

# MEMO

**TO:** Senate Members

**FROM:** Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic

**DATE:** October 8, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Provost's Report – September 2019

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The start of a new academic term is always an exciting one. The energy that our students bring to our campuses is contagious and the commitment and caring that our faculty and staff demonstrate in welcoming and supporting them is inspiring. I would like to thank the entire UFV community for making my first month here such a positive one and for all the kindness and patience shown to me during my transition to being a new member of this great community we call UFV.

During my first month, I have tried to meet as many people as possible at our campuses in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Mission, Hope and Clearbrook Centre in order to listen and learn about the issues that matter most to members of our community. I've had the chance to visit several Faculty Councils and to attend several events including the New Student Orientation, Alumni Golf Tournament, Pride Culture Conference, Chancellor's Reception, Department of Kinesiology's Kinected, Science Social, and several other events. One of the common themes that has run through all of these events is just how committed people are to providing a world class educational experience for our students and just how well prepared our students are to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. These traditional lands of the Stó:lō people has provided fertile grounds for UFV to make a positive contribution in the Fraser Valley and we should all continue to demonstrate our thanks to the Stó:lō for giving all of us this opportunity.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the many activities that have and will be taking place. While there are hundreds of positive highlights I could present, the following are a selection of activities from across our Faculties and Academic Units:

## Our Faculty & Staff

- Dr. Satwinder Bains will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award at the upcoming [Drishti Awards](#).
- Dr. Cindy Jardine was awarded a \$100,000 bridging grant through the CIHR Project Grant Program (Open Competition for Curiosity). Dr. Jardine's research aims to represent Metis populations in health research, particularly building capacity with Metis youth. The project will be driven by Metis informed research questions. Metis Canada is a partner in the research, as well as a Metis local (126) from Saskatchewan and the Manitoba Metis Association.
- The Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) hosted a New Faculty Kickstart program for 32 people to help them with issues pertaining classroom technology, outcomes, assessments, and indigenization. The TLC is also

offering the UFV Launch professional development program to 25 new faculty members that includes topics such as Active Learning, the new K-12 Curriculum, Assessment, the Thinking Classroom, the Pedagogy of Hope, Intercultural Competencies, etc.

- The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training reviewed UFVs 2018/19 [Accountability Report](#) developed by Institutional Research and Planning and provided the following comments:
  - *Exemplary report; well organized and professionally written.*
  - *UFV does well to address the 2018/19 and 2019/20 priorities and provides examples of how the priorities have/are being addressed.*
- The Office of Research, Engagement and Graduate Studies will be hosting a Research Round-Up on Wednesday, October 30, 2019 (6-8 pm) in A225, UFV Abbotsford. This event is for new faculty to meet established UFV researchers, network, and learn what resources are available to them through the Research Office.
- UFV welcomed its newest Canada Research Chair, Dr. Keith Carlson, Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Indigenous and Community-Engaged History. ([read more](#))
- Dr. Lenore Newman, Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Food Security and the Environment was appointed to BC's provincial Food Security Task Force. ([read more](#))
- Faculty are invited to apply to The UFV [Research Supplementary Fund](#). Awards up to \$6,000 grants to cover immediate research costs for projects that will lead to major external grants.
- ELS sent three instructors to Chandigarh in August 2019 to deliver six sections of EAP 075: Foundations of English for Business as part of the AFP for Fall 2019 intake.
- ELS Associate Professor Kerry Johnson has developed a website with resources and classroom strategies for UFV faculty [Working with Multilingual Learners](#) that is available through the Teaching and Learning Centre website.
- Librarians taught 51 library instruction/information competency sessions in September, and 13 of those were in support of Business 100. All on-campus sections of this course meet with a librarian for an introduction to the information resources students can access for their semester-long group project.
- On September 27, College of Arts' (COA) new [School of Creative Arts](#) (SoCA) held a successful launch party for local arts community members, UFV students, staff and faculty. SoCA will house the Theatre, Visual Arts, Art History, and Media Arts departments, under the direction of Heather Davis-Fisch, the school's new director. The new school was [featured in Academica Top Ten](#).
- The Fall 2019 semester marks the first term in which COA is offering the Bachelor of Integrated Studies (BIS). UFV has retired the Bachelor of General Studies degree name, as it is not well understood by many students, nor did the name capture the reality of most student experiences in the program.
- The Office of Indigenous Affairs is offering two weekly Halq'emeylem language classes over the Fall term (one in Abbotsford and one in Chilliwack) where almost 40 faculty and staff are learning conversational Halq'emeylem as well as how to pronounce the names of UFV places and departments.
- Dr. Alan Reid from the Department of Biology received Vancouver Granville's 2019 "Unsung Hero" Award for going above and beyond to serve the community. The award was presented to him by the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Granville in Ottawa in June 2019. He was nominated by the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association for his 17+ years of service. "Alan has provided botanical

and interpretation training and inspiration to hundreds of volunteers, enabling them to in turn educate and inspire hundreds and thousands of visitors to the Gardens.”

