

Francophone Literary & Cultural Studies Circle

May 14, 2004

Executive Summary:

We propose to create a Francophone Literary and Cultural Centre. This centre will promote Francophone studies and integrate language, communication and culture through a range of practical applications. It will recognize and showcase the diversity of Francophone traditions and cultures around the world. The centre's activities will benefit students of French, the UBC-O community, and the community at large.

Rationale:

In keeping with the goal of creating an international stature and training articulate global citizens, we have undertaken the task of ensuring a Francophone presence at UBC O. The creation of a Francophone Literary and Cultural Centre will allow our students to interact in a direct way with Francophone literatures and cultures from around the world, thus grounding their academic studies within a tangible global context. This experience will truly enhance and add meaning to their academic studies. We would also propose the establishment of a bilingual character for UBC O, and the establishment of a place where French and French immersion students can continue their studies of Canada's second official language. Indeed, the achievement of our goals will foster positive exchanges between French and English cultures at the University, in our community and beyond.

Resources required:

Faculty members are already in place for such a centre. There would be a one-time starting cost to establish the centre, and a small operating budget for the first few years (\$ 5000). The public activities hosted by the centre could be used to raise funds and eventually achieve self-sufficiency, which is our aim.

Goals for 2005:

1. Promoting the use of culture in the classroom:

Students must be able to access cultural material directly in order to actualize their classroom activities and develop a global perception of their environment. To achieve this, the centre will have a monthly exhibit on a specific cultural or literary theme, which will be used in all appropriate French courses at UBC-O. This will encourage both instructors and students to engage more fully in the culture and tradition of the language under study. It could also allow for interaction between students of varying levels of fluency. Themes might include authors, cultural icons, traditions, historical events, etc.

2. The promotion of Francophone culture at the community level:

The centre will host various yearly events open to the University community, and the Okanagan community as a whole. Events will include yearly film festivals (already in place), thematic events centering around food, music, popular song, etc. which would include guest speakers and community discussions. A community link is already established with Kelowna's Centre Culturel Français de l'Okanagan.

3. Promoting the use of French in a professional or academic setting:

The centre will host an academic guest speaker each semester. It will also host a yearly Student Conference where Upper-level French students will have the opportunity to present academic papers on selected topics. An award will be presented for the best Upper-level paper each year. Conference papers will be published on a public web site.

Goals for 2010:

1. To continue and build on our 2005 goals.
2. To conduct a yearly summer session abroad to a Francophone destination.
3. To hold an annual Francophone Studies Conference, hosted by the centre.
4. To participate fully in the Summer Language Institute, established by the BA Language and Communication program (see proposal submitted by the Language and Communications Circle, with which this circle has strong ties).
5. To translate into French key parts of UBC O's Website. This task can be undertaken at low cost by the French 459 English-French Translation classes and professors.

FRANCOPHONE LITERARY AND CULTURAL CENTRE

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| Earliest Implementation Date | <p>September 2005</p> |
| Priority | <p>High</p> |

University Circle Members:

Ramine Adl, Associate Professor, Modern Languages

Dr. Lorin Card, Assistant Professor, Modern Languages

Dr. Marianne Legault, Assistant Professor, Modern Languages

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