

# MEMO

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

**DATE:** March 1, 2020

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

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Consultations for UFV's new Integrated Strategic Plans continued throughout the month of February culminating in the launch of a dedicated website: <https://ufv.ca/strategic-planning/>. Three draft institutional goals were developed after face-to-face consultations took place over a two month period with over 160 individuals and 13 stakeholder groups across UFV. The three draft institutional goals under consideration are:

1. UFV will provide inclusive learning environments for everyone.
2. UFV will provide opportunities where people can discover, develop, and share their gifts and celebrate the gifts of others.
3. Situated on the S'olh Temexw, the traditional lands of the Stó:lo, UFV will collaboratively partner in pursuits to enrich the lives of people on our campuses, in our local communities, and beyond.

As of March 2<sup>nd</sup>, there were over 150 responses to the online consultative process. On Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, two Town Hall consultations with the UFV community are planned to present various strategies around how UFV plans to achieve these goals. The first session is planned from 9:00 – 12:00 in A225 on the Abbotsford campus and the second is planned for 2:00 – 5:00 at the CEP Gathering Place in Chilliwack.

This year's [Fund for Innovation Teaching](#) recipients are:

1. Vandy Britton, Teacher Education department, Faculty of Professional Studies.  
Project: *Nisga'a Experiential Teaching Opportunity*
2. Margaret Coombes, School of Social Work and Human Services, Faculty of Professional Studies.  
Project: *Teaching Counselling Clinic*
3. Anna Griffith, School of Creative Arts, College of Arts.  
Project: *The Creativity Lab*
4. Masud Khawaja, School of Business, Faculty of Professional Studies.  
Project: *Coaching UFV Student Team for International Debate Competition on Ethical Issues*
5. Renee Prasad, Agriculture, Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies.  
Project: *Precision Agriculture Lab: Phase 1 Horticulture*
6. Christine Slavik, Child Youth and Family Studies, Faculty of Professional Studies.  
Project: *Using wearable technology-based metrics to measure the impacts of HR & HRV and mindfulness-based practices*
7. Brianna Strumm, School of Social Work and Human Services, Faculty of Professional Studies.  
Project: *A socially just global service-learning program*

At the time of writing this report, the global concerns around the spread of the COVID-19 virus continues. While the risk remains low for those living in Canada and British Columbia, the situation is still fluid and UFV has made the decision to move its monitoring of the COVID-19 virus to an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) status. UFV's Emergency Management Plan can be found here: <https://www.ufv.ca/media/assets/emergency-management/UFV-Emergency-Management-Plan-Final.pdf>. I want to reassure all members of the UFV community that we are in regular communications with Government officials at the local, provincial, and federal levels along with our provincial and national university colleagues to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. We are also closely monitoring international travel warnings where we currently have members of the University community participating in various activities (e.g., recruitment, student exchange) and are in regular communication with them. We are also closely monitoring regions where we have students, staff, and faculty planning to visit as part of up-coming activities (e.g., study abroad, student exchanges, etc) and are relying on the Government of Canada's Travel Advisories (<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>) to help make informed decisions on a case-by-case basis. UFV International is a member of the International SOS service (<https://www.internationalsos.com/>) which sends out alerts to individuals if they are in an impacted area and provides information on how to access supports. When an individual registers their travel plans on the ISOS service, it also enables UFV International to track the location of members of the UFV community who are travelling internationally and to reach out to them if they need help. Local information about the COVID-19 virus can be found at Fraser Valley Health Authority: <https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/coronavirus#.Xlx1r25FyHk>.

The following are a number of highlights identified by leaders across our Academic Units during the month of February.

