Densky to Approve the Minutes of the May 6, 2011 Annual General Meeting. **SECONDED by** Michelle O’Doherty.

CARRIED

6. **REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES:**

- Circulated and reviewed.
- BC TEAL accomplished a great deal this year. Tri-TESOL and the 2012 TEAL Conference both very successful. Also Sponsor Teacher Reception, Bylaws and Review Engagement.

6.3 Treasurer

- Deficit projected in budget this year because it includes the new website as well as up to \$50,000 commitment to match funds raised by TCF for Refugee Award.
- Strong financial status overall.

6.3.1 Engagement Review by Smythe Ratcliffe

- Analyzed BC TEAL’s financial documents. TEAL’s bookkeeping is excellent.
- Not required to do an audit but want to be transparent to the members.

6.4 Secretary

- Membership numbers are stronger than recent years. This helps BC TEAL financially but more importantly unites and strengthens the association and its purposes.
- Rise due to regional conferences, new website and people recognizing that TEAL is worthwhile.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

7.1 Bylaws Special Resolutions (Anders Ourom, lawyer)

- The original bylaws and all resolutions passed to amend them over the years were out of date.
- Two resolutions - One to amend the constitution for clarification and the other to rescind and replace the bylaws with more clearly defined bylaws. A clause has been added regarding the remuneration of directors.
- All the documents were posted on the website and a notification was sent out to all members Friday, April 13, 2012.

Call for show of hands to enact new bylaws as moved in the Notice of Special Resolutions dated April 12, 2012.

CARRIED

8. **SPECIAL ORDERS:**

8.1 Nominating Committee

- Thank you to all outgoing board members. They will be missed.
- This is Michael Galli's final meeting as President.
- No nominations from the floor. (This will not be allowed next year under the new bylaws.)
- Note: Next year we will need to re-elect the board (as per the new bylaws).

MOTION by Liet Hellwing to accept the new board as submitted. **SECONDED by** Jennifer Pearson Terell.

CARRIED

Newly Acclaimed BC TEAL Board 2012:

- Names of new board members read out.
- New board members welcomed.

9. **NEXT AGM:**

- April 26, 2012 at Douglas College.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION to Adjourn at 1:30 pm **by** Carmen Larsen. **SECONDED by** Karen Densky.

CARRIED



BC TEAL President's Annual Report Submitted by Shawna Williams

After Michael Galli's unprecedented five years as the BC TEAL President, I stepped into the role knowing that there were some big shoes to fill. We also started the year with a large board of directors with many chairing new committees. The past few years has seen TEAL undertake a number of new and ambitious initiatives, and it has been my intention for the past year to see that TEAL is able to sustain these initiatives.

Highlights for the past year include the following:

- Represented BC TEAL at the TESL Canada Annual Conference co-hosted by BC TEAL at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops.
- Represented BC TEAL at the Vancouver Island Regional Conference hosted at the English Language Centre at the University of Victoria.
- Represented BC TEAL at the ORTESOL Conference in Portland, Oregon.
- Chaired the sponsorship committee for the 2013 Annual BC TEAL Conference, resulting in generous contributions from publishers and institutions (see the website and conference book for a list of sponsors).
- Liaised with Kwantlen Polytechnic University to host the 2014 Annual Professional Development Conference and the English Language Institute at the University of British Columbia to host the 2015 event.
- Connected with other institutions in British Columbia to potential hosts for future professional development events.
- Helped to organize the second annual Sponsor Teacher Appreciation Event, with co-hosting with Douglas College, Vancouver Community College, Trinity Western University, and Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia.
- Connected with sister organizations in Washington and Oregon state as well as TESL Canada affiliates to encourage cross-association involvement.

My sincere thanks are extended to the members of the BC TEAL board of directors, some of whom are stepping down and others who will continue in their posts, for their hard work and dedication. Through their work and our members engagement, we can ensure that BC TEAL offers ongoing professional development opportunities as well as strives to continually develop the professionalism of teaching English as an Additional Language.

Shawna Williams



1st Vice-President / Chair Policy and Action Advisory Committee Annual Report – Submitted by Joe Dobson

Policy and Action Advisory Committee

Report to the AGM

After a hiatus of several years, the PAAC committee began reconvened and began meeting and planning for future initiatives this past year.

The committee drafted and adopted guidelines in regard to member consultation and work to advocate on behalf of members and the profession in BC and Canada. It was decided that a first step in this reinvigoration of the committee would be to develop position statements that would be presented for adoption at the BC TEAL AGM each year. A copy of the process and overview of the purpose and process the committee will follow is provided at the bottom of this report.

