

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

February 2010

President's Report

Reports received from academic and service units are included below. An update of the President's activities for the month of December and January will be presented at the meeting.

The Supported Learning Groups – First Year Report (2008/09) is included as an addendum to this report.

Faculty of Continuing Studies and Access (Karen Evans, A/Dean)

UUP (Upgrading and University Preparation):

Reid Peters, a former logger, entered UFV to upgrade his education after being out of school for 45 years. His goal was to work towards a Social Services Diploma, First Nations option, but his studies started with two English courses and two computer courses in the UUP. He achieved high grades in these courses and impressed his instructors with his articulate writing and eager learning style. Reid quickly became a mentor and an encouragement to other adult learners in the centre. After continuing on to university courses, he kept in contact with the staff and faculty members in the UUP department, sometimes asking questions and at other times answering questions about Stó:lō culture. When he applied for a Canada Post Aboriginal Education Incentive Award, he approached Ruth Vandendor, the UUP Instructional Assistant on the Chilliwack campus for a letter of recommendation. He won the award and was presented with a cheque for \$1000 on Dec. 3, 2009.

The Upgrading and University Prep department is often the entry point for students returning to school after an absence from formal education. Mature students like Reid are supported in learning how to study again and how to develop student skills along with the academic content of their courses. The smaller class sizes and longer contact hours allow students and instructors time to connect in a more holistic way. As Reid wrote in his essay, "In the University there is so much help for students just for the asking, which makes a big difference compared to my earlier years in high school." Former students like Reid often return to tell the UUP staff and instructors of the successes and roadblocks on their educational journeys. Ceremonies like the one for Reid's Canada Post award help the UUP department members celebrate the supportive role they play to students and to UFV.

AAS (Aboriginal Access Services):

This fall, Rasunah Marsden was hired as our Aboriginal Access Coordinator replacing Shirley Hardman, as Shirley takes on the new role of Senior Advisor on Indigenous Affairs. Rasunah comes to us with a wide range of experience and holds a Master of Fine Arts, 5th year professional teacher training (UBC), and B.A. (Eng) from SFU. Betty Peters and Elaine Malloway were also hired this fall as departmental assistants to provide aid to the students, the coordinator and AAS.

S'olh Shxwliwli Teachings program is a new initiative at UFV. Students are to participate in a minimum of 10 cultural activities and an S'olh Shxwliwli Teachings workshop over a 16 week

period. Upon successful completion students will receive a certificate of participation that can be used to enhance their educational portfolio or resume.

English as a Second Language (ESL):

ESL is currently running 100 sections in the Winter 2010 term, up from 92 sections in Winter 2009 and 82 in Winter 2008. We have seen a steady increase in both international and domestic student registrations over the last few years, but the 09/10 year has seen the highest number of registrations since 2002 and highest returning number of returning students to date.

The seven week sessions instituted last year for our 30-60 (beginning to low advanced) levels have contributed to higher numbers of domestic student registrations and a modest increase in international student registrations. (The majority of arriving international students enter UFV in the Fall and Winter terms on a flat fee /full program basis rather than a per credit basis as they do in the summer term).

We have hired four new sessionals this term: Henrieta Soskova, Rossana Chisholm, Sara-Beth Gould, and Oscar Khalideen. In addition to TESL credentials, each of these instructors has teacher training (or a background in education), which fits well with UFV's growing reputation as a teaching university. All four also have extensive international experience and will be invited to share this experience in UFV's ongoing discussion on the importance of internationalization in education. In addition, two of the four acquired English as an additional language, all four are familiar with at least one variety of English that is different from Canadian English, and all are multi-lingual. We feel the qualifications and experience of these new instructors reflect the evolving nature of English language teaching and the role of English as a developing global language.

We are continuing our ESL Help Centre for all UFV students who do not have English as a first language. Students who visit the centre are aided by ESL faculty volunteers and volunteer students from UFV's TESL program.

Two of our instructors, Kerry Johnson and Helen Butner, will be presenting at the annual TESOL (Teaching English as a Second or Other Language) which will be held in Boston this year. Kerry and Helen will present the results of a research project they have been conducting over the past year (along with Michele Secret one our sessional instructors) on the effects of teacher comments on student writing. Another of our permanent instructors, Gilmour Jope, is in the final year of his doctoral studies in teacher education at UBC. Gilmour is planning to conduct a research study involving UFV's TESL students this term.

