



**VIUFA Year-End Report
Educational Policy Committee
Submitted by Kathleen Bortolin**

As VIU's Educational Policy Representative, I attended two meetings of this committee in Vancouver, one in November, 2018 and one in March, 2019. Much of the discussion at those meetings, and subsequent work, focused on the internationalization of higher education in our province, and the effects of that internationalization on our collective membership. Committee members undertook work to complete a questionnaire (see appendix A) on each of their institutions. The data from that questionnaire was compiled into a larger report (Understanding International Education in British Columbia: A report from FPSE Educational Policy Committee) written by Christine Nagel (UFV), Chair of the Educational Policy Committee. A number of recommendations were put forward in this report, including conducting a deeper, more qualitative study of the effects of increased internationalization on faculty. To this end, the committee recommended working toward developing a faculty questionnaire that would access faculty experiences on this issue more deeply. This is the work that will occupy us from now until the fall (2019) meeting.

The committee also passed a motion to put forward a request that FPSE allocate \$50 000 from the contingency fund to support committee work. We proposed that Presidents Council adjudicate proposal submissions for committees to access these funds. This proposal comes from the realization of the amount of time and resources required to do the depth and breadth of work necessary to inform educational policy development.

Moving forward, two policy-related themes that have been identified (in addition to internationalization) that our committee will continue to work on involve student conduct and grade appeals.

Finally, the committee nominated a new chair, Jasmine Nicholsfigueriedo (Douglas College).

Appendix A

Understanding International Education: A Questionnaire

The Education Policy Committee (EPC) of the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators seeks information regarding the administration and practice of supporting international education among its member institutions. The Education Policy Committee observes that there has been a substantial increase in the enrollment of international students in BC's public colleges and universities in recent years. The committee identifies that there are significant concerns around the impact of this growth on students and faculty.

This questionnaire is intended to assist the EPC in determining whether there is a need to develop educational policy initiatives or strategies that may assist member institutions in the development and deployment of international education. Questions specific to faculty experiences will be addressed in a separate questionnaire.

Instructions: Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. Although it is assumed that members of EPC will lead in answering the following questions, it is likely that you will have to seek out information from different sources. Some questions may not be relevant to your institutional context; simply indicate this in your response.

Timeline: The committee seeks input from our members in preparation for our **October, 2018** EPC meeting.

Please enter your answers below each question in this document. You may provide tables in your responses and any attachments you may deem necessary.

General composition of international departments

1. Do you have a specific area of the institution that manages international education? If so, what is it called?
2. What positions exist within this department? If possible, indicate whether they are faculty, staff, excluded, or contracted positions.
3. Who leads the department and to whom does this individual report?
4. What is the annual budget for the International Department?
5. What proportion of this international department budget account for in the overall institutional budget?

Governance

6. What consultation occurs at institutional governance levels about internationalization?
For example:

- a) Do faculty and/or staff across the institution have the opportunity to formally participate in international strategic planning? What does this look like?
 - b) How do international departments inform your institution?
7. What is the level of faculty consultation/involvement in the establishment of international partnership agreements? For example, are faculty involved in determining what countries/regions such agreements are made?

Administration

8. If your institution has an enrolment management policy that includes a statement about growth of international student numbers, what does it say?
9. What is the nature of your institutional administration in managing international students? For example:
- a) What priority are international students given in registering for courses? Examples:
 - i. Do courses have reserved seating for international students?
 - ii. Do students register before domestic students or after?
 - b) Do add/drop dates differ for international students from domestic students? If yes, what purpose does this support?
 - c) How are students enrolled into courses? (i.e. do they receive assistance?)
 - d) Do admission requirements differ from domestic students? If so, how?
 - e) What triggers an assessment of language abilities?
 - f) How does your institution handle situations where student VISAs are delayed?

Student Experience

10. How are international students socialized to the institution's culture and expectation? For example:
- a) What kind of campus / academic orientation (if any) do they receive?
 - b) Are there programs / initiatives that specifically support international student success throughout their studies? For example,
 - i. Mentorship programs?
 - ii. Student safety programs?
 - iii. Academic success programs?

11. Are there academic programs that are designed specifically for international programs? If so, what are they?

Data

12. What countries do international students come from?

13. What does the data about international students look like in your institution?

a) What is the most recent number of international students? For example,

i. Can you provide numbers from the past 5 years? (Provide a chart that compares domestic and international student FTEs)

b) *“Completion rate” is the total number of students graduating from a specific program (this could be a diploma, certificate, bachelor’s degree, etc.).* What are the completion rates for international students? Provide figures for the last 5 years, if possible.

c) Are there specific program areas that international students predominantly occupy? What are they?

d) What are your current faculty FTEs? Provide numbers up to last 5 years, if possible.

14. Does your institution provide specific accommodation (i.e. residence housing) for international students?

15. If you have any additional comments/information about international education that you wish to share (that is not specific to faculty workload), please do so here.