

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

October 2010

President's Report

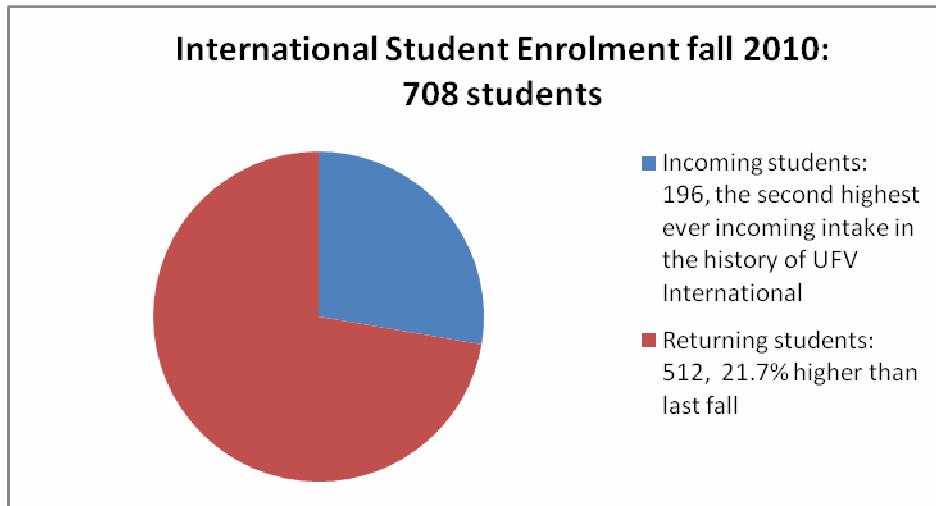
Reports received from academic and service units are included below. An update of the President's activities for the month of September will be presented at the meeting.

International Education (Karola Stinson, VP External Relations)

With the beginning of a new semester, UFV International reports a healthy rate of student retention, increased enrolment, and growing partnerships with universities abroad. Student life programs have also continued to involve both Canadian and international students in volunteer activities to boost student satisfaction with their UFV experience.

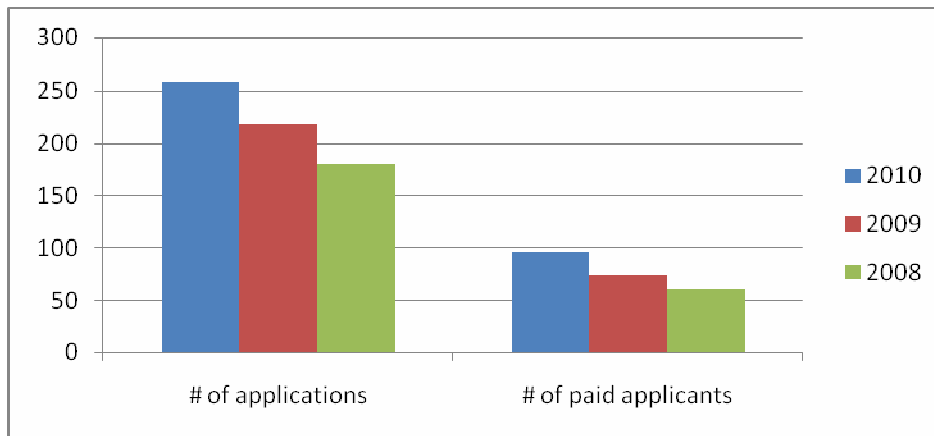
International Students Final Intake for Fall 2010:

Total enrolment for fall 2010 is 708 international students, which is 17 percent higher than last fall. One hundred ninety-six are new students, the second highest intake in the history of UFV International. Five hundred twelve are returning, 21.7 percent higher than last fall. Two hundred fifty-nine are enrolled in ESL (English as a Second Language) or foundation programs.



Intake for Winter 2011:

As of October 5, we have received 258 incoming applications for the winter semester. Ninety-six of these applicants have already paid. At the same time last year, we had 218 applications and 73 paid applicants; in 2008, we had 180 applications and 60 paid applicants.



These numbers show a definite upward trend that bodes well for winter semester's final intake.

Noteworthy Partnerships Opportunities in 2010:

In 2010, UFV International has developed strong linkages and programs with universities abroad in order to facilitate student exchange and faculty mobility.

Diaspora Studies Consortium:

Established in 2009, the Diaspora Studies Consortium is an interdisciplinary network and exchange program for students and faculty from Canada and the European Union who have an interest in diaspora communities. This project is funded by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

In the next two years, through this exchange program, 22 Canadian students will benefit from a \$5,000 scholarship to study in partner countries, either at the University of Münster in Germany, or at Northampton University in the UK. In return, 22 students from these universities will come to study either at UFV or at York University in Toronto.

UFV International is currently taking applications for the first 11 students, scheduled to leave in January 2011. Scholarships will be awarded later in October to the chosen recipients. Eleven more will follow next year for exchange studies in January 2012.

Last month, UFV approved a Certificate in Diaspora Studies that will be awarded to exchange students who participate in this program.

Tradewinds:

Tradewinds is a brand new School of Business exchange program that was created in August 2010. The program links three Canadian and three European universities to facilitate student exchange.

Joining UFV on the Canadian side are Memorial University of Newfoundland and Fanshawe College of Ontario. European participants include Waterford Institute of Technology in England, Glamorgan University in Wales, and ESC (l'École Supérieure de Commerce) in Brittany, France.

Participating universities continue consultation to design curricula for this project. A meeting is scheduled in Berlin next week to finalize details. The expected departure for the first group of exchange students is January 2012.