Accomplishments:

Website presence

<http://www.bctéal.org/about/policy-and-action-advisory-committee/>

BC TEAL Group

<https://www.bctéal.org/groups/policy-and-action-advisory-committee/>

Position Statements

Based on feedback and discussions in the committee, position statements will be brought forward to the AGM. Position statements which are ratified at the AGM will be posted on the BC TEAL website.

Conference presentation

PAAC presentation/ panel discussion to inform the TEAL membership of the PAAC's mission, and for discussion and input on future issues of relevance to the profession.

Future plans:

- Expand and recruit members to reflect the diversity of the BC TEAL membership.
- Survey members to get further direction and feedback from the TEAL membership on issues of importance.
- Continue soliciting member comments and feedback on the PAAC group page and via email.
- Each year, to present a small number of position statements to the AGM for ratification

Copied from the BC TEAL PAAC webpage

Policy and Action Advisory Committee

The Policy and Action Advisory Committee plays a role in advancing our profession through advocacy. The [BC TEAL mission statement](#) reads in part:

“B.C. TEAL is an advocate on behalf of teachers and learners of English as an additional language in British Columbia.

B.C. TEAL represents the profession of teaching English as an additional language in the development of policy at all levels of government.”

The PAAC works on behalf of BC TEAL in achieving these goals. Issues of advocacy need to come from the roots of the association's membership. BC TEAL advocates on a wide range of issues related to the field of Teaching English as a Second or Additional Language in our province. Position statements passed at the annual general meetings of the membership are not official policy of the association.

This part of the website archives resolutions passed at the annual business meetings of the membership (beginning in 2013). The committee will follow this procedure.

Step 1: Get feedback from membership on key issues through emails, surveys and other ways.

Step 2: The Committee convenes to discuss the issues brought forward by the membership and each year develops position statements based on these to bring forward.

Step 3: The Committee reports on recommended position statements to the BC TEAL board.

Step 4: The position statements are presented and voted on at the TEAL AGM. All position statements which are passed will be archived on the Association's website.

Members:

Joe Dobson (Chair), Thompson Rivers University
Shawna Williams, ELSA-Net
Michael Galli, BCIT
Karen Rauser, University of British Columbia – Okanagan



2nd Vice-President / Co-chair Conference Committee Annual Report – Submitted by Laura Blumenthall & Janice G T Penner

BC TEAL's 45 Annual Conference at Douglas College's New Westminster Campus
Theme: Brain-Compatible Language Learning
Conference Co-Chairs: Janice GT Penner & Laura Blumenthal

New this year at the conference:

- All time slots are the same length - 45 minutes - and presenters could request to present in two of these back to back.
- Aerobic Haptics (pronunciation teaching-related physical exercise to break up the day)
- *So? Now What? PD Reflection Options* booklet given to participants
- DC faculty invited to plenaries as a way to thank the department for funding
- Publicity committee – getting coupons and Silent Auction items for TCF
- AGM before the Wine & Cheese event
- Layar augmented reality incorporated into the conference poster

Other new initiatives:

- Major changes in format of the Conference Booklet: Organized chronologically with all presenter data in one place so that participants do not have to keep flipping back and forth - more brain compatible!
- Website: Revamped the proposal submission and registration forms with several future years in mind
- Host institution paid for poster and conference booklet printing (in kind sponsorship)
- The conference planning team comes from 12 different affiliations, not just the host institution

Stats as of 5:00 on Friday April 12th:

- Friday: 258 Participants (120 Friday only + 138 Full Conference)
- Saturday: 189 Participants (51 Saturday only + 138 Full Conference)
- 309 total registrants
- 11 concurrent sessions on Friday in 3 time slots; 10 in each of 3 time slots on Saturday
- 76 Presenters, not counting the plenaries and invited speakers
- 56 Presentations, including 5 posters
- 21 Publishers/Exhibitors



