

## MEMO

**FROM:** Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic  
**DATE:** October 13, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Senate Provost's Report – October 2020

---

### COVID-19 Updates

- Programs that deemed there were essential learning outcomes that could only be achieved in a face-to-face format submitted their requests to the Provost Office on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Review of these proposals is ongoing and will be used to build the Winter 2021 timetable by early November.
- The Online Exam Task Force chaired by Dr. Peter Geller recommended to the Academic Continuity Committee that an institution-wide third party online proctoring system not be adopted at this time and noted that that Zoom and Collaborate Ultra are currently available for monitoring exams.
- Universities Canada announced the following: “Effective October 20<sup>th</sup>, the Government of Canada is amending travel restrictions to allow international students to enter Canada if their designated learning institution (DLI) has an approved COVID-19 readiness plan in place. [UFV is an approved DLI.] The exemption applies to all international students, regardless of where they are travelling from or when their study permit was approved. Asymptomatic international students who have the appropriate documents to enter Canada and whose DLI is on the list of institutions with approved COVID-19 readiness plans in place will be considered to be non-discretionary and non-optional. Furthermore, immediate family members may be able to accompany an international student to Canada. The amended provisions are listed here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-covid19/students.html>.”
- The Province released updated Go Forward Guidelines for the Post Secondary Sector The following sections were added to the existing guidelines:
  - Gatherings and Events
  - Motion Picture and Television Production
  - Performing Arts
  - Spiritual and Religious Communities
  - Student Practice Education and Clinical Placement for Health-Care Disciplines

Resources and guidance were updated for:

- Athletics and Recreation Facilities
- Libraries
- International Students (updated guidance based on federal requirements)

### Integrated Strategic Plan

I would like to thank the 463 members of the UFV community who provided their input into UFV's strategic imperatives. We hope to share with you a summary of the key findings as well as a draft of the Integrated

Strategic Plan in the coming month. You can view updates and the latest developments on the Integrated Strategic Plan at: <https://www.ufv.ca/strategic-planning/>

### Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

- I would like to thank Dr. Eric Davis for facilitating the first Provost's Brown Bag Lunch entitled *The Urgency of Anti-Racism*. There were over 50 individuals who attended and participated in this event.
- The search for a new Director of EDI is moving forward. This new position will report directly into the Provost Office. Further details about the position and the search will be provide throughout the year.
- I would like to thank all those who attended and participated in the EDI Townhall event. In particular, I would like to thank the co-chairs of the Task Force, Dr. Adrienne Chan and Dr. Joanna Sheppard who hosted the event and to Yalda Ahmadi for moderating.

The following are a number of highlights identified by leaders across our Academic Units of the important work that continued to take place during the summer months.

### Our Faculty & Staff

- 406 people registered to attend the Peace and Reconciliation Centre (PARC) virtual launch on September 24. PARC Co-Chair Dr. Keith Carlson was interviewed on CBC radio's *On the Coast* and *All Points West*; soon to be interviewed by STAR FM. Event picked up by [CBC](#), [Abby News](#), etc.
- Dr. Luisa Giles, Dr. Jason Brandenburg, Dr. Iris Lesser, and Dr. Cynthia Thomson of Kinesiology are studying the effects of physical fitness on COVID symptoms ([Chilliwack Progress](#)) and impacts of wildfire smoke on physical and mental health ([CTV](#), [Abby News](#), [Squamish Chief](#), [BC Local News](#)).
- The Faculty of Health Sciences has recently published its first e-magazine. This publication is intended to inform all of our stakeholders – both internal and external – about what is going on in the Faculty: See the e-magazine at: [https://blogs.ufv.ca/health/whats\\_new\\_in\\_health\\_sciences\\_202021/](https://blogs.ufv.ca/health/whats_new_in_health_sciences_202021/)
- UFV is piloting Blackboard Ally, an accessibility feature in our learning management system. TLC is working on an information campaign to showcase the importance of this tool. Ally enables digital content to be more accessible by providing choice for students with disabilities, as well as linguistic, cultural and competency barriers. When Ally is enabled in a course, students are able to choose the format of digital resources, and it informs instructors about the accessibility level of their documents. TLC is conducting workshops at <https://events.ufv.ca/tlc/events/blackboard-ally-workshop-4/> but one-on-one sessions with one of our Learning Designers is also available. Please email [Satish.kotha@ufv.ca](mailto:Satish.kotha@ufv.ca) or [Soowook.kim@ufv.ca](mailto:Soowook.kim@ufv.ca) to make arrangements.
- WriteAway opened on Sept. 21. This is a software that supports undergraduate students' feedback on their writing assignments. Qualified tutors from each of the participating B.C. institutions provide advice and suggest resources to help students improve their writing. <https://www.ufv.ca/asc/writeaway/>
- FATS has been working on a new approach to aviation training following the suspension of the AME-S program last year. The goal is to be more aligned with industry (with an industry partner identifying and hiring students up front and UFV providing their training in a blended school/shop floor environment). UFV has reached a general agreement with Cascade to begin the first of such a program in January. There are some aspects to be finalized and some discussions with other partners to conclude