Finally, in an effort to familiarize the work of the ESL department. to the wider institution, we are developing information materials that will be distributed to UFV program and service areas. As well, we plan to meet with instructors and advisors of those areas with significant concentrations of students who do not have English as a first language. Our intention is to distribute information about our program and Help Centre as well as to make ourselves available to instructors who may be looking for ways to assist any second language students in their classes who may be having difficulty with the course due to language or cultural differences.

Faculty of Trades and Technology (Harv McCullough, Dean)

Welding Department:

This fall, the Abbotsford Rotary Club commissioned a group of the University of the Fraser Valley's first-year welding students to produce one of the largest, and for sure the heaviest, Rotary wheels to be found in B.C. The wheel measures 12 feet in diameter and weighs 1,400 pounds.

Rotary International's wheel has been the organization's official emblem since the early 1920s. Originally, it was a wagon wheel, but was modernized in 1923 into a gear-shaped wheel with six spokes, 24 cogs, and a keyway. The wheel is to symbolize civilization and movement; the cogs, spokes, and keyway represent a 'working' wheel, as Rotarians work on many projects within their communities and internationally.

The raw material, 3/8-inch carbon-plated steel, was donated by the Rotary Club to UFV and arrived at the TTC (Trades and Technology Centre) in seven, very heavy, 4x8-foot pieces. Instructor Sheldon Frank drew the wheel on AutoCAD and programmed it to a CNC (computer numeric controlled) burning table, and then the group cut the metal pieces using a plasma torch. The students were then left with seven big pieces of metal and the task of getting them, prepared, fitted, and finally welded together.

The completed wheel will be installed on the large grassy area beside Highway #1 at the Sumas Road exit to Abbotsford. Luckily, the wheel is designed to break down into two pieces for shipping, but a hoist will be required to position it at the roadside location.

Agriculture Technology Department:

Concurrent studies program with region's school districts.

In the fall semester 2009, one student from Mt. Cheam Christian School and three students from Sardis Secondary attended an equine course, and one from Sardis Secondary and one from Agassiz attended an introduction to horticulture class at the Agriculture Technology department at UFV. Students were enrolled at both their high schools as well at UFV. Students succeeded in their respective classes and asked for more offerings of this kind in the coming semesters. Time-tabling made it possible for the students to attend right after their high school classes had ended, allowing for travel time to UFV. This pilot was tried for various reasons: student demand, making transition from high school to university less stressful and scary, as well as greater cooperation with high school teachers, who were enthused about the possibilities, this opens for their own curriculum and their students.

Instructors: Maureen Walters (Equine) Tom Baumann (Horticulture)
Co-operators: Bob Long, Principal Sardis Secondary, Joe Massie, Teacher and
Pam Jones, Regional Student Transition Coordinator
Supported by Harv McCullough, Dean

Highroad Academy and Sardis Secondary School each had an agriculture class visiting UFV's Agriculture Technology department on a regular basis receiving tours of facilities and class rooms.

In the fall semester of 2009, Highroad Academy students together with their teachers attended UFV on a regular basis for October, November and December as a "Science/Horticulture Club". Small projects were done such as seeding, transplanting, grafting, plant care in the greenhouses. Students' interest was high and their willingness to learn and try new things was outstanding. So was the interest from their teachers who volunteered their time to transport students and also participate in the exercises.

This trial balloon showed that there is much interest in early collaboration, perhaps as far back as grade 8 and 9. This will give students a taste of university, as well as make them aware of the offerings available at UFV. It was decided that these visits should continue and every student received a certificate of completion of the exercises checked off. The first 2010 visit was planned for January 11.

Instructor: Tom Baumann
Technical Support: Brent Bailey
Supported by Harv McCullough, Dean

Teaching and Development (Karen Evans, Associate VP)

Career Centre:

The Career Centre is happy to report a number of achievements in the fall 2009 semester, as well as several staff changes.

So Jeon has joined our team as the Career Services Coordinator, filling a leave; Rachel Armstrong is continuing on for another year as Business and Arts Co-op Coordinator, filling an extended parental leave; Laura Dunn, long-time Administrative Assistant retired in October. Baljit Dhaliwal, who comes to us from International Education, fills the position of Administrative Assistant.

A joint effort by So Jeon, Career Services Coordinator and Rachel Armstrong (Business and Arts Co-op Coordinator) resulted in a strong UFV accounting student turn-out at the Fraser Valley Accounting Networking event. This is a shared event between UFV, Kwantlen Polytechnic and Trinity Western University accounting programs, where accounting students meet with representatives of local and national accounting firms. This is an essential step in competing for the required summer internships needed to earn the CA designation. The majority of the students who attended were from UFV, thanks to the efforts of So, Rachel, and our Career Centre Co-op student, Rachel Kruger, in promoting the event.