- In spring 2019, Geography and the Environment joined the Faculty of Science as a newly established School of Agriculture, Geography and Environment (SAGE) with Dr. Greg Schlitt acting as an interim Director. During the summer months, the School met to plot their mission, vision and values, and recently changed their name to the School of Land Use and Environmental Change (SoLUEC) to better reflect these values. Following a search for a permanent Director, Dr. Jonathan Hughes was selected as the successful candidate, and he will begin as the inaugural Director of SoLUEC in January 2020 for a five-year term.
- The Sto:lo/SASET Culinary program, previously run independently of UFV, is now integrated into UFV’s programming at TTC. A dedicated teaching kitchen is in development/construction that expands on the existing kitchen. This initiative has allowed UFV to hire an Indigenous Red Seal culinary instructor and will provide Indigenous learners options to achieve a Culinary Red Seal previously not available to them without starting over.
- Since November 2018, HR has been working with a consulting company Capulet and the marketing department to develop a refreshed visual identity for the HR Careers page. A new recruitment strategy using social media and targeted digital advertisement will drive traffic to the website and increase the quality of applicants. The HR webpage is also receiving a refresh with implementation scheduled for mid October, 2019. A new approach to employee orientation / onboarding has been developed and new resources for employees in the area of Health and Well-being.
- HR is conducting a “proof of concept” pilot to explore the option of deploying an electronic format of the student perception of teaching form, which is currently scanned within Human Resources. Our partners in this project include IT Project Manager, College of Arts and Professional Studies. In the second term, Teaching and Learning may pilot the process for online courses.
  - Fall Term: Goal – 30 evaluations
  - Winter Term: Goal 200 evaluations
- Applications are now being accepted for this year’s Fund for Innovative Teaching (FIT). Detailed information on FIT, including applicant eligibility, criteria, application process and form, and project assessment, are available at [www.ufv.ca/provost/fit/](http://www.ufv.ca/provost/fit/). All FIT applications (for 2020-21 fiscal funding) must be submitted to the Office of the Provost, and VP Academic by October 31, 2019.

## **Our Students**

- On October 30 (8–10 am, B121), the Vice-President Academic and Vice-President Students will be hosting a student coffee chat. The coffee chat is open to all students to chat about any issues that they wish to discuss with the two Vice-Presidents.
- Ten UFV nursing students recently completed the first BSN study tour to Sierra Leone to witness first-hand global health issues and challenges. The study tour was part of the global health elective course within the UFV Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program.
- The Academic Success Centre and the Library will once again be hosting the popular Long Night Against Procrastination – evening events held at both the Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses. This year’s LNAP runs on November 6, 2019. A fun event for students, LNAP includes Peer Tutors, a De-Stress Room, Games, a Citation Styles First Aid Tent, Free Black and White Printing, Therapy Dogs, Research Librarians, Information

Tables and Resources, Fun Activities, Workshops, Food & Drinks, Draw Prizes, an Open Mic for music entertainment, IT Help Desk, Math-Stats help, and more.

- The [Indigenous Academic Success cohort](#) is now running in Chilliwack with six very engaged students. The Program Coordinator position is in place and one of their main roles will be to promote this amazing opportunity to other Indigenous students.
- VA 421 & 422 Directed Studies students Dana Brook, Erin Caskey, Allie Risley and Chantelle Trainor-Matties recently presented their exhibition Illuminations in the **S'eliyemetaxwtexw Art Gallery**. <http://sag-ufv.ca/exhibits/show/illuminations/illuminations>
- UFV welcomed its largest fall group of exchange and visiting students (66).
- The Faculty of Science sent one of our outstanding Biology students, Isabelle St-Martin, to the London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF) in London, UK from July 24 – August 7, 2019. She joined 500 other leading young scientists from more than 70 participating countries. Isabelle continued her adventure by extending her stay to attend the CERN Summer Student Programme in Geneva, Switzerland. Her activities can be read on the FoS blog at: <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/category/trips/science-in-london/>
- So far this fiscal, the Department of Research, Engagement, and Graduate Studies has assisted 26 students from Arts, Sciences, and Professional Studies to present their UFV research at national and international conferences (i.e., BC, Ontario, Quebec, Kentucky, Florida, New York, Poland, and Austria).
- The new Digital Manufacturing program scheduled to start September 2020 is ready to go with an innovative problem based learning pedagogy and flexible entry prerequisite system that will see learners from across the arts, sciences, trades and technologies learning state of the art digital methods of manufacturing for their disciplines. A new lab/studio is nearing completion. Interest in the program is strong.
- The Teacher Education Department continues with their theme of "What does it mean to be a socially just educator in the Fraser Valley?" and has arranged a series of programmatic experiences that happen outside of the courses to augment their learning. This included a site visit to St. Mary's Indian Residential School on September 24, 2019.

