Budget Townhall – Responses

October 15, 2026

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share questions, concerns and thoughtful ideas during and since the Budget Townhall.

Please note that questions addressed during the Q&A portion of the Townhall have not been included in the responses below.

1. UFV's vision commits us to diverse pathways of scholarship and to building community. How are we ensuring that, when making budget decisions, we're evaluating programs not just on their individual financial sustainability, enrolment numbers, or direct economic outcomes, but also on their broader educational, cultural, and community value?

   Some programs may be more expensive to deliver or serve smaller student populations, but they contribute to the breadth of scholarship that distinguishes a university from a technical or vocational institute.

   What institutional framework or safeguards ensure that these broader values are meaningfully considered in budget decisions, so that short-term financial pressures don't gradually narrow the university's academic mandate?

   Response: *While financial sustainability and enrolment trends are important considerations, they are not the sole drivers of academic or budget decisions. Our responsibility is to balance stewardship of limited financial resources with our broader mission of teaching, scholarship, and community engagement.*

   We recognize that a program's value extends beyond enrolment and financial considerations. Academic, research, cultural, and community contributions are also considered to help ensure decisions reflect the university's broader mission and strategic priorities.

   UFV Budget Principles are used to guide budget decisions:
   https://www.ufv.ca/media/assets/budgets--planning/UFV-Budget-Principles.pdf

   Budget decisions are informed by a range of factors, including but not limited to:

   - *Alignment with the university's mission, vision, and strategic priorities.*
   - *Student demand and enrolment trends.*

- *Academic quality and contribution to scholarship.*
- *Community, regional, and Indigenous engagement and impact.*
- *The role a program plays within the broader academic ecosystem and student pathways.*
- *Financial sustainability and long-term viability.*

Importantly, there are multiple layers of review and governance that help ensure decisions are made with consideration of multiple factors in addition to financial or enrolment. Academic leaders, institutional leadership, and governance bodies all play a role in assessing the broader implications of significant decisions. This provides an important safeguard against short-term financial pressures leading to unintended erosion of academic breadth or institutional distinctiveness.

2. Why are we focused on continuing to grow domestic student enrollment if it's putting us in a worse position financially?

   Response: *Before the impact of the IRCC changes, UFV's Strategic Enrolment plan included growth in our Domestic FTE's. With the decline in International FTE, this direction has changed as it is not financially sustainable to grow our Domestic FTE. For some years, we were able to support more domestic enrolment than the provincially funded target. For fall 2026, our domestic enrolment is both closer to the provincially funded target and 2% lower than in the prior year.*

3. What is being done to educate the general population that immigration policies are hurting our domestic students?

   Response: *We have been actively communicating the impacts of changes to international student immigration policies on enrolment, revenues, and institutional planning through budget materials, public reports, government relations efforts, and discussions with our communities and stakeholders.*

4. What is being done to put pressure on the province to improve funding for domestic students?

   Response: *The university continues to advocate, both independently and through sector associations, for increased and sustainable provincial funding for post-secondary education. We regularly engage with government to highlight the growing gap between funding levels and the rising costs of delivering high-quality education, as well as the impact on students, programs, and services.*

5. What evidence is being used to determine that we've hit our new baseline? Why are we assuming it won't continue to decline given that IRCC is going to continue these policies & further discourage potential international students?

Response: *This analysis is generated using enrolment/FTE data and is based on financial data revenues and the costs for instruction. Including the shortfall of funding per domestic student from the Ministry. The Provincial Grant funding per student plus UFV's current capped tuition fees do not cover the cost for instruction of a student.*

We have been actively monitoring international enrolments and the IRCC to assess what the international enrolments will be in the future. As your question suggests, this is a changeable environment, and we use the best available information to prepare projections. These may be subject to revision. Afterall, who would have guessed that there would be such a boom in international enrolments and then that IRCC policies would change. Overall, our overall enrolment projections have been 99% accurate over a 10-year horizon.

Therefore, we use the best information we can, which is grounded in current policies and announced government initiatives, to project international enrolment. We consider that the coming year should reflect that these enrolments will most likely represent a new baseline level, given that several cohorts of lower international enrolment have entered the system in the last several years.

6. Can you clarify what the salary $600,000 and benefit $400,000 amounts for? Is this in the plan for retro pay?

   Response: *The contracted amount of $1,000,000 is broken into two components - $400,000 for contractual obligations includes contractual expenses like increases in IT Licenses, security, utilities, insurance, etc., and $600,000 for personnel costs such as wage and salary increment increases and increases in employer statutory payroll and benefits such as CPP, EI, minimum wage, and pensions.*

7. Besides offering programs and courses, UFV offers many ancillary services, projects and initiatives. All of these are worthwhile endeavors. I know UFV has done some difficult work in terms of prioritization of projects, some being "must haves" vs "nice to haves". Will UFV look at these more intensely as opposed to focusing on cutting courses or programs? During these difficult times, students would likely prefer reasonable completion times as opposed to initiatives or wrap around services.