**Treasurer
Annual Report – Submitted by Janice G T Penner**

BC TEAL Budget vs Actuals – December 2012

	<u>Jan - Dec 12</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Advertising (on-line)	389.29	500.00	-110.71
Annual Conference 2012	33,336.00	30,000.00	3,336.00
Bank Interest	0.00	1,200.00	-1,200.00
Fall Session (Interior)	446.43	0.00	446.43
Island Regional Conference	2,680.12	3,000.00	-319.88
Memberships	46,706.31	40,000.00	6,706.31
Misc.	1,167.74	1,000.00	167.74
Newsletter	692.00	500.00	192.00
Rent (sub-lease)	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
Sponsor Teacher Apprec (Income)	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00
TESL Canada Income	0.00	35,000.00	-35,000.00
Total Income	<u>86,617.89</u>	<u>113,900.00</u>	<u>-27,282.11</u>
Gross Profit	86,617.89	113,900.00	-27,282.11
Expense			
Accounting/Prof. Fees	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
Bank Charges	465.99	200.00	265.99
Donations (expense)	5,132.12	0.00	5,132.12
Food	263.17	300.00	-36.83
Insurance	859.00	850.00	9.00
Island Regional Conference Exp			
Accommodations	148.00	300.00	-152.00
Meals	1,024.13	100.00	924.13
Miscellaneous	220.11	100.00	120.11
Travel	234.40	200.00	34.40
Total Island Regional Conference Exp	<u>1,626.64</u>	<u>700.00</u>	<u>926.64</u>

Legal Fees	2,198.39	5,000.00	-2,801.61
Marketing/ Adv/ Promotion	145.72	500.00	-354.28
Medical Benefits-HUB Financial	0.00	1,195.00	-1,195.00
Memberships - AAMSA, etc	100.00	50.00	50.00
Miscellaneous	172.00	0.00	172.00
Newsletter - general exp	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Office Equip.	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Office Equip. Maintenance	0.00	250.00	-250.00
PODs - mtg/ conf support	250.00	2,000.00	-1,750.00
Postage	292.68	500.00	-207.32
Regional Representatives	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00
Rent	5,596.34	6,360.00	-763.66
Salary - Bookkeeper	1,984.62	2,000.00	-15.38
Salary - Office Manager	23,950.39	23,900.00	50.39
SIGs	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Sponsor Teacher Appreciation	1,618.58	2,200.00	-581.42
Sponsorship Expense	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Supplies/Stationery	1,122.76	1,500.00	-377.24
TCF endowment match	0.00	50,000.00	-50,000.00
Telephone - SHAW	945.49	1,080.00	-134.51
TESL Canada 2012	10,540.00	1,000.00	9,540.00
TESL Canada memberships	11,460.00	10,400.00	1,060.00
Travel - board mtgs	736.89	2,000.00	-1,263.11
Visa/Mastercard	1,471.41	1,160.00	311.41
Web Development	10,185.00	10,000.00	185.00
Web host/Security/Wk	2,407.20	2,590.00	-182.80
Worksafe BC	29.68	50.00	-20.32
Total Expense	86,554.07	131,685.00	-45,130.93
Net Ordinary Income	63.82	-17,785.00	17,848.82
Net Income	63.82	-17,785.00	17,848.82

BC TEAL Budget - 2013

	<u>2013</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Advertising (on-line)	400.00
Annual Conference 2013	33,000.00
Interior Regional Conference	2,500.00
Island Regional Conference	2,500.00
Memberships	45,000.00
Misc.	500.00
Newsletter	500.00
Sponsor Teacher Apprec (Income)	1,500.00

TESL Canada Income	40,000.00
Vancouver Regional Conference	<u>2,500.00</u>
Total Income	<u>128,400.00</u>
Gross Profit	128,400.00
Expense	
Bank Charges	550.00
Food	500.00
Insurance	865.00
Interior Regional Conf Exp	
Accommodations	350.00
Meals	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00
Travel	<u>275.00</u>
Total Interior Regional Conf Exp	625.00
Island Regional Conference Exp	
Accommodations	300.00
Meals	100.00
Travel	<u>250.00</u>
Total Island Regional Conference Exp	650.00
Marketing/ Adv/ Promotion	2,500.00
Medical Benefits-HUB Financial	1,335.00
Miscellaneous	2,500.00
Newsletter - general exp	100.00
Office Equip.	500.00
Office Equip. Maintenance	250.00
PODs - mtg/ conf support	2,000.00
Postage	300.00
Regional Representatives	2,000.00
Rent	7,842.00
Salary - Bookkeeper	2,000.00
Salary - Office Manager	24,617.00
SIGs	100.00
Sponsor Teacher Appreciation	2,200.00
Sponsorship Expense	200.00
Supplies/Stationery	1,500.00
TCF endowment match	25,000.00
TCF expenses	2,500.00
Telephone - SHAW	1,440.00
TESL Canada memberships	13,600.00
TESOL Affil Mebrshp, etc	600.00
Travel - board mtgs	2,000.00
Vancouver Regional Conf Exp	
Meals	100.00
Miscellaneous	<u>100.00</u>

