

MEMO

FROM: Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic
DATE: April 7, 2020
SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report – March 2020

The month of March, 2020 will go down in history as the month when the COVID-19 global pandemic significantly impacted every aspect of life in North America. At the time of writing this report, the World Health Organization reported more than 1.2 million global cases of the viruses resulting in close to 68,000 deaths worldwide. British Columbia, along with the rest of Canadian Provinces, are under states of emergency with only essential businesses open. All schools and post-secondary institutions across the country are now delivering their classes through a variety of remote methods joining 90% of the world's students who can not physically attend their schools. And while the availability of effective treatments and vaccines to stop the spread of COVID-19 are still months away, there are glimmers of hope emerging from society. One of those is education. While our ability to deliver our courses and programs has been limited to primarily online methods, we have not let the virus stand in our way of the pursuit of knowledge. By rapidly shifting to alternate forms of course delivery and continuing to pursue our academic vision as we remain open primarily through virtual methods, we have demonstrated to the world that we will not be deterred in our commitment to engage learners, transform lives, and build communities.

The following are a number of highlights identified by leaders across our Academic Units of the important work that continued to take place during what can be considered UFV's most challenging month in its history.

Our Faculty & Staff

- The PDQA office has been working diligently to manage the transition to remote work in response to the measures to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. At this point, all PDQA staff are working remotely, technology needs have been or are being addressed, and the team is in regular communication with another using remote means. For the most part, we are proceeding with business "as usual" although obviously with some significant adjustments, such as moving PWG meetings online via BlueJeans, shifting to electronic discussion and voting for program proposals, etc. For example, both the Bioinformatics certificate and the Spanish minor proposals are being reviewed electronically by APPC and SBC respectively, for recommendations on approval in the current month. This keeps both proposals moving forward according to the planned timelines for development.
- Work has continued on the development of concept papers, with the following already or expected to be approved by Faculty/College Councils in time to meet timelines for the current cycle: Communications major and minor; Intercultural Studies associate certificate; Journalism minor and extended minor; Civic Innovation and Governance certificate; and Innovation, Technology and Society graduate certificate.
- Arts faculty and staff attended the national conference CANNEXUS on career development. Dr. Linda Pardy presented on the importance of and strategies for career development for Humanities and Social Science students as part of a keynote panel with members from KPU, U of T, and Memorial.
- The Dean's Office in the College of Arts launched a pilot project to create a Collegium space for students, faculty, staff and community. The purpose of this initiative was to increase International student engagement with domestic students, faculty and staff, foster deeper community building, support wellness, and provide a bridge between the College of Arts, Student Life and International programming. With the

new leap to remote learning, the Collegium Coordinator is currently exploring creative ways to connect virtually with students, faculty, staff and community. Please tune into the [Collegium's Instagram page](#) to learn more and connect.

- In March 2020, staff and faculty in Teaching and Learning provided almost 500 individual Blackboard training sessions and consultations with faculty members in a variety of delivery methods that included in person, online, phone and email. To help faculty transition their face-to-face classes into the online environment, the TLC team developed the Contingency Road Map www.tinyurl.com/ufvtlccontingency. This resource was accessed heavily during March including access from around the world.
- In response to UFV transitioning to an online format, final assessments were identified as a possible challenge. In order to provide an alternative form of assessment for final exams, a guide for an alternative assessment using Indigenous concepts was developed for faculty to consider. The guide was added to the UFV Course Contingency Roadmap as a resource under the category Assessments. The guide was also emailed to Faculty who have been working on Indigenization.
- Teacher Education held the first of our Indigenization Workshop series for practicing teachers. The next two workshops are full, with waiting lists. As such, they have added two more. The workshop titles are: *Residential Schools and their Legacies*, *Exploring Decolonization and Reconciliation with BC Curriculum*, and *Holistic Engagement with Story*.
- Friends Without Borders Program: FWB sessions for mentors and friends are being offered in an online format (Bluejeans) in order to support students with the transition to online learning and in dealing with the global pandemic locally as well as addressing the challenges of being away from their families.
- The STEP Café (Settlement, Transition, and Engagement Programming): This is being held via Bluejeans for any students to join (virtual “drop-in”) and ask questions/get support for transitioning to online learning, accommodation changes, emergency funding, coping with the global pandemic, self-care, making social connections, etc.
- With the current closure of IELTS and TOEFL test centres around the world, ELS has been working with UFV International to look at adding the fully online Duolingo English Test (DET) as a temporary standard to meet UFV’s English language proficiency admission requirement at the entry and diploma/degree levels.
- Research Guidelines in Response to COVID-19 updated March 30.
- Cindy Jardine, Martha Dow, and Satwinder Bains’ COVID-19 grant will conduct research on the health information needs and gaps faced by families visiting friends and relatives (VFR) in their countries of origin. <https://blogs.ufv.ca/blog/2020/03/ufv-receives-federal-funding-to-research-preventive-measures-in-spread-of-diseases-like-covid-19/>
- The Library joined the Academic Success Centre and other UFV departments for the very successful Long Night Against Procrastination – LNAP – event on March 4th. Both the Chilliwack and Abbotsford libraries hosted various activities that students could choose to participate in, such as makerspace activities, therapy dog visits, free printing (provided by ITS), and Ask a Librarian assistance.
- The UFV Library participates in the province-wide AskAway service, and this is proving to be an invaluable tool during the COVID-19 situation. AskAway enables real-time, chat-based research assistance for learners when they need it. With a single click, students can connect with a librarian to receive expert guidance. Staff from 31 post-secondary libraries across British Columbia and the Yukon chat online with learners, providing convenient, point-of-need access to province-wide research help beyond the limitations of library buildings and traditional hours of service. In addition to contributing hours for the shared service, UFV librarians are also monitoring the institutional queue, which means they can pick up questions from UFV students and faculty before they go into the shared question queue.

