

# Year Four: Successes & Progress

## 2017-2018 ACADEMIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

With a focus on building pathways into, within, and out of the College, the first Academic Plan reflected our commitment to the academic excellence required to foster a highly trained and educated workforce.

Langara's first Academic Plan inspired many impressive achievements. The Academic Plan Action Groups (APAGs) created to move forward the goals of the plan continue to work hard to champion our five priorities: Learning and Teaching, Student Support, Aboriginal Initiatives, International Initiatives, and Environmental, Financial and Social Sustainability. Their efforts and achievements are outlined in this update.

In order to ensure the continued success of the Academic Plan we are excited to announce that the current Academic Plan will be extended to 2020. By extending the plan our new Provost, Dr. Ben Cecil, will be able to lead the development of a new Academic Plan in conjunction with the next Strategic Plan. This will allow for better integration as both plans roll out together. We are looking forward to seeing how this initiative will continue to help Langara grow.

## LEARNING AND TEACHING

### Priority One

APAG Members: Sarah Bowers (co-chair), Teresa Brooks, Yue-Ching Cheng, Nora Franzova, Julie Longo, Ally Sullivan, Carolyn Wing (co-chair), Heather Workman

### Academic Highlight:

- Secured funding to send Margo Nelson, a faculty member from the Department of Social Services, to the VIU Team-Based Learning (TBL) Institute. Margo will evaluate the process of implementing TBL including gathering feedback from her students and will create and share resources to assist other instructors in the development of courses using TBL.

### Other Achievements & In-progress Projects:

- The Advanced Teaching Seminar is now offered annually with ongoing funding through TCDC. Over 40 faculty have participated in the seminar which encourages experienced instructors to reflect deeply on their teaching practice. The seminar runs from December to April with both face-to-face and online components.
- APAG Conference 2018 sessions arranged:
  - *Langara Students 2020: The impact of BC's new high school curriculum*
  - *Adapting to Our Changing Classroom: Langara teaching innovations*
- APAG 1 is now acting as advisory committee to TCDC on faculty professional development activities.
- Working with TCDC to refine a faculty engagement and recognition cycle to be presented at 3DC, offer further exploration of the impact of the new BC K-12 Curriculum, and offer PD Day workshops on TBL, Work-Integrated Learning (WIL), applied research and applied curriculum.

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## STUDENT SUPPORT

### Priority Two

**APAG Members:** Patricia Aroca-Ouellette (Chair), Merike Bruen, Stephanie Koonar, Reba Noel, Kathleen Oliver, Jennifer Reid, Cindy Truong, Brad Van Dam, Joyce Wong

### Academic Highlight:

Organizing and hosting the Annual Forum on Student Support, a café style forum with over 50 participants featuring presentations on resilience by members of the Counselling Department. The forum allowed attendees to participate in discussions on best practices and share information on a wide range of challenging student success and support issues. As a result of this forum, we presented a number of recommendations to the Provost on improving student support infrastructure.

### Other Achievements & In-progress Projects:

- Sponsored two sessions at the 2017 APAG Conference including a student presentation on how to integrate makerspaces into the curriculum and an open house for the on-campus Makerspace.
- Continuing to host bi-annual forums on student support to encourage information sharing and dialogue on relevant issues among faculty and staff.
- Support for a Learning Strategist Pilot currently underway on campus.

## ABORIGINAL INITIATIVES

### Priority Three

**APAG Members:** The Indigenous APAG members comprise four committees within the APAG: Curriculum, Recruitment, Professional Development, and Musqueam Relations.