With the implementation of Symplicity, our career centre management system to manage Work-study was extremely effective. The efficiency of our business processes has significantly improved. We are also able to gather and analyse data which assists us in developing better ways to support students.

After consultation with our employer-sponsors we have moved the major career fair from spring to fall; our next career fair will take place in October 2010 with a career/professional focus. In March, we will hold a summer job fair focusing on employers with summer positions for students.

Co-operative Education has improved student access by changing from a once-per-year application/intake, to a three-times-per year (once a semester) intake. Our mandatory pre-

employment curriculum has been significantly revised which has resulted in improved evaluations on the workshops from students, and better prepared student job application packages to Co-op positions.

Career Services, together with UFV Alumni Relations, organized a highly successful “Speed Networking” event for Business students. Alumni from the business community were invited to help students practice their networking skills. Students first attended a short ‘how to network’ workshop, then in groups of three, spent five minutes networking with each alumni, practicing business ‘chit-chat’, shaking hands and handing out business cards while juggling refreshments. Thirty business students turned out for this first annual event. A highlight for the students was the participation of Dr. Mark Evered, who not only provided opening remarks, but was one of the ‘networkees’. The students were extremely impressed that he participated and reported that he is “a real guy who really likes students” (a direct quote).

This winter we are launching the “Career Peer” program. Three student peer mentors were trained over the fall semester in providing front-line support to students in job search skills, interview skills and developing resumes and cover letters. We anticipate that Career Peers will allow us to provide more service to more students, freeing up the Career Services Coordinator to offer more in-class workshops and special events and provide higher-value service to students.

The joint efforts of the Career Centre team resulted in an excellent response to a very last-minute call by VANOC for student workers. With only one week’s notice, we were able to promote these positions, accept and pre-qualify applicants, and forward to VANOC 135 student applications (compared to 400 applications from SFU, with a considerable larger student and staff base). Of these, 80 students came to the interviews (which were organized for all 135 applicants), and 47 UFV students have either been hired or offered positions. The CC team performed in an exemplary manner to enable these opportunities for UFV students.

Graduate & Research Studies (Yvon Dandurand, Associate VP)

Graduate studies:

A second graduate certificate has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate Studies Committee and will be referred back to Senate and the Board of Governors for approval. The Graduate Studies Coordinator attended the annual meeting of CAGS (Canadian Association of Graduate Studies) in Halifax.

Research:

This year, by the end of October, UFV had sent a total of eight applications to NSERC (Sciences and Engineering Research Council) - five to the Discovery Grant Program and three to the Research Tools and Instrument program. One faculty member has applied for a SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council) Standard Research Grant.

UFV also hosted a meeting of the Executive Council of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. On that occasion, two lectures were presented at the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies: Prof. B. S. Ghuman, Dean of Arts, Panjab University, on “The Privatization of Higher Education in India” and Dr. Veer Singh, Vice-chancellor, National Law University, Hyderabad, on “Legal education in India”. The Consul General of India in Vancouver also spoke briefly.

The Director of the Global Development Institute, Prof. Cherie Enns, is leaving for Addis Ababa to attend an international conference on Children's Rights (in the context of the 20th Anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Children). The Institute's Head of the Rule of Law Program, Dr. Terry Waterhouse, just submitted to the local Minister of Justice an analysis of the implications of the Ethiopian Criminal Justice Policy for children and young offenders. This provides one of the basis for planning the implementation of that national policy in Ethiopia. Input was also provided into the framework for the review of the Ethiopian Code of Penal Procedure.

Yvon Dandurand, AVP Research and Graduate Studies, attended in Ottawa a national research seminar on *Best Practices in Combating Organized Crime*. This seminar was organized by the Public Safety Canada to help define the national research agenda in that particular area. Dandurand was also invited to make a presentation to Parliamentarians and the Judiciary in Haiti, on November 30, on Haiti's obligation under international human rights and criminal justice law with respect to human trafficking.

Last year, Dr. Bassford signed a collaboration agreement with the CRRID (Centre for Research on Rural and Industrial Development). Since then a program of research collaboration has been slowly developed and a first joint event took place in Chandigarh, in December, on "Cooperative Development, Peace, and Security: Indo-Canadian Cooperation." The two-day event was jointly organized by the CRRID, and UFV's Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies and Global Development Institute, with the assistance of Prof. D.J. Sandhu, Chair in Canada-India Business and Economic Development. Four representatives of UFV presented papers on that occasion. Three of these representatives also presented papers, the week before, at an International Conference on Peace and Security organized by the University of Jammu, State of Jammu and Kashmir. In addition, we participated in a round table on the situation in Afghanistan and the importance and limitations of peace building efforts in that country.