### **Our Faculty & Staff**

- IRP has begun work on the 2019/20 Accountability Report and Plan for the Ministry. Our 2018/19 Accountability Report is listed twice in this year's Accountability Framework Manual as an example to illustrate best practices to other universities. We are one of only three universities in BC to be mentioned.
- CRIM Professor Emeritus Yvon Dandurand and Professor Rosie Meek co-authored a background paper in support of the United Nations (UNODC) Expert Group Meeting on the Integration of Sport in Youth Crime Prevention in Bangkok, Thailand. Fourth year practicum student Landon Kaetler contributed to the research for this report through his practicum with the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy.
- Dr. Carin Bondar, Adjunct Professor and UFV Faculty of Science Communicator recently returned from a lecture series she gave in the Amazon about the biology of the regions with a framework of her own writing and books. She also provided 2 lectures in Argentina during her tour. She was invited as one of the keynote speakers at Darwin Day at the University of Iowa. She joined two other keynote speakers from Duke and the University of Chicago. While in Iowa City, she participated in a book reading and signing at the Prairie Lights Bookstore. She just booked an appearance on the Disney+ Documentary Series "The World According to Jeff Goldblum" <https://disneyplusoriginals.disney.com/show/the-world-according-to-jeff-goldblum>. Carin is currently working on a National campaign collaboration with the Girl Guides of Canada with the message of 'Stay in STEM'. She finished off February by presenting at the UFV Faculty Microlectures on February 26. Her talk was entitled: *Taxonomy 2020: A Visionary Approach to Biological Exploration*.
- 14 researchers participated in UFV's annual [Faculty Micro-Lectures](#) on Wednesday, February 26. Those who missed the event can [view photos](#) or watch a video recording, coming soon to [UFV MediaSpace](#).

- During the month of February, staff and faculty in Teaching and Learning facilitated 17 individual two-hour Blackboard training sessions with faculty members as well as conducted 49 one-on-one consultations concerning teaching practice, technology and /or indigenization with faculty. The TLC also facilitated a three-day Instructional Skills Workshop for attendees from UFV and the local community. As well, staff conducted a half-day workshop for Continuing Education faculty and held three indigenization workshops for specific groups.
- CECE met with 7 international students who are new to seeking jobs in Canada. CECE helped them to tailor their resume and cover letter to individual job openings, create accomplishment statements based on their academic and professional experience, and articulate their personal and professional strengths to prospective employers.
- PDQA has also updated the plan and timelines for the upcoming Quality Assurance Process Audit (QAPA) that UFV will be undergoing in 2020/21. PDQA also coordinated with the Ministry to organize the Institution Briefing by the Secretariat of the Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB), to be held on April 16, 2020. This briefing will signal the official launch of the UFV QAPA. PDQA has already formed a QAPA steering committee and working group, which have been named the *Way Finders* and the *Paddlers* respectively. The names for these two groups were chosen based on advice from UFV's Senior Advisor, Indigenous Affairs, Shirley Hardman. Over the next few weeks, PDQA will be communicating the plans and timelines for QAPA to the UFV bodies responsible for institutional quality assurance (Senate, APPC, GSC, UEC, SALT).

#### **Our Students**

- Our current BEd teacher candidates have been busily preparing for their upcoming practicum. In keeping with our year-long inquiry (What does it mean to be a socially just educator in the Fraser Valley in 2020?), all TCs participated in two important workshops this past month -- *Sto:lo Governance* with Peggy Janicki (a simulation/role drama where they traveled from pre-contact to the present day, 'living' the changes that happened in the local communities due to colonization); and, *Creating a Gender Inclusive School Community* with Trevana Spilchin. Both workshops were well-received, and challenged TC to examine perspectives and lived experiences other than their own.
- The students in CYC402 Class – Community & Interdisciplinary Practices in CYC, will be participating in the homeless count as part of their experiential learning.
- UFV Computer Information Systems students won the first prize at the BC Canadian Cyber Defence (CDC) Canadian Hacking Challenge. The Cyber Defence Challenge features 36 post-secondary students representing six British Columbia (BC) post-secondary institutions including UFV, KPU, UBC, SFU, NYIT and BCIT. The main aim of Canadian Cyber Defence was to ensure that all Canadian students have the appropriate knowledge and skills required to make empowered decisions regarding the safe use of technology. Student teams are in a race against time to protect data, systems, and confidential record information. Throughout the day, the student teams attempt to identify, mitigate, and understand security threats and compromises in a competitive, engaging environment. The teams score points based on the level of security risk and the mitigation practice implemented.
- We are participating in the Canadian University Survey Consortium (CUSC) 2020 Survey of Middle Years Students. The survey cohort has been submitted, along with the required administrative documents. The survey is now in the field (from Feb. 24th to April 12th, 2020).
- The scholarships for international students are launched and have been received very positively. We sent an announcement/communication to all agents, partners, UFV International staff, and other stakeholders. Also, they will be included in the new marketing material. Details can be found [here](#).
- [UFV Student Research Day](#) — Tuesday, March 31 (10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) in Evered Hall, Student Union Building, UFV Abbotsford
  - Students must register online by Friday, March 13

- [See website](#) for event schedule, information packet, and several upcoming workshops to help students with their research posters (March 5, 10, and 12)
- Total tutoring sessions in February 2020 were 14.3 % higher compared to February 2019, and some additional hours were added for drop-in tutoring at the Indigenous Students Centre in Abbotsford.
- In January 2020, 14 students completed Continuing Education's 4.5 month [Medical Office Assistant \(MOA\)](#) certificate program. Since completing the program, about 80% of the graduates have already found permanent employment in the medical field, including several who now hold positions with their practicum sponsors.

