

# MEMO

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

**DATE:** February 3, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Senate Provost's Report – January 2020

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Consultations for UFV's new Integrated Strategic Plans have now begun. Regular updates will be posted on UFV's website with a dedicated site soon to be launched for UFV's 2020 Integrated Strategic Plan. As of the date of this report (February 3) face-to-face consultations have taken place with the President's Advisory Council, the Board of Governors, Senate's Academic Planning and Priorities Committee, the Strategic Planning Stakeholders Group with representation from across UFV and the community, and the Thought Leaders from UFV. By the time of our next Senate meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>, the Dean's Council, Vice-President Student Staff, Admin CO, Senior Administrative Leadership Team (SALT), Senate Indigenization Committee, and the Student Union Society will have participated in face-to-face consultations to provide feedback on UFV's proposed Promise Statements. These promise statements will form the essence of UFV's Institutional Goals. Members across the UFV community will have an opportunity provide feedback on the institutional goals through online consultations scheduled to take place from February 18 – March 6<sup>th</sup>. Additional face-to-face consultations with the UFV community are planned for early April to help identify key strategies to achieve the institutional goals. Both Senate and the Board will receive monthly updates in addition to those provided on the 2020 Integrated Strategic Planning website.

The month of January also saw the Fraser Valley's first snow storm of the decade. If the old saying "in like a lion, out like a lamb" is true, then the end of this decade should be beautiful weather! However, with rapid changes in climate impacting areas all around the world, we not only need to keep working towards sustainable solutions that will positively benefit our environment, but we must also be prepared to deal with fluctuations in weather patterns that disrupt our academic programming. I would encourage Senate to consider how we might deal with significant interruptions to our academic schedule while maintaining our high quality of academic standards while also accommodating the needs of our students.

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, the Government of British Columbia published the findings and recommendations from the Food and Security Task Force entitled: [The future of BC's food system](#). UFV's CRC in food security, Dr. Lenore Newman, was one of the three members of this task force. While the report is comprehensive and provides a vital pathways for agriculture in BC, I would encourage Senators to pay close attention to Recommendation #3 which states: "CREATE AN AGRICULTURE AND AGRITECH INSTITUTE AS A COLLABORATIVE ENTITY ACROSS POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS TO DRIVE EXCELLENCE IN PRIORITY AREAS AND DEEPEN THE KNOWLEDGE BASE AND TALENT POOL FOR THE AGRICULTURE INNOVATION AGENDA." This report and its recommendations provide a significant opportunity for UFV to play a key role in supporting agriculture and agritech across the Province. I encourage all Senators to spend a few moments in reviewing the report and to consider opportunities for UFV to respond to the recommendations in partnership with our community members.

Finally, the month of January saw one of the largest tragedies ever to impact Canadian Universities. Of the 176 souls who lost their lives when Ukraine International Flight 752 was shot down over the skies of Tehran on January 8<sup>th</sup>, an estimated 46 of them were from 19 universities from across Canada. The flags at UFV were lowered for a week to share our sympathies and offer our condolences for all those who lost family, friends, and colleagues on that tragic day. The impact of this tragedy will have long lasting impacts across Canada and within our academic institutions. We can best honour their lives and contributions by continuing to strive towards excellence and tolerance in the work that we do.

The following are a number of highlights identified by leaders across our Academic Units.

### **Our Faculty & Staff**

- As a part of the website re-boot (reported last month), HR redefining the orientation / onboarding process to make it informative, video rich and welcoming for new employees: <https://www.ufv.ca/hr/orientation/>.
- Matt Lutz is the Senior HR Advisor who will provide supports to colleagues at both Chilliwack Campus, alternating between TTC and CEP on Fridays.
- After a successful first phase, we are moving forward with the second phase of the electronic faculty evaluation process. FATS and Health Sciences programming join our pilot this phase – providing faculty with the opportunity to receive feedback electronically versus paper form. Also, we are testing a revised process where faculty facilitate their own assessment, with the help of a student in the class. This method is widely used in other Universities.
- The Cascade published an article about the Physical Literacy Action Network (PLAN) outreach program developed by Kinesiology students and professors. The article was published online and in print on January 22, 2020. “Created by kinesiology professors Lauren Couture and Joanna Sheppard, the PLAN brings student volunteers into local elementary schools, providing UFV kinesiology students with valuable opportunities to gain experience applying what they’ve learned in the classroom to a real-life setting
- Dr. Iris Lesser facilitated a workshop on January 31, 2020 on the Abbotsford campus. This workshop focused on the “multitude of mental and physical health benefits associated with physical activity and why a lack of weight loss with physical activity shouldn’t be viewed as failure.”
- Our new BI Developer in Institutional Research and Planning, Karan Sachdeva, began work in the department on Jan. 27. Karan will lead the work on the development and refinement of BI dashboards. We have also arranged for our co-op student, Kabir Mann, to return to our department in summer 2020. Kabir has done some excellent work, specifically on the returning student dashboard. The fact he is a current student at UFV has provided our department with a unique and helpful perspective on our work.
- Over the last month of January, staff and faculty in Teaching and Learning provided 38 individual Blackboard training sessions with faculty members as well as conducted 35 consultations concerning teaching practice, technology and/or indigenization with faculty. The TLC also held 10 sessions in the K Building for training in the new Pod Classroom, K160, UFV’s newest and most high tech classroom. Anyone wishing to tour or experiment in the new classroom should contact with Teaching and Learning.
- There’s still room in the two-day workshop, Educators Journey Towards Reconciliation – Feb. 18 and 19 at the Abbotsford Campus. Participants will engage in a two-day journey to discover both challenges and best practices in decolonizing the classroom and educational practices. This is the first of two workshops in a series on Indigenizing curriculum. The second two-day workshop, Indigenizing the Curriculum, is being held February 20 and 21 at the Abbotsford campus. In this session, participants gain hands-on experience and are provided resources to bring together worldviews and Indigenous ways of knowing in the classroom. To register for these workshops, email [tlcevents@ufv.ca](mailto:tlcevents@ufv.ca).