Student Services (Vi Chappell, Director)

Educational Advising:

The mission of the Educational Advising department in Student Services is to promote student success. Educational Advisors recognize that UFV has many exceptional students, and also that – as a university committed to the accessibility of education – a significant number of our students are under-prepared for post-secondary studies. The majority of under-prepared students have the capacity to be successful but need extra attention; they are proverbial “diamonds in the rough.” Embracing these facts, Educational Advising has developed a multi-faceted “diamond approach” to promote success rates for all of UFV's students.

We have identified four major areas which significantly impact student success rates, and are investing our resources in them.

Students

We work directly with current and prospective students for all UFV programs, teaching them how to develop realistic educational plans that align with their academic, personal and career goals. Many of our students are undecided about their direction and need to learn how to maximize their options; those who have an academic or career destination in mind need to learn how to get there, and how their UFV education facilitates the achievement of their goals. We see over 5000 students each year in our offices, and communicate with hundreds of others by email and phone.

We have intentionally targeted high school students who are curious about post-secondary studies. We provide on-site educational advising in high schools throughout the Fraser Valley in both the fall and winter semesters, which has built relationships between UFV and hundreds of students in their schools.

High School Onsite Advising	Fall 2007	Fall 2008	Fall 2009
Number of schools visited	4	14	16
Number of students advised	41	173	213

Positive feedback about the benefits of high school onsite advising initiative has been overwhelming. We are particularly proud of the resultant strengthening of UFV’s relationship with local schools and their counsellors, who impact students’ decisions on where to apply. A counsellor at a school known for recommending students go to SFU or UBC instead of UFV enthusiastically said, “This is the best thing UFV has done in years!” Others remark upon this as evidence that UFV is sincerely student-centered.

We have developed strategies specific to working with academically at-risk students, helping them get onto a track which will lead to success. These students require extra attention, and we help them recognize their strengths, methods of overcoming barriers, and opportunities for success. We identify this as particularly important at a regional university, where we have a higher ratio of under-prepared students than research institutions.

We have also developed approaches specific to working with student athletes, as this population of high-profile university ambassadors has unique needs. Recognizing this group’s strengths and needs, we work with them to ensure opportunities for success at UFV and beyond.

Overarching, we are committed to the holistic development and success of each individual student at UFV. We employ an integrated philosophy, using our own expertise and partnering with other departments to ensure students are accessing – and benefiting from – the resources they need to have a positive university experience and to achieve their goals.

Parents

Educational Advisors identify parents as an integral component of the student success network. Regardless of age or university year level, parents are the primary influencers of students’ decisions: according to the National Survey of Student Engagement, over 75 percent of all students frequently follow the advice of a parent or guardian. We welcome parents into student appointments, provide handouts written for parents to help them in their role as facilitators of student success and growth, have a parent’s section on our website, and are active participants in Parent Orientation sessions at UFV.

High School Professionals (Teachers & Counsellors)

Teachers and counsellors help prepare students for post-secondary studies, and are second only to parents in inspiring and influencing students. We work directly with these professionals, collaborating to facilitate a smooth transition for students from high school to university, and focusing on characteristics which students can develop in high school to foster success in

university. We are heavily involved in Counsellor Liaison Day, as well as other collaborative professional development events at UFV for teachers and counsellors. We conduct workshops and seminars to help them better-prepare students for university studies, and to help us learn more about what UFV's direct-entry students need to transition successfully.

Service to the University

The experiences students have with institutional processes, policies and programming directly impact their levels of satisfaction with, and success at, the university. Aware of both student and institutional interests, Educational Advisors from Student Services sit on a number of UFV committees – including those involved with curriculum changes and policy changes – providing input towards decisions that affect both students and the university at large.

We continue to research and stay current on best practices to promote student success and maintain our position as British Columbia's leaders in academic advising. Our work has now received international recognition, with one of our advisors receiving an award from NACADA (National Academic Advising Association) – The Global Community for Academic Advising (the world's leading organization for our profession), making UFV just the fourth Canadian institution to boast an award recipient.

The UFV Educational Advising “diamond approach” is instrumental in student success. It promotes both retention and recruitment, and facilitates a superior post-secondary experience by teaching students skills they need to succeed and connecting them with other resources that contribute to the achievement of their goals. Focused on students, our approach has the added benefit of contributing to UFV's profile as one of Canada's best universities.