Total Vancouver Regional Conf Exp	200.00
Visa/Mastercard	1,600.00
Volunteer Appreciation Event	1,000.00
Web Development	10,000.00
Web host/Security/Wk	2,590.00
Worksafe BC	50.00
Writing Contest	400.00
	<u> </u>
Total Expense	<u>114,114.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>14,286.00</u>
Net Income	<u><u>14,286.00</u></u>

BC TEAL Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2013

ASSETS

Current Assets

Chequing/Savings

CIBC GIC 2.35% mat Jul 11/13	80,000.00
ING GIC 2% mat Sep 17/14	35,000.00
ING GIC 2.2% mat Jan 18/15	50,000.00
TEAL Conference	13,756.24
TEAL General	78,827.08
	<u> </u>

Total Chequing/Savings 257,583.32

Total Current Assets 257,583.32

TOTAL ASSETS 257,583.32

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

GST/HST Payable 15,468.45

Total Other Current Liabilities 15,468.45

Total Current Liabilities 15,468.45

Total Liabilities 15,468.45

Equity

Opening Bal Equity 46,380.00

Retained Earnings 128,140.58

Net Income 67,594.29

Total Equity 242,114.87

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 257,583.32



Secretary / Chair Membership Committee Annual Report – Submitted by Sheila Mattila

It has been my pleasure to serve in the position of Secretary and Membership Chair for the past year, a roll which has included handling the administrative responsibilities of a signing officer and working for the membership of BC TEAL.

During this time, individual membership has grown by nearly 20% from 700 to 830 members, and institutional membership has grown by over 25% from 20 to 27 members. This growth is due in part to this year's website, social media, marketing and professional development activities, and these increases have created additional revenue for BC TEAL.

The goals going forward are to continue to increase the number of members in all categories and to continue to expand the benefits that are available to BC TEAL members.



Past President / TESL Canada Annual Report – Submitted by Michael Galli

1 Chair of BC TEAL Nominations Committee

I have concluded the Nominations Committee process, receiving final nominations for all positions on the Board of Directors before the March 22, 2012 deadline.

Single nominations have been received for all Directors positions, so no competition will be required at the AGM.

2 BC Provincial Representative to TESL Canada

I have fulfilled the liaison function of BC Provincial Representative to the national organization TESL Canada (via teleconferences and email correspondence) to:

- receive any information pertinent to BC TEAL,
- provide TESL Canada with reports of developments in BC TEAL;
- participate in TESL Canada committees (e.g. TCEF, Settlement Language National Network Steering Committee).

I will attend the TESL Canada AGM, scheduled for May 3 – 4 in Calgary, Alberta.



Co-chairs – Professional Development Committee Annual Report – Submitted by Susan Peake & Rebecca Kullman

1. Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops hosted the TESL Canada Conference in October, 2012. Therefore, we did not hold a Fall Interior Regional conference or a Vancouver conference.
2. 2013 Spring Island Conference, Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo
 - Date: Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013
 - Theme: Bringing Theory to Life: Ideas in Practice
 - Approximately 70 registered participants
 - 30 student volunteers
 - Plenary Speaker: Li-Shih Huang

Other events included:

- Co-hosting a Sponsor Teacher Appreciation Night on March 1st along with
- Representing BC TEAL at the UVic Applied Linguistics Fair, February 15, 2013.

Future events:

- Fall Interior Conference in October - we are currently communicating with Ki-low-na ELSA and hoping for a confirmation soon.
- Vancouver Regional Conference in November – we have EF confirmed pending a look at the venue.



Chair Special Interest Groups / Website Annual Reports – Submitted by David Munro

Special Interest Groups

TEAL Special Interest Groups (SIGs) were originally established as a means for members to connect with other ESL professionals and discuss topics of mutual interest. They also provided a way for members to become more involved with the organization, and to keep momentum going between conferences. Members would agree on time and location of meetings, and would (ideally) move toward presenting a summary of their discussions at venues such as the Hot Topics Breakfast at the annual Conference.

Since the launch of the new BC TEAL website in 2011, many of the goals and objectives of the SIGs were subsumed by the online discussion groups on the site. The result was that while on one hand the existing, “formal” SIGs petered out, on the other, they also evolved into a vibrant and diverse range of online discussion communities.

