

# MEMO

**FROM:** Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic  
**DATE:** May 27, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Senate Provost's Report – May, 2020

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The month of May contained some rays of hope in the global response to COVID-19. Although the pandemic is far from over (5.6M cases/ 350k deaths), British Columbia has managed to flatten the curve of daily cases. May 26<sup>th</sup> was also the first time since April 17<sup>th</sup> that the Province reported no deaths due to COVID-19.

On Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, the [Province's Go Forward Plan](#) outlined three Phases of BC's gradually "reopening" of how various sectors will deal with managing the spread of the SARS-Cov-2 virus. As scientific progress is being made towards a vaccine and effective treatment methods, our new normal involves finding ways to safely live with the virus by preventing its spread and protecting those most vulnerable to the dangers of the virus.

While the virus has caused us to transition to mainly online forms of instruction for the Summer term, it has not slowed down our commitment to engage learners, transform lives, and build communities. Registrations to courses for the Summer term are some of the highest we have seen in years as faculty members continue to deliver their courses using engaging forms of pedagogy that our students have come to expect at UFV.

May also marked the month where UFV [announced](#) that it will continue to deliver the majority of its courses in online and remote formats for the Fall, 2020 term. In courses where learning outcomes are impossible to be achieved in an online format, face-to-face instruction is being considered. Deans are currently working with Department Heads to review plans on how to deliver these limited face-to-face classes in a safe manner that follow directives from the Provincial Health Officer.

I would like to thank and acknowledge all members of the UFV community for all your tireless work as we work our way through the global pandemic together. Despite having to juggle additional responsibilities in our homes, in our communities, in our workplaces, and in our learning environments, our vision of being a gathering place to ***pursue diverse pathways of scholarship, leading to community connection, reconciliation, and prosperity, locally and beyond*** has never waivered. These past 3 months have seen inspiring actions of our faculty continuing to deliver a world-class education despite a rapid pivot in delivery; our students continuing to thrive in a new delivery format; and our staff continuing to provide exceptional support for our faculty and students to adjust to our new normal. As we wait in anticipation for a world safe from the devastation of COVID-19, I am so very proud of how all members of the UFV academic community have come together to support one another and our local community as well. We ARE getting through this together and this month's report of the continued progress that our faculty, staff, and students are making is a testament to that commitment and dedication.

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

## Our Faculty & Staff

- The HR department has partnered with Marketing and Communications Department to develop a website of resources for staff and faculty: <https://www.ufv.ca/coronavirus/employees/wellness/>

- 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/>. With over 200 active participants, weekly activities with prizes has created an online community. This month a virtual cook-off called Pandemic Kitchen.
- The HR learning series for staff and faculty have provided over 50 professional development learning opportunities over the past 8 weeks and has offered connection to the over 750 individual registrants. Topics over the past month has ranged from IT security, technical skills, mindfulness, financial planning and professional development.
- Seonaigh MacPherson and Amea Wilbur and their graduate certificate students have been co-teaching HR-sponsored Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction courses using Zoom. This opportunity provides faculty with practices that help them manage stress and emotional and physical health challenges and is free of charge.
- Department of Child, Youth and Family Studies has been approved by MAEST (Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training) to utilize expansion funds to create a hybrid delivery model for the ECE Diploma.
- Science Communicator and Biology Adjunct Professor, Dr. Carin Bondar has entered the UFV Climate Change video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dr1tglWEJeA&feature=youtu.be> into the Imagine Science Film Festival in New York [<http://imaginesciencefilms.org/>] and the Paris Science Film Festival [<https://pariscience.fr/en/>]. Both festivals are to be held in October 2020.
- The TLC team continues to develop resources and workshops to support faculty in their online course development. To date we:
  - created over 90 how-to-videos saved on MediaSpace
  - continue consultations through [Check Under the Hood](#) program
  - researched and are piloting new software like Wevu, PeerScholar, Padlet, and Bb Ally to support student collaboration, assessments, discussions, and accessibility
  - are collaborating with the [ISW Network](#) to restructure the Facilitator Development Workshop material to an online format
  - continue to collaborate with BCcampus to partner delivery of [Facilitating Learning Online \(FLO\)](#)
  - participated in the tenure and promotion dossier training workshop
- One-one-one consultations in May exceeded 511 for faculty and staff in for various departments including Communications, Business, Criminology, Kinesiology, Biology, Nursing, Math, French, Trades, and Physics.
- TLC's 2019-2020 Annual Report is now live. Check it out at: [https://issuu.com/goufv/docs/tl\\_annual\\_report\\_2019-20](https://issuu.com/goufv/docs/tl_annual_report_2019-20)
- Participation by Shirley Hardman, Senior Advisor on Indigenous Affairs in provincial Network of Post-Secondary Indigenous Education Leaders (I-LEAD), including associated work as member of the I-LEAD executive.
- Concept papers for 2020 were reviewed at the May meeting of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee, with all five being recommended to Senate for approval: Civic Innovation and Governance certificate (Faculty of Access and Continuing Education); Communications major, Journalism minor and extended minor, Intercultural Studies associate certificate (College of Arts); and Innovation, Technology and Society graduate certificate (Faculty of Professional Studies). The PDQA office has organized orientation