## Our Community

- Faculty members from Kinesiology, Michael Gaetz and Iris Lesser, discussed their research with UFV, alumni, and community stakeholders at Get Kinected events. The purpose of the event was to engage the community in health research at UFV.
- Continuing Education was [very proud to announce](#) a new partnership between UFV and McDonald's Restaurants of Canada. This challenging project has been in the works for nearly three years and was possible due to the hard work of a committee comprised of: Alisa Webb, Nancy Barker, Linda Pardy, Samantha Pattridge, Susan Francis, Mary Saudelli, Ruthann Robinson and Liana Thompson. The successful completion of this project will yield additional enrollment for UFV and serves as an example of cross-institutional and industry collaboration.
- The CEP Library will be undergoing a renovation in the Winter 2020 semester, resulting in more flexible learning spaces and a better-designed service point.

- On October 16 (11 am – 1 pm), COA will be hosting an [Arts Expo 2019 event](#) at the UFV Envision Athletic Centre Foyer. This event will allow students to ask questions and connect with instructors and peers in the College of Arts (COA).
- In June 2019, UFV signed a transfer and articulation agreement with Surrey Fire Services (SFS) to recognize their training towards the [Bachelor of Integrated Studies](#) and the [General Studies Diploma](#). This is a first of its kind in western Canada, and a small team (Martha Dow, Michelle Rhodes, and Linda Pardy) are designing a course to be delivered on the SFS training campus in Winter 2020.
- January 9 - April 9, 2020, in partnership with Seabird Island Band, the Modern Languages department will be offering a new course during the Winter semester: HALQ 101 (accredited course), at Seabird Island Community School. This is in addition to the existing courses in Intro HALQ and HALQ 102 that are offered there for the [Intermediate Proficiency certificate](#).
- UFV recently signed an exchange agreement with one of Korea's top-ranked (#11) institutions, Chung-Ang University (affectionately referred to as "The K-Pop University" for its reputation as attracting Korean talent).
- The Faculty of Science's Science Rocks (SR) 2019 Summer Camps finished up August 16. It was the most successful year yet. Over the 6 week period, we welcomed 148 campers from grades 4-7. They enjoyed week long science based demonstrations and activities: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uSt3UVnna-U>
- Over 110 UFV science students, faculty and staff came together for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Science Social on September 26 at Evered Hall. Science Student Clubs and Associations were on hand to promote their groups while visiting with classmates, enjoying pizza, music, and games put on Campus Rec.
- The KUMOH Korea project—which saw 40 Korean students come of UFV for a four week Industrial English program last February—continues to progress. We are expecting 35 Korean students at UFV in September 2020 to complete Welding and Automation and Robotics programs. We are examining expansion of the project to include Culinary.
- A panel discussion called Bring the World to Canada and Canada to the World was held on October 1. Participants included: Dr. Garry Fehr; Dr. Jon Thomas; Councillor Sandy Blue; and Timothy Kendrick, President and Chief Designer, BW Global. Mayor Henry Braun also attended as a special guest.

Over the next few months, the Provost and Vice-President Academic's Office will be leading UFV's Strategic Planning process. Our next Strategic Plan will build off of UFV's Visioning exercise that resulted in a renewal of our Mission, Vision, and Values. A number of events are planned that will enable members across the UFV community to be actively engaged in helping to develop the key strategic priorities for UFV moving forward. I encourage everyone to be actively engaged in these consultative opportunities. These include:

- October 22, 2019 – President's Town Hall (Abbotsford 10:00 in A225/ Chilliwack 3:00 in A2428)
- November 15, 2019 – Current Trends in Higher Education – Ken Steele ([Eduvation](#))
- January, 2020 – Series of consultation meetings and online feedback platforms

Thank you to all those who contributed to providing these updates from the Faculties and Academic Units.

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Dr. James Mandigo  
Provost & VP Academic