There are currently 29 discussion groups on the BC TEAL website, 17 of which fit the description of a SIG (although only 3 actually use the term SIG in the name). Therefore it seems reasonable to conclude that the online groups, particularly the Teacher Inquiry Groups, will continue to evolve and take over the role previously fulfilled by the SIGs.

Website

Since the launch of the new BC TEAL website in October 2011, usage has steadily grown, and it has become a very important way for members to keep informed and connected. The Community area in particular, with its proliferation of discussion groups, has proved to be an invaluable tool for members to connect and discuss a wide range of topics and areas of interest.

As the website emerged in importance over the past year, so too have the demands placed upon it. Inevitably this means an increase in the number of updates and modifications that need to be made, ranging from fairly substantial work, such as upgrading the online registration forms on the Conference page, to much smaller items such as uploading new photos or changing the wording on the page. It is expected that BC TEAL will be able to take on more of the smaller items and manage them on its own through the Website Committee in future, in order to make management of the website more cost-effective.

The budget for the website is \$10,000, with \$2412.50 having been spent as of March. Web hosting and security is budgeted at \$2590.00, with \$0.00 having been spent.

Once again, we would like to remind members that this is YOUR website, so you are welcome, and encouraged, to take full advantage of the Community and Group areas. If you have an idea for a new Group that you'd like to see on the website, please post it in the Website Group. Finally, I would like to

thank the Board for the opportunity to be of service over the past 5 months, and I wish every success to the next Website Director.



Writing Contest Annual Report – Submitted by Jennifer Walsh Marr

In all, we received 51 entries for the 5th annual Writing Contest: 47 EAL writers, 4 instructors. There were many individual entries and also multiple (en masse) submissions from the Delta School District and Douglas College, indicating some programs/teachers included the contest in their lessons.

Soliciting judges was a bit of a challenge, as everyone is busy. The timing of the contest near the conference further squeezed everyone's availability. Some board members and colleagues of mine (and their grad school classmates (all experienced teachers)) did the judging. Judges have been thanked by name on the TEAL website to recognize their efforts, and I've filed their contact information for next year's contest. I did send out requests to the Delta School District and Douglas College to provide judges, but received no response. Next year, this request might be made at the start of the contest.

The judging rubric was slightly modified this year, and a spreadsheet was created to code writer entries to keep them anonymous. Judges received a blank rubric and a batch (5-10) of entries identified only by number and CLB level (where available). Judges completed a judging rubric for each coded entry, and I compiled the scores on the spreadsheet. Several entries did not indicate their CLB level, and we later realized our winning entry in the CLB 7-8 category was in a level 4 class. The judge's comment on the runner up rubric indicated suspicion of instructor/NSE editing, so the initial winning entry stood.

For future contests, the topic or writing prompt in the Instructor Category could be varied year to year, or tailored to reflect a particular discussion point in the profession. Although the contest is no longer tied to the conference, we might consider extending the theme of the conference to the writing contest (at least for the instructor category).

Winning entries have been forwarded to the newsletter editor, and Sandra confirmed contact information with the winners to send off the Chapters gift certificates.

The number of submissions indicates this is a popular contest. In future, I think we could solicit more volunteer support for judging from various institutions, as well as the winning instructor entry.



Chair Marketing Committee Annual Report – Submitted by Yalda Ahmadvand

It has been my pleasure to serve in the role of Marketing Chair for the past year. My role has included:

- Preparation of power point presentation to demonstrate benefits of joining BC TEAL
- Ongoing efforts to increase visibility of TEAL, and increase membership

- Ongoing effort to establish EAL Week with five days of EAL activities:
 1. Regional Conference / Vancouver
 2. Writing Contest Awards
 3. Volunteer Appreciation
 4. EAL Students Activities
 5. Welcome to the Profession Night
- Ongoing efforts to communicate with designers regarding TEAL Marketing materials
- Ongoing efforts to expand the benefits that are available to BC TEAL members



Editor TEAL Newsletter Annual Report – Submitted by Chris-Anne Stumpf

Newsletter Editor, Carin Moolman stepped aside as newsletter editor for personal reasons at the end of 2012. Chris-Anne Stumpf stepped in to take over.

The 2012 Winter newsletter was published late to accommodate the October TESL Canada Conference held in October at TRU in Kamloops.

The 2013 Spring newsletter is expected to be published in May after the 2013 BCTEAL conference. The newsletter will include a conference report and the AGM reports. The theme is mentoring.

