

**MEMO**

**FROM:** Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic  
**DATE:** April 26, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Senate Provost's Report – April 2020

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April, 2020 marked the month where UFV joined Universities across BC, Canada and around to world to offer its academic programs fully online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the scientific community races towards finding a viable treatment and vaccine, billions of people around the world remain in their homes and practice physical distancing in an attempt to stop the spread of the deadly disease that as of today's date, has claimed the lives of over 206,000 people. Now more than ever, society needs Universities to continue to do the work it is doing. That is why our courses continue to be delivered, research and scholarly activity continues wherever possible, and our service to our community keeps going, albeit in remote and online formats.

Over the past few weeks, I have "restarted" the Integrated Strategic Planning process. After receiving feedback via Civil Space on the Goals recommended by Senate in February, the following are the Institutional Goals that we will be moving forward with after consulting with the UFV Stakeholder's Group that has representation across the UFV community:

Situated on the S'olh Temexw, the traditional lands of the Stó:lo, UFV will:

1. Engage learners by providing inclusive learning environments for everyone
2. Transform lives by providing opportunities for people to discover, develop, and share their gifts while also recognizing and celebrating the gifts of others
3. Build communities by collaborating and partnering in pursuits that enrich the lives of all people on our campuses, in our local communities, and beyond.

Our next step will be to identify Strategic Imperatives for each of the Goals. We have tentatively scheduled a Virtual Town Hall for June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> to seek the UFV's community input into the Strategic Imperatives followed by additional consultation once again via Civil Space. I hope to be able to share with Senate and the Board a draft of the UFV Integrated Strategic Plan by September, 2020.

The following are a number of highlights identified by leaders across our Academic Units of the important work that continued to take place during UFV's first ever fully remote month in its history.

**Our Faculty & Staff**

- A Q&A session on Evidence Based Science Behind COVID-19 was successfully hosted by Drs. Lucy Lee, Carin Bondar and Natallia Varankovich on April 2 via Zoom. Close to 50 UFV staff, faculty, and some community attendees participated in this virtual session.
- Dr. Carin Bondar has put the final touches on the first issue of the Faculty of Science magazine. There may be a few more final touches but the viewable document can be seen at <https://indd.adobe.com/view/b0f6e0ab-acc9-4e4f-83fe-e85131e6a4da>
- The Hospital Play Specialists Conference in New Zealand was a success. Christine Slavik delivered two keynote addresses, the first on "Self-Regulations: Return to Calm, Understanding Self-Regulation in

Ourselves and Our Patients", and the second "Self-care as Stewardship through Challenge & Change". The feedback was that the sessions were valuable and are being utilized more than ever as a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

- Each ABT student completes a three-week practicum as part of the program, and the next round of practica is in June. Our practicum instructor has been working with current hosts to develop remote-work administrative placements, and hosts have been receptive to the new circumstances. Students also have the option of completing a virtual office experience supervised by the instructor or a self-directed administrative project resulting in a dossier or e-portfolio.
- Human Resources has focused on increased positive communications by profiling various positive stories via a daily blog: <https://www.ufv.ca/hr/>. In addition to these posts, a regular area on UFV Now profiles People and HR Updates.
- HR has worked in partnership with Campus Recreation to create an at home fitness and wellness called UFV Unite <https://blogs.ufv.ca/ufv-at-work/2020/04/17/ufv-unite-connecting-the-ufv-community/>
- New COVID-19 research guide: The criminal justice system has been immensely impacted by COVID-19. Developed by librarian Patti Wilson in partnership with UFV faculty Hayli Millar and Yvon Dandurand, this new LibGuide explores the effect on prisons, courts, policing, crime, human rights, vulnerable populations and more. It's fascinating reading for everyone, not just students of criminology: <https://libguides.ufv.ca/covidcrim>
- The physical library collection remains unavailable as the provincial state of emergency and physical distancing requirements remain in place. One of our librarians was working with a UFV student during an AskAway chat reference session. The student really needed access to a specific physical book in our collection. The librarian was able to identify that the book was available from one of our e-book vendors for a reasonable price, and within the day we had purchased the book and the student had access to it. We won't be able to do that in every case, but we encourage faculty to contact their liaison librarians, and students to use AskAway, if there's a specific book they need. We will do what we can, and find alternatives when we cannot supply the exact item needed.
- School of Creative Arts (SoCA) instructor, Randall Steeves' work was featured in Collider, an online exhibition hosted by the Elissa Cristall Gallery. [View it here.](#)
- The SoCA wellness committee is currently posting wellness activities and tips on its Facebook and Instagram pages ([@UFVSoCA](#)) to enhance its online community engagement and support wellness at UFV. Topics include: Movement Monday, Brain Teaser Tuesday, Wellness Wednesday, Challenge Thursday and Foody Friday.
- Tenure and Promotion workshops for candidates and orientation sessions for new committee members are scheduled for May
  - Workshops for Candidates
    - Process and Rights                      Monday, May 11 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
    - Compiling the Dossier                      Thursday, May 21 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
  - Training for Committees
    - New Member Orientation    Monday, May 25th from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m
    - New Member Orientation    Friday, May 29th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Brand new to TLC are the MicroCourse workshops <http://events.ufv.ca/tlc/> to familiarize faculty not only with tools in Blackboard but also the pedagogy behind the tools to enhance the student online learning

experience. These courses are attracting upwards of 30 participants each and promote collaboration among peers and instructors. Faculty learn how to develop student engagement, create easy-to-navigate course designs, and discover new ways to assess student learning. All employees at UFV are welcome to attend these courses. They are scheduled to Sept 2020.

