

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

February 2012

President's Report

Reports received from academic and service units are included below. An update of the President's activities for the months of December 2011 and January 2012 will be presented at the meeting.

Graduate and Research Studies (Yvon Dandurand, Associate VP)

University Lecture Series:

David Kidd of Visual Arts gave her lecture on "With a View Like This, Who Needs Art?" on February 1 in B121 (Abbotsford). The next lecture in the series will be from Gregory Schmaltz, Biology, on March 7.

Micro-Lectures:

Everything from integrals to the Iliad was covered in our recent micro-lecture event. Sixteen faculty presented highly charged two-minute presentations about their research activities to a full audience in the two-tiered student lounge of A Building (Abbotsford) on November 23. This information packed 35-minute event creates connections between UFV researchers, as well as between researchers and students, and gives the audience a glimpse into the exciting research that is happening at UFV.

History Students' Research Website Launch:

Scott Sheffield officially launched History 440 students' research websites. At the event held on the Abbotsford campus, January 30, the students presented their sites to UFV members as well as our community archivist partners, Stó:lō, and guests. These projects involved many of the ideals UFV has been promoting, including student-centred learning, student research, community involvement, applied studies and creative work.

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Academic Leaders Meeting in Ottawa:

Brad Whittaker, UFV Director of Research, attended the SSHRC Leaders' Group meeting in Ottawa in early December. The emphasis was on the Talent program of SSHRC and the SSHRC was seeking input from the Leaders' Group. The Leaders' Group is comprised of representatives from universities across Canada.

Royal Society of Canada:

UFV has become an institutional member of the Royal Society of Canada. The AVP Research and Graduate Studies, Yvon Dandurand, represented UFV at the Society's annual meeting in Ottawa on November 26-27.

Strengthening Higher Education Stakeholders in Africa:

Yvon Dandurand participated in the Strategic Planning workshop organized by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) and the Association of African Universities (AAU) in Nairobi (November 29-30), as part of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funded project on "Strengthening Higher Education Stakeholders Relations in Africa" program. Our project partners from Massinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) in Kakamega, Kenya were also present. We had a chance to present a brief description of our own joint project during which our colleagues from MMUST praised our assistance and collaboration.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research:

UFV has signed a MOU with the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research and is now able to apply to the Foundation for research grants.

Research Excellence Award (REA):

The Senate Research Committee has received a number of excellent faculty nominations for the first UFV Research Excellence Award. Similar to the Teaching Excellence Award, the REA will be officially presented at Convocation in June.

Student Life, Student Services (Karen Evans, VP Students)

Student Life endeavors to offer co-curricular programming to develop the 'whole student' and build a vibrant campus life. We wanted to share a few highlights from the fall semester.

Orientation / Welcome Back Events:

New Student Orientation took place in Chilliwack (August 30) and Abbotsford (September 1). Over 750 students attended; 42 different departments participated. Orientation included a welcome from Student Life, President, Chancellor, and the Student Union Society; team building / activities; Experience 101 with Student Orientation Leaders; lunch and departmental booths; optional campus tours; student ID and UPASS; and prizes. Ninety-nine percent of students rated their overall experience at New Student Orientation as good or excellent. One of the highest ratings included the evaluation of our Orientation Leaders. We believe this is both a reflection of the Student Life staff, for their work selecting and training these individuals, but also of the caliber of students attracted to our leadership opportunities.



Welcome Back events on all four campuses (Abbotsford – 1500 students, Chilliwack North – 600 students, Trades and Technology – 400 students, and Mission – approx. 100 students). Welcome Back events included activities (rock climbing wall, relay, or mini golf), lunch, music, Clubs and Association booths.

Student Organizations:

The contribution of student organizations to campus life continues to grow. Community dinners thrive, with every Wednesday this semester booked. Groups are raising more money for more

causes than ever, case in point being the more than 100 students who attended the Video Games Club "Right To Play" sleepover in University House, raising \$1200. There are cultural events, speakers, game nights, movies, and more every week. The campus is becoming a place to spend time outside of the classroom, and students who put on these events benefit a great deal in terms of leadership, event production, networking, and soft skills in general.

Leadership Institute:



Fall Student Leadership Conference

Student Life's Fall 2011 Epic Leadership Skills Conference was held on October 14-15, 2011. An energetic group of 26 students, staff and presenters all came together to enhance their leadership skills while focusing on the topic of campus dynamics and Clubs and Association leadership activities.

Highlights of the conference include numerous applicable tips from six workshops; a dynamic round table discussion; a social dinner and group activity on

defining "Epic Leadership." Connections and relationships among students were built in the process.

Leadership Speaker Series

Our first Leadership Speaker Series session was held on November 7, 2011 at UFV. This event was brought to campus through a collaborative partnership between Student Life and the Faculty of Communications, more specifically Dr. Linda Pardy's Communications 430 class. The evening's presenter was Steve Donahue, internationally renowned speaker, writer and most recently documentary film-maker. Steve delighted the audience of approximately 100 students, faculty and staff with an inspirational speech titled, "Follow a Compass, Not a Map". The evening closed with a dessert reception and book signing. We look forward to our next Speaker Series Night to be held in March 2012.

Campus Recreation:

Our Campus Recreation programming is doing well. We are currently running intramurals in drop-in volleyball, pickleball, dodgeball, basketball as well as an indoor soccer league. This semester we have approximately 20 students attending each of the drop-in intramurals and we have six teams participating in the indoor soccer. Student Life also hosted the fifth annual dodgeball tournament, which was a great success.



A special thank you goes to Nik Venema. Nick has put in a great deal of time helping Student Life, campus recreation and who has been a highly visible Board ambassador.

*Our monthly calendar of events and activities can be viewed at:
www.ufv.ca/StudentLife/Student-Events-Calendar.htm

Counselling, Student Services (Karen Evans, VP Students)

The UFV Counselling faculty's mission and professional mandate is the promotion and support of all UFV students through the practice of personal, career, crisis counselling and student success instruction. We fulfill this mission through clinical counselling and strive to assist students to experience a successful and transformative education in both the academic and self-development arenas.

The key areas of personal, social and academic development for students at UFV involves one-on-one counselling, group and facilitation work for the counsellors. The counsellors follow a professional practitioner model; meaning that all our clinical counselling appointments are 60 minutes in length, rather than drop-ins or shorter appointment times used by other Student Services units.

Over the past six months, the five UFV counsellors have instructed and facilitated 1235 workshop hours, spent 853 hours on special projects and seen 1263 students in counselling sessions. UFV is similar to other post-secondary institutions in Canada, where it is a well-documented phenomenon that over the past several years, Counselling departments have seen an enormous increase in student need/demand for counselling, as well as an increase in the severity of mental health issues students present with and in the number of crisis appointments. This reality is evident, as the counsellors have seen as many students in crisis in the six month period of April 2011 to September 2011 as the previous 12 months from April 2010 to March 2011.

This year, the Counselling department took responsibility for the management of the Supported Learning Group (SLG) program.

The counsellors strive to meet demand for consultation from management, faculty and staff, participate on committee and special project work, develop specialized expertise and above all, continue to meet the ever increasing need for career, academic, personal and crisis counselling services demonstrated by our UFV student body.

International Education (Karola Stinson, VP External)

See Attachment