meetings with the five program working groups to initiate full program development, following final approval of the concept papers by Senate and the Board.

- ELS faculty are working with Professional Studies (PS) faculty on a project based on the Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) approach for learning content through an additional language. The partnership established through the project will support online PS courses with high numbers of new international students with English as an additional language.
- UFV librarians are supporting faculty and students during the online summer semester, particularly around the development of information competency. They have revised the [Online Library Assignment](#), where students will learn about searching the library's catalogue, how to find journal articles, how to decipher a citation, as well as many other useful library research concepts. At the request of faculty, liaison librarians will develop library research guides, known as LibGuides, which are tailored to individual courses. You can look at some examples here: <https://library.ufv.ca/research-help-guides/>. You can find out more about library instruction and how we can support information competency here: <https://library.ufv.ca/faculty/library-instruction/>
- The rebranding and refresh of all print marketing for UFV International is completed. You can access the downloadable versions [here](#). The next step is marketing material translation. As we venture into new markets such as Latin America, it is important that we have the right tools. We are planning to translate two pieces of marketing material for 2020-21 in the following languages: Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian.
- Principal Investigators conducting research activities which include other team members and/or participants on campus, in the field, or at home must complete a [Research Continuity Plan](#). Research involving in-person interactions will be conditionally approved until it receives approval from the AVP, Research and Director, Risk and Safety.

### Our Students

- Teacher Education (TED) Candidates are shining right now to all, especially faculty mentors in the K-12 system. They are leading and demonstrating various aspects of teaching in digital and remote learning modes. TED Candidates in the UFV Blog: <https://blogs.ufv.ca/blog/2020/05/tips-for-teaching-your-kids-at-home-during-covid-19/>
- Three students from Dr. Lucy Lee's Lab are participating in the Virtual Conference for the World Congress on In Vitro Biology and their posters are now viewable at <https://sivb.org/meetings/posters-3.html>. Daylan Pritchard will continue his research in the Lee Lab as an NSERC USRA student.
- The SLUEC student team, Alysha Bergen, Halle Kwak, Matt Warnock, Julia Whittaker, Chloe Hogan and Emma Conner, with their research supervisors, Dr. Mariano Mapilli and Paul Fontaine, Communications LTA, won the Team Excellence Award and the People's Choice Award for their project "European Starling Deterrents: Methods for Blueberry Farms" at the City of Abbotsford's CityStudio Virtual HUBBUB #5 Real World Ready <https://letstalkabbotsford.ca/citystudio-virtual-hubbub>. The team went on to win UFV's 2020 Community Service Research Award. It will be the 3rd year in a row that the SLUEC students have won this UFV-wide award.
- Despite the disruption that Covid-19 has caused, CECE Co-op students have adapted to the changes in their workplace and are able to see the value of these unexpected experiences, "Even though this semester was definitely different, it taught me a lot of new skills. The fact that I had to adapt so quickly to the changes really helped me see of what I am really capable of. I want to say thank you to the CECE team for all the work you put for the students and creating opportunities to complement our studies at UFV."