   Response: *The university continues to perform program reviews to evaluate services, programs, and supports. Over the last year, support functions within several departments have been reduced. Reductions have been made to administrative areas. We have also budgeted and allocated less in areas like food and meals, consulting and travel costs. We are monitoring the impact and implementation of these reductions.*

8. In a recent interview with the New York Times, Prime Minister Carney has indicated that a possible controlled increase to immigration as Canada's population growth has dropped to the lowest since 1944/45. While nothing official has been announced, this seems to indicate a possible bottom on the national level. Has this been discussed when looking at our five-year plan?

   Response: *Yes, potential changes in immigration policy and demographic trends are considered part of our long-term planning. While there are indications that Canada may be approaching a low point nationally and that future policy adjustments could occur, no formal announcements have been made and there remains uncertainty regarding the timing and impact of any changes.*

   As a result, our five-year plan is based primarily on current policies and reasonable planning assumptions rather than relying on potential future changes. We will continue to monitor government policy, enrolment trends, and demographic developments and adjust our projections and strategies as needed.

9. The projections used to be quite accurate but for the last two years, they have not been. The question is, what is being changed to address those new inaccuracies and guard against them for the future?

   Response: *With the exception of fiscal year 2025/26, UFV has consistently demonstrated strong accuracy in its international enrolment and revenue forecasting, if anything trending to budget conservatively. In 2025/26 all post-secondary institutions across Canada experienced a significant decline in student visas that was not well-known in advance. This resulted in a decline in student visa approvals and therefore in international enrolment. Domestic enrolment projections have also been consistently reliable. In fact, the Ministry has recognized UFV's enrolment planning as among the strongest in British Columbia.*

10. Universities are full of smart people. Have you considered asking staff how UFV could generate revenue?

    Response: *Our budget process includes and encourages input from UFV staff and interested parties in several ways. Budgets are prepared at the school or department level. Deans, department leaders, and other leaders should be reviewing and connecting with staff throughout the year. Budget Townhalls are another opportunity to listen, including through avenues for questions like this. Also, discussions are held throughout the university from the Administrative Council and Senate to the Faculty Councils and the Provost Cabinet. We also have a* ***feedback form****, which is available to the entire UFV community. As you can see engaging faculty and staff in identifying opportunities for innovation, growth, efficiencies, and revenue generation are core factors in how UFV navigates the current financial*

challenges. A sustainable future for UFV will require contributions and ideas from across the university community.

At the same time, specifically regarding revenue, generating meaningful new revenue in the current environment can be challenging and often require investment, market demand, regulatory approvals, and time to implement. We are exploring new ideas that have been proposed by staff for revenue generation including microcredentials, executive education, and summer school programs to name a few.

11. Will UFV consider not being an access institution? Enroll the minimum # of domestic students.

    Response: *UFV's commitment as an access institution is a foundational part of our mission, and it remains an important consideration in our planning and decision-making.*

    That said, like all institutions, we must also ensure that we operate in a financially sustainable manner. If funding levels, enrolment patterns, or external conditions were to change significantly, all options may need to be evaluated as part of broader strategic discussions.

    Our focus remains on finding solutions that allow us to maintain both financial sustainability and our commitment to access, recognizing that these goals are not mutually exclusive and are both critical to UFV's long-term success.

12. Is there a way for the university to increase the # of domestic students paid for by the province?

    Response: *While we continue to advocate for increased investment and funded spaces, the university cannot unilaterally increase the number of domestic students funded by the province. Our focus is on working with government to demonstrate demand, meet regional needs, and make the case for additional funded domestic seats where opportunities exist.*

13. How are the vacancies reviewed? Is there a process to determine strategic alignment?

    Response: *All vacancies are reviewed by the Senior Resource Allocation Committee (SRAC), comprised of the President and Vice-Presidents. Vacancies that arise when staff retire or leave the organization may represent a potential opportunity to restructure work through natural attrition. In making decisions, the committee considers strategic priorities, operational needs, potential impacts, and*

alignment with UFV's academic mission, while also ensuring that statutory, regulatory, accreditation, and other mandatory requirements are met.

14. Thus far, what dollar amount of retrenchment (or cuts) has occurred on the non-academic operations side of the university? Where? In what departments, offices?

    Response: *We appreciate this question and will be working on compiling more information on current and future savings or revenue generation.*

15. Is UFV considering reducing operating expenses by consolidating programs into main campus facilities and closing satellite facilities? Areospace, Clearbrook, Mission, Hope.

    Response: *There are no plans to close the Clearbrook, Mission, or Hope campuses. These campuses play an important role in serving their communities and supporting UFV's regional mandate, while also contributing positively through the programs and services they deliver.*

    Nonetheless, the Aerospace Centre is currently being evaluated to identify opportunities and its contribution as a revenue-generating asset for the university. Our focus is on maximizing the value and potential of all UFV locations while ensuring they continue to support both our academic mission and financial sustainability.

16. Does the government allow UFV to cap undergraduate open intake programs for admissions numbers? If so, why are we not limiting intake to prevent exceeding the provincial grant? It could be a first come first serve model.

    Response: *The government provides a target domestic enrolment. The university can determine how and to what extent that target is reached. For 2026/27, UFV domestic enrollment will be closer to this target than in prior years.*