At Shawna's suggestion, a TEAL news online group is being planned.



Co-chairs Teacher Inquiry Groups Annual Report – Submitted by Amea Wilbur & August Avram

We had the creation of two new Teacher Inquiry Groups this year.

In the fall of 2012 Jo-Ann Dykstra, Patty Castrillon, and Zorica Milovanovic were recipients of one of the annual awards to support their work into Portfolio Assessment in ELSA.

As well, a Teacher Inquiry Group has been created that focuses on social justice issues.

Future goals:

- To establish a stronger presence online through BC TEAL.
- To establish partnership with the Universities and Colleges in the province to support Teacher Inquiry.



Chair Social Media Annual Report – Submitted by Michelle O’Doherty

Facebook

This year a BCTEAL Facebook page was set up for members and other interested parties to share information on upcoming BCTEAL events. www.facebook.com/bctéal.org As of April 7, 2013 the page

has 102 likes. It is currently attached to a Board member’s Facebook account. In the near future, the page will be set up on its own and members will be invited to ‘like’ the new page.

Twitter

A Twitter account has also been set up for BCTEAL this year. The Board is hoping that Twitter will be helpful during the TEAL conferences. As of April 9, the account has 175 followers.



Regional Representatives Coordinator Annual Report – Submitted by Karen Densky

This has been a slow year for the Regional Rep initiative for a variety of reasons. Due to my time commitment as co-chair of the TESL Canada conference, I was unable to provide as much support/encouragement to the Regional Reps as I would have liked. Also, the TESL Canada conference provided a huge professional development opportunity for regional members who didn’t have to travel to the Lower Mainland.

Another challenge was the implementation of the new website. On one hand, the website provides an excellent platform to form regional groups and communicate with members. Unfortunately there seemed to be some technical issues regarding inviting members to join the groups. Hopefully this will be worked out in the near future. The main stumbling block seems to be communicating with the regional members.

On a positive note, every region has a rep, and funding from BC TEAL for regional activities is in place. Each rep was provided with a list of their members in order to invite them to join their group on the website.

Future action:

1. Recruit a rep from the Kootenays.
2. Plan a conference call with all reps to discuss possibilities.
3. Commit to one regional activity per region for the upcoming year.

I am excited to pass the reigns of this important initiative to Karen Rauser to coordinator, and I will fill the role of the Regional Rep for the Interior.

7. New Business

7.1 Policy and Action Advisory Committee

Position Statement - Academic and Degree-granting Credit for English for Academic Purposes Courses in Postsecondary Education

In British Columbia and Canada, English for Academic Purposes (EAP) courses serve an increasingly large number of international and domestic students from diverse linguistic backgrounds. Not all institutions recognize EAP courses as bearing academic credit for use as degree-granting credit. Advanced EAP courses in English for Academic Purposes programs that fulfill English language proficiency requirements for entry into post-secondary programs of study are academically rigorous, and students in them develop the English language skills necessary for success in the cognitively demanding academic context found in the post-secondary education system.

English for Academic Purposes courses are not a remedial or preparatory pre-requisite for academic study, rather they are a co-requisite in that they mirror and amplify the academic activities students encounter in higher education. Students as adult learners in EAP programs at the post-secondary level are already high school graduates and EAP study involves acquiring advanced language ability, understanding cultural contexts, learning discipline specific rhetorical patterns, applying referencing styles, developing critical thinking skills, setting successful study patterns, implementing learning strategies, evaluating core concepts, and gaining effective research skills.

Rationale

- Just as students from English speaking backgrounds are awarded academic credit for courses in additional modern language study (e.g., Spanish, Chinese, German and Japanese), students from non-English speaking backgrounds should receive the same credit recognition since EAP is an equivalent form of additional modern language study for students from diverse language backgrounds.
- EAP courses are cognitively demanding and go beyond remedial communicative language study.
- Receiving credit for EAP courses increases student motivation.
- Advanced EAP courses that fulfill the English language requirements for entry into post-secondary studies at English-medium institutions are situated in rigorous academic programs that are comparable to those at the first year level.

BC TEAL supports the granting of academic credit counting towards the completion of post-secondary programs of study at English-medium institutions of higher education for students from non-English speaking backgrounds who complete EAP courses that meet the standards and criteria for degree credit courses.

References

Douglas, S. (2012). A Short Rationale for Credit Bearing English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Courses. BC TEAL Newsletter, Spring 2012, pp. 9-11.



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