- Completed second intake of the Indigenous Academic Success Cohort (IASC), a transition year program offered as an option for first-year Indigenous students. Programming for this two semester offering includes guided academic support, life skills and cultural programming. We are currently working on recruiting students for the 3<sup>rd</sup> intake in Fall 2020.
- Two GDS students returned from their [QES International Internships](#) to Tanzania early due to COVID, Manpreet Dhillon & Tianna Serra. They were partnered with [CityLab](#) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania at Ardhi University. CityLab is an extension of the university that explores and re-imagines the co-production of space in the city of Dar es Salaam through experimental research. Although they returned early, they shared their experiences in a [blog](#) and had many positives outcomes regardless of the challenges.
- UFV International's [Coordinator, International Student Success](#), has been particularly busy with hosting *Friends Without Borders* Program and *The STEP Café* online. In addition, numerous other drop-in sessions aimed at supporting and transitioning international students.
- [Study Abroad](#): UFV Int'l continues to explore the idea of "virtual exchange" and Collaborative Online International Learning (or COIL) with its partners, particularly those who have requirements for their students to study abroad. For the fall semester, all exchange and mobility experiences involving international travel have been suspended.
- 16th annual Undergraduate Research Excellence Awards
  - 40 students are receiving 23 awards, totaling \$23,000 in award money
  - Award presentation video will be shared in early June
    - Will include video clips from student award winners and UFV Leadership
- The FTE Report was submitted to the Ministry on May 13. Overall, we saw a 7.6% increase in domestic and international FTEs for a total of 9,785. Domestic AEST-funded activity increased to a 98.6% utilization rate; up 1.3% over the previous year.
- Students in the Certified Dental Program who had their program paused have resumed their studies under strict health protocols approved by UFV's Emergency Policy Committee.

## Our Community

- Dr. Alida Janmaat has developed an online exercise on natural selection for two grade 6/7 classes at Glenbrook Middle School in New Westminster based on the SquirrelMapper citizen science project run by Bradley Cosentino, from the Department of Biology at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in central New York. 52 students took part in the week-long exercise by taking photos of squirrels in and around New Westminster and by contributing to the Find a Squirrel game which is part of the SquirrelMapper citizen science project.
- Hope Centre Coordinator Michelle Vandepol participated in the Together vs Virus Hackathon (the online 48 hr hackathon against COVID-19 that ran April 17-19) as part of virtual community outreach. Her team put together resources to support health care workers facing trauma in the COVID-19 pandemic and were the winners of 2 prizes: the Montreal New Tech award and the People's Choice Award. You can find out more about their project at <https://devpost.com/software/allyship>.
- Several UFV volunteer groups are continuing to work on community projects that came out of our April Brainstorming Session:
  - UFV Continuing Education instructor Sandy Balascak is organizing [virtual learning/tutoring](#) for alternate school youth.

- Agriculture professor Tom Baumann has filmed a series of [home gardening videos](#).
- Ruby Ord, Josephine Charlie, Rita Atake, Jerri-Lynne Cameron, and Danielle Mijo-Burch have been [creating and distributing craft kits](#).
- A group of faculty from Kinesiology and the School of Creative Arts have created a wellness website to give access to those at home a source of mindfulness, health and wellbeing: <https://socawellness.wordpress.com/>.
- Cherie Enns' course GEOG 464, and a group of faculty and staff are teaming up to work on food security issues within Abbotsford. They are looking to work with local farmers' markets and other organizations, such as Archway Community Services, on how to provide online services or safe distancing practices to facilitate local food from farm to table.

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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