- UFV International worked with Marketing to produce a great new video for promotion of UFV to international students: [https://youtu.be/V7PosJb\\_U1I](https://youtu.be/V7PosJb_U1I)
- Continuing Education (CE) will hold a PD Day on February 5th at Clearbrook Centre. This full-day line-up of professional development programming aims to equip and celebrate CE instructors by offering sessions on instructional technology and several workshops, including *Developing Your Instructor Self*; *Creating Dependable Allies*; *Meditation: The Practice & Science Behind It*; *Indigenizing Instructional Strategies*; and *How to Personalize the Territorial Acknowledgements in Your Course*.
- Dr. Jonathan Hughes officially started as Director of the new SoLUEC Jan 2, 2020; joining him, Amy Huesken, started as administrative assistant also on Jan 2, 2020.
- Dr. Stefania Pizzirani is part of a research team led by Dr. John Bass from UBC that recently was awarded a grant from the India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnership to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability (IC-Impacts) <https://ic-impacts.com/>
- The UFV Library held a public celebration and launch of Dr. Lenore Newman’s new book “Lost Feast” on January 21. Dr. Newman shared readings from her book to a large audience which included the Mayor of Abbotsford, Henry Braun. Lenore also travelled to Victoria and briefed the Premier on the ongoing work of the Food Security Task Force on Jan 27. The Task Force will be releasing their report (see below Dhillon et al.) at the 2020 Agriculture Innovation Day on January 31 at the Tradex. Dr. Lee will be attending this event along with many other participants of the Pacific Agriculture Show.
- Cascade coverage of CEP Library renovation: The CEP Library will be undergoing renovations through this winter semester, and the Cascade recently published an article about the exciting plans for the space: [https://issuu.com/the-cascade/docs/thecascade\\_vol28\\_iss01](https://issuu.com/the-cascade/docs/thecascade_vol28_iss01)
- Unpaywall and Open Access Button: Two new tools make it easier to discover open access versions of journal articles. The Library has enabled the Unpaywall app in our EBSCOhost databases and the Find It Discovery Service. Now a Full Text Open Access link appears under relevant citations. Individuals can also download the free Unpaywall browser extension for Firefox or Chrome. When you search for articles in databases or in Google Scholar, click on the article title. When an Open Access version of an article is available from a publisher, repository or other legitimate source, a green padlock icon appears on the right side. The Open Access Button provides a search box that allows you to find free, legal articles with just a click. You can search by article title, URL, DOI or citation to locate an open access version of a known article you are trying to locate.
- Chantelle Marlor (Social, Cultural and Media Studies Department Head and Assistant Professor) and Sven van de Wetering (Psychology Associate Professor) are hosting “Talking about Teaching” sessions for Arts faculty. Topics include: [Collaborate Software](#), [Canada as a destination for Indian International Students](#), [Assessments](#), [Faculty Time Management Tips](#), [International Students](#), [Team Teaching](#) and [Online Teaching Symposium](#).
- The College of Arts has hired a new collegium coordinator, [Siman Bains](#), to support engagement, activity and interaction between students (domestic and international), faculty, staff and community. Bains will act as a bridge to activities that are already taking place at UFV.
- UFV Faculty Microlectures — Wed, February 26 (11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) in A225, UFV Abbotsford
  - Faculty members interested in giving a two-minute microlecture should email [danielle.mijoburch@ufv.ca](mailto:danielle.mijoburch@ufv.ca) by February 14
- SSHRC Explore Grants (Deadline to apply: March 16)
  - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) has awarded UFV with \$20,000 to support research excellence in the social sciences and humanities. Type B, regular faculty members may

apply for a share of this funding (up to \$7000) for their projects. Applications are due March 16 and will be peer-reviewed and evaluated. Results announced April 15.

