



**Date:** September 17, 2019

**To:** Senate

**From:** Senate Committee on Continuing Studies

**Re:** **2018/19 Annual Report**

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The Terms of Reference for the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies define its scope and relationship with Senate and other Senate committees. Annually in October, the committee presents a report to Senate on its business and proceedings over the previous academic year.

The Senate Committee on Continuing Studies met 5 times during the Academic Year: October 23, 2018, November 27, 2018, January 24, 2019, March 13, 2019 and May 23, 2019. The committee considered a number of issues over the course of the year, including:

- the review of 3 diploma/certificate programs with approvals to approve the continued delivery for the next three years of the Public Relations Diploma, Ecological Restoration Professional Specialization Certificate and the Environmental and Occupational Health Certificate
- to suspend intake for the French Language Diploma
- to discontinue the Cultural Heritage Management Graduate Professional Certificate
- to approve the new Visitor and Community Engagement Professional Specialization Certificate
- to approve the suspension of new applications to the Professional Specialization Certificate in Teaching French Immersion
- Review of three program-like offerings: Current Concepts in Dentistry, English Language Program Intensive and Teacher Professional Development (non-credit)

#### Public Relations Diploma

At the October meeting, it was noted that the Public Relations Diploma continues to attract strong enrollments of professionals seeking a flexible learning format to advance their knowledge and skills in public relations and communication management. Discussion focused on enrollment attrition over duration of the program, and options for bundling courses. A program survey would be timely in the next year or so. The committee approved the continued delivery of the Public Relations Diploma for the next three years.

### Ecological Restoration Professional Specialization Certificate

At the January meeting the committee was advised that moving the program online has resulted in a significant increase in registrations. A new partnership with the Professional Society of Ecological Restoration has increased awareness of the program worldwide. It was noted that this year's Distinguished Alumnus is a graduate of this program. The committee approved the continued delivery of the Ecological Restoration Professional Specialization Certificate for another 3 years.

### Environmental and Occupational Health Certificate

At the March meeting the committee was advised that this EOH certificate continues to meet a need for environmental and occupational health education within the Canadian health education system. In 2016/17, the Board of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals (BCRSP) announced they would be making significant changes to their certification options and requirements. This negatively impacted enrollment in 2017/18, however, BCRSP now has a structure in place outlining how our program meets their educational requirements for two certifications. Enrollments have re-stabilized and staff can focus on exploring other professional development opportunities for local occupational health and safety professionals.

### French Language Diploma

At the October meeting, a proposal was recommended to the committee that the FLDP be discontinued and replaced by a new set of comprehensive French language courses that are aligned with the internally recognized Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF) certification. A special review was convened so that changes to existing courses can move forward without admitting new students. The committee approved to suspend intake for the French Language Diploma.

### Cultural Heritage Management Graduate Professional Certificate

This special review was presented to the committee at the November meeting. Since its launch in 2012, the Cultural Heritage Management Graduate Professional Certificate has not attracted enough enrollments to be sustainable. Students who wish to take advanced courses in heritage and museum studies can do so through other learning avenues at the University of Victoria. Existing students will be supported through the completion of their courses. The committee approved to discontinue the Cultural Heritage Management Graduate Professional Certificate.

### Visitor and Community Engagement Professional Specialization Certificate

At the November meeting, the committee reviewed a proposal for a new certificate which repackages existing courses to meet an emerging industry need and shift in museum practises towards more community engagement. The committee approved the Visitor and Community Engagement Professional Specialization Certificate.

### Professional Specialization Certificate in Teaching French Immersion

This special review was presented to the committee at the May meeting. The request was made to approve the suspension of new admissions to the PSC in TFI, effective August 1, 2019. In its current form, the program is not meeting the needs of school districts or teachers. Declining enrollment and an increasingly competitive market means the program is no longer viable. A suspension of new applications will allow program staff to work with stakeholders to develop a program that will work better for teachers wanting to teach French immersion. The committee approved the suspension of new admissions to the Professional Specialization Certificate in Teaching French Immersion.

The following programs were reviewed by the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies, but do not require Senate approval to continue:

### Current Concepts in Dentistry

At the January meeting, the committee was provided with an update on this 4-day continuing professional education program which celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in fall 2018. Each day features a current issue in dentistry and a well-known speaker, chosen by an advisory committee of dental professionals. This is always well-attended (600 to 800 registrants), especially in light of the fact that UVic does not have a School of Dentistry. Participants can earn up to 28 hours of continuing education credit of the 90 hours required by their regulatory body every three years.

### English Language Program Intensive

At the March meeting the committee was provided with an update on this 12-week academic and general language program that runs three times a year at 6 levels (high beginner to high advanced). Students may take one term or stay at the ELC for multiple sessions and move through the levels in order to enter the university's credit stream. Students who pass the highest level (University Admissions Preparation Course -UAPC) with 80% or higher do not need additional proof of English language proficiency to enter the university. Enrollments in ELPI fluctuate between 900 and 1100 students a year. Today, about 15% of students take ELPI as a precursor to credit studies at UVic.

### Education (non-credit)

At the March meeting, the committee was provided with an update on this offering. Working with the Faculty of Education, representatives of local school districts and other UVic faculty members, the Division offers non-credit professional development workshops for teachers annually in mid-October, mid-February and throughout the year as requested. The reputation of UVic is a strength as many in-service teachers are alums of the university.

## **Other Business**

At the January, 2019 meeting, Dr. Clarke requested feedback on a plan to implement a Professional Development Certificate. The new certificate is reserved for non-credit professional programs that have some form of formal assessment to demonstrate proficiency. These certificates do not require Senate approval; however, the committee endorsed the new certificates.

*Respectfully submitted,*

### **2019-20 Senate Committee on Continuing Studies**

Jo-Anne Clarke, (Chair), Division of Continuing Studies  
David Alexander, Convocation Senator  
Penny Bryden, Faculty of Humanities  
Carolyn Butler-Palmer, Faculty of Fine Arts  
Victoria Eaton, UVSS Representative  
Wendy Gedney, Alumni Association  
Mark Gillen, Faculty of Law  
Christina Johnson, Student Rep. from diploma or certificate program in Continuing Studies  
Mark Laidlaw, Faculty of Science  
Connor Leshner, GSS representative  
Susan Lewis, Acting AVP Academic Planning (President's Nominee)  
James Nahachewsky, Faculty of Education  
Sanghoon Nam, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business  
Esther Sangster-Gormley, Faculty of Human and Social Development  
Poman So, Faculty of Engineering  
Kenneth Stewart, Faculty of Social Sciences  
Kirsten Kopp (Secretary), Division of Continuing Studies

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Jo-Anne Clarke, (Chair), Division of Continuing Studies  
Penny Bryden, Faculty of Humanities  
Carolyn Butler-Palmer, Faculty of Fine Arts  
Iris Fairley-Beam, Student Senator  
Wendy Gedney, Alumni Association  
Mark Gillen, Faculty of Law  
Christina Johnson, Student Rep. from diploma or certificate program in Continuing Studies  
Mark Laidlaw, Faculty of Science  
Connor Leshner, GSS representative  
James Nahachewsky, Faculty of Education  
Sanghoon Nam, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business  
Carolyn Russell, Convocation Senator  
Esther Sangster-Gormley, Faculty of Human and Social Development  
Poman So, Faculty of Engineering  
Kenneth Stewart, Faculty of Social Sciences  
Nancy Wright, AVP Academic Planning (President's Nominee)  
Kirsten Kopp (Secretary), Division of Continuing Studies