Okanagan College
BCCEC Institutional Report (October 2011)

Okanagan College offers a two-year CIS Diploma, a four-year BCIS Degree, and an Associate of Science Degree.

Applications and Registrations

Our CIS Diploma and BCIS Degree applications held steady from last year, but our registrations were up. We have a first year class that is about 10 to 15% larger than last year. We accepted 45 CIS and BCIS students into first year this year. This required us to add a few seats to a couple of courses. Our second year class is slightly smaller than last year's with about 20 students and our upper-year courses have about 15 students.

We are offering first-year programming at our Penticton and Vernon campuses and have class sizes of 10 and 14 respectively. It appears that a significant number of these students are interested in pursuing BCIS. We modified the BCIS Degree over a year ago to permit students to complete first year at the regional campuses. We expect this to increase our second-year class size next year.

About 105 students registered in Programming I across all campuses. 101 still remain close to the halfway point in the semester.

The applications for the Networking and Telecommunications Engineering diploma, a program whose graduates ladder into our degree at the third-year level, are steady (full).

First-year science registrations are up significantly this year. Applications were up almost 30%.

Labs and Software

Our labs received new machines this summer and have been converted to Windows 7. We continue to use Office 2010. We are currently using Blackboard but will be switching to Moodle for fall 2012.

Curriculum

We have been working on a Data Analysis option to the BCIS. We will be taking it to our PAC this week.

Faculty

The Computer Science department consists of nine members. Alan Kennedy is the chair. Rick Gee continues as the chair of the OC Education Council so has a reduced teaching load. No new hiring is expected for the next few years.

Program Review

The CIS and BCIS programs are currently undergoing a program review. We are currently developing the self-assessment part of the process. We expect to finish this part substantially by the end of December. In the new year we will enter a phase that will involve an external review. If you or you know of anybody who would be interested in being on an external review committee, please let me know (akennedy@okanagan.bc.ca). I believe our Dean will want at least one member of the committee to be at the faculty dean level of an institution.

Alan Kennedy