- TLC developed two resources sites – a contingency site for immediate movement to online, followed by an [Online Teaching Fundamentals](#) site with resources.
- TLC rolled out the [Online Course Development Guidelines](#), which had been sent through various committees at the university for review, revision and endorsement just prior to the COVID outbreak. The Guidelines provide the basic requirements for a good online course.
- UFV Int'l continues to explore the idea of “virtual exchange” and Collaborative Online International Learning (or COIL) with its partners. This may be a focus of the next Internationalization Fund callout. Additionally, the federal government’s outbound mobility program that was supposed to launch in fall has been postponed to spring 2021. The call for proposals will seek a focus on risk mitigation as it pertains to the destination (insurance, etc.).

### Our Students

- The much anticipated Climate Change music-video, directed by Dr. Carin Bondar, UFV Biology Adjunct Professor and Faculty of Science Communicator, was cleverly released on Earth Day, April 22. The production involved undergraduate students Abdul Aziz-Abdul Ghafoor, Sasha Tuttle, Nafeel Arshad, Jide Arojojoye, Emily Reid, Kaitlin James and Megan Simpson. Faculty members appearing in the video are Cherie Enns, Stefania Pizzirani, Michelle Rhodes, Olav Lian, Jonathan Hughes, Afia Raja, Ian Affleck, Kseniya Garaschuk, Vanessa Radzimski, Alan Reid, Tim Cooper, Linus Chiang, Pedro Montoya-Pelaez and of course, Deans Lucy Lee and Jacqueline Nolte along with UFV President Joanne MacLean just to name a few. VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dr1tgIWEJeA>.
- The Teacher Candidates began remote teaching with their Teacher Mentors. They are helping their Teacher Mentors to make the transition to online teaching, and helping their students to stay connected with adult role models other than family members.
- HarvestIR now home to award-winning student research posters: Our colleagues in the Research, Engagement and Graduate Studies department held a very successful virtual Student Research day in March, with 92 research posters submitted. The 13 award winning posters are all eligible to be included in the HarvestIR digital intuitional repository, where they will be permanently available, and many of them have been submitted. You can find this year’s winners, along with those of other years, here: <https://ufv.arcabc.ca/islandora/object/ufv%3Astudentworkposters>
- Visual Arts student, Luke Pardy was invited to present his work at an exhibit in Science World, Vancouver. The exhibit has now been moved online, click here to view the [“Now” virtual art exhibit](#).
- CityStudio’s Hubbub goes virtual! This semester’s Hubbub showcases the accomplishments of 105 students who worked in research groups to meet four important civic challenges. Geography Cherie Enns’ students took on the subject of climate adaptation and proposed a variety of innovative local solutions. A class of senior political science students were led by their professor Fiona MacDonald through a process of scientific inquiry in the field of and personal reflections on the subjects of diversity and multiculturalism in Abbotsford. The Geography and Communications classes taught by Mariano Mapili and Paul Fontaine tackled a long-standing local issue of European starling management, in relation to blueberry crop loss prevention. Their experimental research led them to experience the capabilities of drone technology and

offered a hands-on experience in developing public surveys and other real-world communication strategies. Finally, two of Dr. Sharon Gillies' senior Biology students carried on research and experimentation in eradication of Japanese knotweed, a type of invasive species that is prevalent throughout the Fraser Valley. Everyone is invited to drop in to the virtual Hubbub. On now until April

30. <https://letstalkabbotsford.ca/citystudio-virtual-hubbub>

- *Friends Without Borders* Program and *The STEP Café* continue to be 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.

### **Our Community**

- Dr. Carin Bondar, UFV Biology Adjunct Professor and Faculty of Science Communicator was a guest on Breakfast Television Vancouver on April 15 where they discussed how Covid-19 is impacting wildlife.
- Dr. Lenore Newman presented on growing the agriculture technology industry to Abbotsford Mayor Henry Braun and the council members. This presentation concludes the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) usage mapping project funded in part by the City of Abbotsford. The mapping was completed by Drs. Lenore Newman, Lisa Powell, and Mariano Mapili.
- UFV International aims to collaborate with Fraser Valley India's team to provide on-the-ground support to UFV students choosing to take courses online from India. Our goal here is not to replicate efforts. Rather, we strive to provide "same-time-zone, same-language" support to (mostly) new-to-UFV students as they navigate the complexities of beginning their studies in an online environment.
- On April 9, the Chilliwack Progress published a story about 2 of our Kinesiology professors who are researching the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to people's physical and mental health. There is a [CBC news](#) story on the study. Read the story in the [Progress](#).

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 who have persevered in the face of adversity this past month and in the months ahead of us.

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Dr. James Mandigo

Provost & VP Academic