

Preamble

On June 24, 2003 BCcampus announced a call for proposals for a \$1.5 million Program Development Fund. Call for proposals described funding criteria as:

Funding will be made available for those projects that support the principles and vision of BCcampus. These projects may include complete online programs as well as individual courses. The development of learning objects may also be funded, but these must be made available for use by all institutions. Preference will be given to online development proposals that:

- produce programs which are accessible to all BC students through the single point of contact provided by BCcampus;
- respond to demonstrated student demand and labour force need;
- exhibit the characteristics of quality teaching and learning;
- demonstrate sustainability and cost-effectiveness;
- include contributions in dollars and/or in-kind from other sources, either internal or external (such as private partnerships);
- demonstrate collaboration among experienced faculty course/program developers from two or more BCcampus partner institutions;
- develop courses to help bring programs completely online or make them available by other distance methods;
- are for courses that are modular in nature where course components may become object-oriented content for reuse and customization; and
- include clear transfer and articulation mechanisms.

Deadline for submission of proposals was October 31, 2003.

One hundred and five proposals were received totaling over \$6 million dollars in funding requests.

Evaluation Committee Selection

A team of eight reviewers was formed to evaluate proposals. Reviewers included representatives from Simon Fraser University, Selkirk College, University of Victoria, Malaspina University College, Royal Roads University, British Columbia Institute of Technology, Langara College, and Athabasca University. Reviewers were put into four groups of two.

A review process was put in place, starting with independent review, followed by paired review, and concluding with group review and consensus among the whole evaluation team.

Evaluation Phase One – Independent Review

Each reviewer received approx. twenty six of the one hundred and five proposals along with a score sheet made up of the nine call for proposal criteria plus a tenth one for innovation. This tenth criteria was added to help identify proposals seeking to implement a new idea or concept of benefit to BCcampus. Care was taken to ensure reviewers did not receive proposals from their own institution.

Reviewers were asked to independently review/score their twenty six proposals and select their top ten in advance of meeting face to face November 13 & 14, 2003.

Evaluation Phase Two – Paired Review

November 13 reviewers were paired with their counterpart who had reviewed the same set of twenty six proposals and asked to compare top ten selections and reach consensus on a shared top ten selection. Top ten selections from each of the four groups were compiled reducing the one hundred and five proposals to an initial first cut of approximately forty. A spreadsheet of these initial selections was created listing them in score rank order.

Evaluation Phase Three – Group Review

To expedite the next round of selection all eight reviewers were gathered together and each of the four groups presented their number one selection, followed by their number two selection, and so on, with discussion following each presentation. This process reduced the number of proposals to twenty-eight and a second spreadsheet was generated of group selections based on ordinal rank.

Evaluation Phase Four – Final Selection

On Nov. 14, the second day of evaluation, all proposals from Phase Three were presented and discussed by the entire evaluation team resulting in selection of twenty four proposals.

Successful proposals are:

	Title	Proposal For	Institution(s)
1	Online Community Development Course Development	8 courses	Capilano & Langara
2	Bringing Online Applied Programs to British Columbians	7 courses	UVic, & JI
3	Schools to Post Secondary Education Transition Project	12 courses	CNC, NIC, NLC, NWCC, Selkirk

**Online Program Development Fund
Evaluation Summary & Results**



4	Virtual Biology Lab (15)	virtual lab (19 topics) for 1st yr biology	BCIT, Langara & SFU
5	Developing a Turnkey Learning Object Template	7 learning object tools	UBC
6	Interactive Dental Anatomy	1 course & 3D images	UBC & VCC
7	Clinical Breastfeeding Management	1 course	UBC & Douglas College
8	Aboriginal Health/Cultural Safety Modules	3 course modules	UVic & UCC
9	Learning Assessment Tools for Online Modules in Precalculus Math	tools & resources	Langara
10	Applied Geophysics	9 modules	UBC
11	Developing Forest Management & Restoration Skills	2 courses & 9 learning objects	UVic, RRU, NVIT, GMI
12	Anatomy and Physiology for Health Professionals	2 courses	Malaspina
13	Psych Courses	5 courses	UCFV, Camosun, Kwantlen
14	Dynamic Content for Applied Computing	learning object repository	UNBC
15	Provincial Legal Admin. Asst. Online Program	5 courses	ABT/Office Admin. Articulation Committee
16	Learning Webs Foundations	2 courses & learning objects	Camosun, NLC, NIC
17	Certificate in Gerontology	5 courses	OUC & SFU
18	Online Intermediate English	1 course	NIC
19	Phil 120	1 course	UCFV
20	Intro. Deep Space Astronomy Lab	virtual lab using real telescope	NIC
21	Local Government Education Program	4 courses	UNBC
22	Universal Auto Trades Program	plan for curriculum	VCC & OUC
23	CIS 100 Online	1 course	UCFV
24	Modern European History I and II	2 courses	NIC

The twenty four proposals include development of numerous courses, two virtual labs, learning objects and learning technology tools. Funded proposals target Basic Education, Trades, Health, Government & Public Admin, Arts & Social Sciences, Science & Technology.

**Online Program Development Fund
Evaluation Summary & Results**



Reviewers documented recommendations, proviso's and conditions of award for each proposal. Time was spent reviewing large proposals requesting more than 100K, to evaluate the reasonableness of the request and potential for phased funding.

The entire evaluation team also reviewed the twenty four successful proposals to ensure equitable distribution of funds across the entire system. A majority of the proposals involve a collaboration of two or more institutions and in the end successful proposals represent an award of funding to five universities, five university-colleges, eleven colleges, and three institutes.

The second day ended with the evaluation team providing suggestions for follow-on support to successful proposals, feedback on the entire process, and recommendations on what could be done to improve the process if there is a subsequent round of funding made available.

Evaluation team feedback and recommendations will be used to enhance the next round of Development Funding and to support implementation of successful proposals in this round.

Unsuccessful proposals were informed of their status Nov. 26, 2003. Successful proposals received their award notification Nov. 27, 2003 with a request to convert their proposals into a project plan to be sent back to BCcampus Dec. 10, 2003.

The Ministry of Advanced Education asked that public announcement of the results of the Online Program Development Fund be deferred as they wished to make the communication.

On Dec. 12, 2003 successful proposals were sent an invitation to send at least one person (max. two) to a BCcampus Online Program Development Fund orientation kick-off event scheduled for Jan. 30, 2004.

Paul Stacey
Director of Development
pstacey@BCcampus.ca