### Our Students

- Even with four snow days, the Academic Success Centre continued to grow its support of students year over year. Total sessions in January 2020 were almost 33% higher than January 2019. The ASC visited 17 courses for introductory sessions and there are seven courses using the Track Tutoring program - where an assignment requires tutoring sessions. One course is requiring Track Tutoring for all eight of its assignments.
- Construction in the trades areas for a changing facility for women is well underway. This very overdue facility seems obvious but has never existed at our trades facility previously
- Lunar New Year celebrations are currently happening in the Global Lounge in collaboration with Mandarin language classes. Students reported being very happy with this as the coronavirus outbreak has meant many other Lunar New Year celebrations have been cancelled.
- The Study Abroad Expo will take place on February 4<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with U-Join's event in the SUB.
- Join Applied Business Technology (ABT) students at Clearbrook Centre from 1:00 to 2:20 pm on February 10<sup>th</sup> to test, sample, and learn about cutting-edge products and services. In ABT's capstone course, *Web-based Business Communications*, students integrate learning from across the program. Teams of students develop the concept for a product or service, design accompanying marketing materials and social media campaigns, then present their products and services at an in-class product launch followed by a public trade show.
- Once again, UFV will be sending one science student to London, UK this summer (all expenses paid) to attend the London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF). Last year UFV Biology Student, **Isabelle St-Martin**, was the recipient of this two-week adventure. She shared her experience at our Information Session held on January 28<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for applications is February 25<sup>th</sup> and the shortlisted candidates will be presenting to our selection panel in early March.
- CMNS is participating in a unique and exciting joint project with Graphic Design and History. Students are working together in an interdisciplinary team to create interpretive signage for the Stave West Recreation Area, which is under development for further public use.
- Student Research Day — Tuesday, March 31 (10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) in Evered Hall, Student Union Building, UFV Abbotsford
  - a. Students must register by Friday, March 13
  - b. See website for event schedule, information packet, etc.
- Dr. Lin Long's honey extraction system was featured in a BC Government press release.

### Our Community

- CECE partnered with the *Alumni Association* and the new *School of Land Use and Environmental Change* to host a networking event for students on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The event brought together successful UFV alumni and aspiring professionals pursuing careers in environmental studies, planning, sustainability, and energy management.
- On-going planning with the Coordinator of Indigenous Initiatives for a Youth Gathering (to be hosted by the Indigenization Committee of Senate this spring); the Moosehide Campaign against violence towards women and children; and a Language gathering to honour teachers and students of the Halq'eméylem language of the Stó:lō peoples .
- The UFV Teaching Counselling Clinic at the Sweeney Neighborhood Center was approved. It is located on Bevan, adjacent to the library and the Abbotsford Senior Secondary School. This will be a wonderful

improvement to both students as they engage in their practicum experiences but also for the larger Fraser Valley community.

- The *27th International Adults Learning Mathematics (ALM27)* conference, to be held in Vancouver, BC from July 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, is being organized by Dr. Judy Larsen, associate professor in the Upgrading and University Preparation Department. This is the first time this international research forum will be held in Canada, and it is bound to attract a diverse array of sessions around research, practice, and policy in adult mathematics education given this year's theme, *Embracing Diversity and Inclusion: Adults Learning Mathematics in a Changing World*. A call for proposals is now out, and further details may be found at <http://alm-online.net/alm27-conference/>.
- As part of the Dean's Seminar Series, Molecular Biologist, Dr. Adam Ruben, Associate Director of Vaccine Stabilization & Logistics at Sanaria Inc, and stand-up comedian <http://adamruben.net/> will be giving a seminar on Tuesday February 11 in B101 from 3 to 4:15 pm. <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2020/01/08/faculty-of-science-deans-seminar-series-presents-tv-host-comedian-molecular-biologist-dr-adam-ruben-feb-11-3pm-b101/>
- A partnership between UFV and Seabird Island School is helping to revitalize the Halq'eméylem language (the language of the Stó:lō people), which has only one surviving fluent speaker. Mary Stewart (Modern Languages Assistant Professor) and Dianna Kay (Modern Languages Seminar Assistant) have been working with Seabird Island teachers to create and explore innovative pedagogies.
- "We Are Hockey" Closing Event — Monday, February 17 (1-4 p.m.) at the Sikh Heritage Museum
  - a) Hosted by UFV South Asian Studies Institute

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

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Provost & VP Academic