Our Students

- The first Mad Monday Challenge to come out of the College of Arts' pilot project called the Student Experience Design Lab (SXD Lab), which supports real-life student-led learning opportunities, was a success. On March 9, two student teams were challenged to conceptualize the branding of the College of Arts Experiential Learning Project. Students formed two interdisciplinary teams (comprised of Graphic and Digital Design, Criminology, Communications and Visual Arts) and were tasked to brainstorm ideas, write a report and present.
- Winners have been announced for the 6th pARTicipate Biannual Poster Competition organized by the School of Creative Arts and UFV. The theme of the 2019/2020 contest was "Save the Earth!" All posters submitted by the students to this year's pARTicipate competition were powerful, creative, and inspirational. GRAND PRIZE: \$500^[1]_[SEP] Jade Choo (G+DD student), Sea the Truth, 2020; FIRST PLACE: \$300^[1]_[SEP] Anoop Dhaliwal (BFA student), Save the Earth: Local, Global, Balance, 2020; SECOND PLACE: \$250^[1]_[SEP] Jenna Cowie-Randle (BFA student), Fight for Our Planet, 2020; THIRD PLACE: \$2... click to view all the poster winners on Instagram.
- The opening of the UFV Theatre production of Richard III by William Shakespeare, adapted and directed by Anna Griffith, was a huge success and all performances were fully booked.
- 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). This also requires working with ITS to ensure email white listing is in place for the duration of the survey.
- UFV Student Research Day was successfully held online Tuesday, March 31
 - 189 students participated by submitting 92 research posters
 - Agriculture student Christopher Reed was featured in a video to tease the event
 - 13 awards of \$500 are being given to the top-scoring posters in several categories
 - Winners announced online April 3
- 16th annual Undergraduate Research Excellence Awards celebrating our top student researchers and their mentors. Award recipients will be determined in May. See website for information and nomination forms.
- On Wednesday, March 4, the Kinesiology Student Association (KINSA) hosted a panel event to share UFV's current kinesiology research. The panel featured 9 kinesiology faculty members each talking about their own research. Topics ranged from the effects of blueberry supplements on cycling performance to Olympic canoeing techniques.

Our Community

- Indigenous Affairs met with Indigenous artist Rocky LaRock re: carving on sight and commission of a matriarch figure for Conference Services and fallen cedar tree at CE and worked with Indigenous Cooks Training and ISC to deliver 16 hampers to Elders (C-19 reconciliation)
- On March 4, the Faculty of Science hosted Dr. Shannon Bard from Hemmera, an environmental consultancy company, as our GreenSpeak seminar presenter. She gave an interesting talk on "Coastal Scene Investigation" that detailed a long term study solving ecotoxicological issues along the Salish Sea.
- SLUEC hosted the Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science and BC Institute of Agrologists joint annual meeting on March 7. Over 100 attendees participated in a day long event <https://www.prsss.ca/events/event/2020-spring-workshop-and-agm-soils-in-the-field/>. UFV participants included Drs. Jonathan Hughes, Renee Prasad, Dieter Giesing among various others.
- On March 12, SLUEC's affiliate member, Dr. Trevor Carolan's Environment Studies 410 class organized and hosted a special "Redefining Sustainability" learning event. Joining in were 45 visiting high-school students from the Chilliwack School District, under the supervision of Ryan Pastorchik, a UFV alumnus.

- CECE hosted a Hiring Fair on March 3, 2020 to help students network with employers who are actively hiring in the lower mainland region. There were 515 students who attended and employers who represent 27 different industries.

Thank you to all those who contributed to providing these updates from the Faculties and Academic Units and thank you to all those at UFV how have persevered in the face of adversity this past month and in the months ahead of us.

Ey Si:yam
Dr. James Mandigo
Provost & VP Academic