Jimmy Aitken, Jim Bowers, Megan Brousseau, Rey Buenaventura, Kina Cavicchioli, Cyndy Chwelos, Patrick de Sousa, Anne Dodds, Brittany Epple, Jenny Francis, Gordon Grant, Catherine Huth, Aurelia Kinslow, Carmen Larsen, Dana Maslovat, Rita Merrick, Rummie Nijjer, Rick Ouellet, Lealle Ruhl, Adam Solomonian, Gail Sparrow, Eric Stewart, Denise Thomas, Stephanie Thomas, Michele Su, Carolyn Wing

### Academic Highlight:

- The opening of the new Indigenous Gathering Space in August 2018 is a stand out achievement this year. The new space increases the capacity for Indigenous students requiring study space and student services.

### Other Achievements & In-progress Projects:

- Raising of Musqueam House Post on September 26, 2018
- Continuation of the Reconciliation through Arts Program with Musqueam weaver Debra Sparrow
- Successful SSHRC application for the Indigenous Upgrading Program
- Approval of Writing Lives Matter course, which will create memoirs for Residential School survivors
- Development of branding standards for *snəwəyət leləm*
- Development of Indigenization Strategy is in progress with an expected launch date of Fall 2019.

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## INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

### Priority Four

**APAG Members:** Antonella Alves, Raged Anwar, Jacqueline Bradshaw (Chair), Jane Li, Gladys Monagan, Valerie Peters, Daryl Smith, Nariko Takayanagi, Mirabelle Tinio, Vicki Vogel

### Academic Highlight:

- Advising on the Internationalization Strategy development

### Other Achievements and In-progress Projects:

- APAG 2017 & 2018 Conference Participation by arranging sessions on:
  - *What is going on at Langara? Projects and initiatives directed at intercultural learners at Langara College.*
  - *Internationalization at Langara*
  - *Responsive Pedagogy: Teaching in the diverse classroom*
- Discipline Specific Literacy Initiatives:
  - *Pilot Part 1 (201730 - 201810): Six instructors in Social Sciences, Health Sciences and Management disciplines working with an English instructor to support students in discipline specific activities and assessments requiring literacy skills such as research, analysis and written communication.*
  - *Pilot Part 2 (201810): Piloting course modifications (primarily writing assessments and a scaffold assignment structure) combined with Peer Supported Learning assistance, to compare student success in the two contexts.*
  - *Part 3 of the Pilot (201910) will incorporate the Langara Student Success Course (LSSC) along with course modifications, scaffolding, and PSL support, to assess the contribution of these elements to student success, and a final report.*
- Review of Study Abroad Field School format and process.

## ENVIRONMENTAL, FINANCIAL, AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

### Priority Five

**APAG Members:** Kyla Bailey, Patricia Baker, Marko Butkow (student rep), Dwayne Doornbosch, Deland Jessop, Nathan Jones, Gerda Krause (Chair), Estella Kutchta, Amy Landy, Robin Macqueen, Mario Moniz de Sa, Peter Prontzos, Deborah Schratter, Maggie Smith, Mark Smith, Susan Smith, Fulton Tom, Frank Williams, Ruby Wong

### Academic Highlight:

- Developed and promoted a Langara Sustainability Policy until it was approved and posted. As a result, an ongoing Sustainability Advisory Committee has been struck and will begin work soon.

### Other Achievements and In-progress Projects:

- Sent a faculty member to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Conference
- Continued work on Langara's STARS (Sustainability Tracking Assessment Reporting System) assessment as developed by AASHE. A Langara co-op student completed the initial assessment with support from APAG5.
- Provided workshops for the annual APAG Conference (April 2018 and April 2019)
- Supported work on the Thingery Project – exploring the possibility of creating a community lending library of things, e.g. sports equipment, on campus
- Consulted on the zero-waste checklist which was first used at the 2018 APAG Conference
- Supported campus gardens
- Developing Sustainability signage and website to highlight sustainability achievements on campus grounds
- Promoting reusable drink containers to reduce plastic waste
- Planning a garden project for Beyond 49
- Exploring possible new partnerships for Langara e.g. UN Regional Centre of Excellence

### Learn more.

[www.langara.ca/academicplan](http://www.langara.ca/academicplan)