

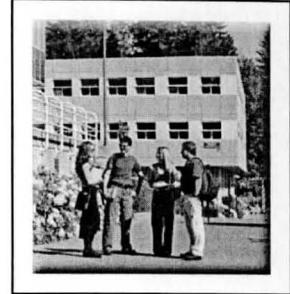
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Plainly Malaspina

Malaspina University College - A View from the Depths

Recruitment Manager Vows an End to Problems

NEW HIRING TO DEAL WITH DELIVERY SHORTFALL



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The successful candidate in MUC's recent search for a recruitment manager, Bas Devi, yesterday outlined his master-plan for overcoming the institution's failure to deliver more than 93% of its funded FTEs.

Devi, until recently a ministerial assistant with the provincial government, was hired for his vast experience in the field of recruitment and retention, gained in a wide range of contexts over the last decade.

Sporting a goatee and looking relaxed in his Armani business suit, Devi took time out from his busy schedule to chat with our roving reporter Si Mohota.

"The basic problem is that whereas for years Malaspina was able to over-deliver on the number of student-spaces funded by the Ministry, processing an average of 3% more educational product than expected, the situation has now been reversed," he said.

"My job is to address the fact that our throughput is down to about 93% of funded FTEs before the catastrophic shortfall comes to the attention of Victoria."

Asked if the shortfall could be attributed to increases in tuition fees, Devi declined comment. "It doesn't pay to think too much about the past," he ventured. "We must look to the future, and such a rosy future it is!"

At that, the plucky entrepreneurially-minded new employee revealed in detail his new plan for maximising recruitment and returning it to pre-slump levels.

Devi believes that the main reason for the dearth of students is the difficulty they face confronting the institution's labyrinthine admission and registration processes. In preparation for September 2004, therefore, he has had thousands of registration forms and telephone books delivered to his office. With the help of a team of volunteers drawn from the College community, these forms will be filled out on behalf of potential new students, so that they can be registered successfully without having to plough through the paperwork themselves. These "block registration" students will be given seats in classes once the normal registration process has been completed.

As a related cost-saving measure, such students will not receive confirmation of registration by mail. Instead, they can check their status on an access-restricted website. To accommodate them, class sizes will be increased by an average of 10%, but, since attendance, assignments and exams will not be compulsory for "block" students, this is unlikely to raise the hackles of the MFA. A further dramatic enhancement of existing procedures will be that their tuition and other fees will be paid by Malaspina itself, a move that was warmly welcomed by MSU.

"The beauty of the scheme," said Devi, "is that it solves the problem of the delivery shortfall at no extra cost, and satisfies the government's call for increased productivity without actually placing greater burdens on faculty workload. And that's what I call a job well done!"