Agricultural Partnerships:

UFV is exploring potential partnership opportunities with two Dutch universities in the areas of agriculture and environmental studies:

- HAS Den Bosch, University of Applied Sciences, in Hertogenbosch, Netherlands
- Van Hall Larenstein of Wageningen University, in Wageningen, Netherlands

Since many Dutch pioneers came to settle and farm in the Fraser Valley, there is great enthusiasm from these new partners to pursue cooperation in the fields of Agriculture, the Sciences, and Environmental Studies.

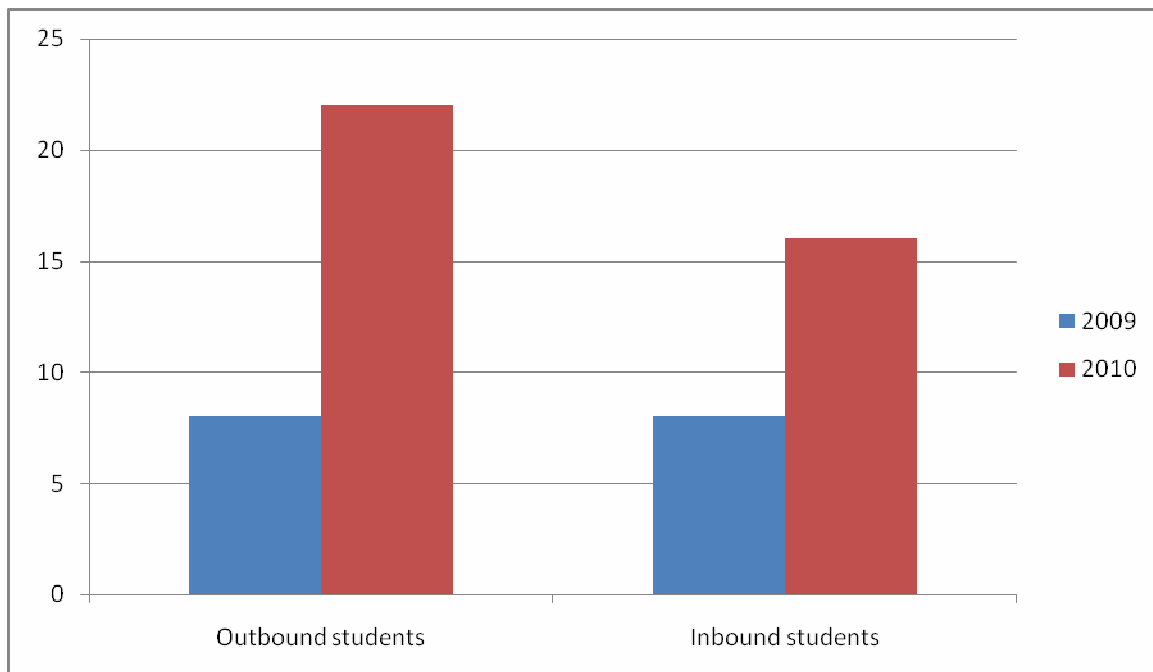
Humanities Partnerships:

New exchange opportunities have opened in the Social Sciences and the Humanities with two European universities: the School of Political Science at the University of Lilles in France and the Prague Metropolitan University in the Czech Republic.

Study Abroad:

The Study Abroad program at UFV continues to grow: this fall, we have doubled the number of outbound exchange students who went to study abroad and almost tripled the number of incoming students who visited to study at UFV.

In fall 2009, UFV sent eight Canadian students to study abroad; In Fall 2010, we sent to 16. In fall 2009, eight exchange students visited UFV; in fall 2010, 22 exchange students came to study at UFV.



While numbers remain modest, UFV International expects steady growth, resulting from new international partnerships such as the Diaspora Studies Consortium and Tradewinds.

Student Programs:

OnTrack:

This fall, UFV International has pioneered a new pilot program, called OnTrack, to help first- and second-year students adjust to university and become more successful.

Studies have shown that students who participate in student life do better in their studies and show greater levels of satisfaction with their institution of choice. The goal of OnTrack is to help new students access all academic and work-related resources available on campus.

Students who are involved in UFV activities, events, clubs, information sessions, or student services earn points and rewards for participation. They are provided with a booklet to keep track of their progress. At the end of the program, successful participants receive a certificate of recognition and a reference letter.

The program is available to both Canadian and international students. Although the program is new, student response has been very favourable. As of October 5, 73 students have signed up for OnTrack: 62 are international students and 11 are Canadians.

Volunteer to Work — ABBYFEST 2010:

For the third year in a row, international students organized a fashion show and multicultural garden for ABBYFEST, Abbotsford Multicultural Festival, held on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2010 at the Abbotsford Exhibition Center.

This year, more than 100 UFV students participated in the event and put on a first class production. Prashant Wadhvani, who helped organize the cultural garden, summed up the experience: "This was my first time organizing an event for UFV. I feel extremely honoured to have been involved. It makes me love, appreciate, and be proud to be a student at this university."



Faculty of Access (Sue Brigden, Dean)

ESL (English as a Second Language):

Continuing the trend of the past three years, the ESL department experienced increased enrolments in its classes this fall, particularly at the upper levels. Most of this increase is due to international student registrations; however, there has also been a modest but steady increase in domestic student registrations.

The department is running the ESL Help Centre, again, this year. The Centre provides help to all UFV second language students who need extra support to reach their academic goals. Even students not enrolled in ESL classes, because they meet UFV's English language proficiency requirement, are welcome to use the Centre to gain a better understanding of Canadian academic expectations, or to improve their aural and written communication skills. To provide support to faculty and staff, ESL faculty will visit program areas and present information about the teaching and learning of second language learners as part of its "ESL Awareness" campaign.

As it did last year, the ESL department assisted the UFV BBA program in Chandigarh by assessing the language skills of students. Thirty-three students were assessed in Chandigarh and the results, which were sent directly to the ESL office, allowed us to review and place students within 24 hours.