### Our Community

- TTC Open House and regional skills competition March 5th. Very exciting events that have over 1500 grade 9's trying a range of hands on activities while regional high school trades and technologies competitors try out for provincial skills competition spots.
- Sara Davidson begins a series of workshops for multiple school districts with funding we received from the Ministry of Education that responds to the TRC Call to Action 62 which recommends that age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada be a mandatory education requirement for K-12 students
- Week of Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, the CYFS Department hosted the *Preventing Childhood Sexual Abuse training* through the Little Warriors organization. It well received with 130 participants attending the training.
- The School of SWHS is pleased to announce the opening of UFV in the Community: Counselling, Advocacy, Learning, and Leading (CALL) services located at the Sweeney Centre. The agency is on the Third Floor, 33355 Bevan Ave, Abbotsford, BC V2S 0E7. There are currently seven BSW students and one diploma student completing their field placements at CALL. The clinical lead is Dr. Leah Douglas, RCSW. The team is working closely with the adjacent Abbotsford Secondary School administrative staff and counsellors to address a counselling service gap for their students. CALL has agreed to provide free counselling services to secondary students and their families.
- Mark Breedveld will be hosting a "lunch and learn" event in collaboration with the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce on March 13, with many of his students participating.
- Thanks to Kinesiology professor Alison Prichard-Orr, the Faculty of Health Sciences has assumed a membership to the [Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability](#). The ALA is the preeminent source for all things relating to active movement within the disabled community in Canada. This membership brings access to online teaching resources that are being used by both faculty and students.
- On Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 6 high school students from Hope, Agassiz, and Boston Bar visited our facilities to learn about the programs offered through our faculty. The students spent a full day at the CEP campus learning about their options in Nursing, Dental, Health Care, and Kinesiology. They had the opportunity to spend time in our dental clinic, the nursing labs, the simulation rooms, and a kinesiology lab. Their interest in the programs increased noticeably throughout the day, and more than one of students left feeling excited about their futures at UFV.
- The City of Chilliwack partnered with UFV in launching a collaborative pilot project in challenge-based Experiential Education. The project focused on environmental issues such as the use of Single-Use-Items and the reduction and prevention of Illegal Dumping. Students from Graphic and Digital Design (GDD) worked closely with staff from the City's Environmental Services department to develop solutions.
- [Haq and History Exhibition](#) was a success and was well attended. The exhibit was curated and designed by the Royal BC Museum in partnership with the South Asian Studies Institute at UFV. Haq and History gave visitors a chance to experience stories from and about South Asian Canadians and their documented lives,

including highlights about work, home life and keeping cultural traditions alive in BC. The exhibit closed on February 13, 2020.

- The Faculty of Science Dean’s Seminar Series welcomed Molecular Biologist, Dr. Adam Ruben, <http://adamruben.net/> on Tuesday February 11. His informative yet humorous talk focused on controversies over experiments and research findings which affects the way the public views science and scientists. Following his presentation, he took time to visit with the audience, answer questions and sign a few books!
- Caroline Majeau and Janice Nagtegaal have been busy organizing the next instalment of the Fraser Valley Regional Science Fair that will be hosted at UFV on April 1 to 4. Registration is open until March 19 and we expect close to 100 students from K-12 in the Fraser Valley region will participate, with our faculty and students volunteering to make this another successful event.
- On February 20<sup>th</sup> UFV welcomed 190+ kids from grades 8, 9 and 10 to compete in the Fraser Valley Regional Math Challengers Competition. This yearly event was organized by Math Professors, Dr. Kseniya Garaschuk, Dr. Ian Affleck, Math and Stats Department Assistant, Margret Bollerup and their team of mathematicians. The winners will advance to the Provincial Finals being held at UBC on April 4, 2020.
- February 17 — SASI’s “We are Hockey” exhibit on racism in Canada’s national game hosted an event with Rogers Media and Sportsnet, covered by Omni Television. ([Photos](#) | [TV Coverage](#))

Thank you to all those who contributed to providing these updates from the Faculties and Academic Units. There is much to celebrate at UFV every single day!

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Dr. James Mandigo  
Provost & VP Academic