after which we'll enter into a MoU. This is a big step forward in how we support the skilled labour requirement of the aviation sector.

- Launch of the Minor in Adult Education – Fall 2020 A minor in Adult Education has been launched this fall! The goal of an Adult Education minor is to offer students from other majors (e.g., Arts, Integrated Studies, Computer Information Systems, Kinesiology) a suite of knowledge and skills (curriculum, instructional design, teaching, assessment) to engage and empower learners in the formal, informal, and non-formal learning and working spaces within their own disciplines. The Adult Education minor adds significant value to students in other majors
- International Business Major/Minor was approved by the province
- The new ELS Online Help Centre went live in September 2020 to provide academic English and related skills support to all UFV students through Blackboard Collaborate. ELS has partnered with BUS 100, HSER 120, CYC 202, GD 120, and UNIV 101 to provide specialized Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) support for partner students and faculty through the ELS Online Help Centre.
- Indigenous Affairs Department provided leadership and facilitated the organization of Orange Shirt Day Events, which included the following guest speakers:
  - Phyllis Webstad, whose story inspired Orange Shirt Day;
  - Bea Silver, a residential school survivor and story is presented through the Robert and Bateman's Art Activism initiative.
- The UFV University Librarian and AVP Teaching and Learning are pleased to announce a Call for Proposals for the Open Education Faculty Fellows (OEFF) program. This program, funded by a BC Campus Open Education Foundations Grant and the UFV Office of the Provost and Vice President, Academic, provides faculty with funding (course release or equivalent funds) to develop, create or modify open educational resources such as textbooks, lab manuals, or ancillary resources that will enhance and support student learning. For this round of funding, 3 OEFF grants are available. In addition to receiving OEFF funding, successful faculty members will work alongside an OER Student Assistant to support the project. Details on the program including application process, criteria, assessment rubric, and application form can be found at: <https://libguides.ufv.ca/OpenEducationFacultyFellows>

### Our Students

- Each year the FoS invites all new and returning science students for an evening of fun to visit with classmates, science faculty and staff while getting information on the science related student groups here at UFV. This year we are hosting an online Science Welcome Week, October 5-9. Each day we will feature a series of UFV science student organizations and drawing for daily prizes which have been donated by each of our science departments. <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2020/09/11/science-welcome-week-oct-5-9/>
- *Now Serving* Program: UFV International's Global Engagement team has begun piloting a new program where students are taught how to cook various signature dishes from various parts of the world. A new dish is introduced each week. These have been broadcast on Facebook Live and have been well attended (based on the number of views).

- Teacher Education hosted a virtual panel for our BEd students entitled, “Anti-racism in/and Education” on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, with guests from our partner school districts, including Dr. Kevin Godden (Abbotsford Superintendent), Balan Moorthy (Fraser-Cascade Superintendent), Jennifer Ofeimu (Abbotsford teacher/MEd candidate/TEP alumni), Tsandlia VanRy (recent grad and FPS convocation speaker), Nerlap Sidhu (Abbotsford teacher), and Paula Gosal (Chilliwack principal).
- The 4 students who completed internships as part of the Grad Certificate in Child Life and Community Health this past academic year recently wrote and passed the certification exam by the Association of Child Life Professionals. We have 16 new applicants being reviewed for 12 seats for the second cohort to begin in January 2021.
- The fall Applied Business Technology cohort is at capacity (26 students) and is off to a strong start. The majority of waitlisted applicants have elected to defer to ABT’s Winter 2021 intake.
- The School of Creative Arts and Theatre will be presenting their upcoming fall production of [Antigone](#), adapted and directed by Shelley Liebembuk. Based on the English translation by Ian Johnston. Performances will be live, via a virtual platform: November 25 – 27 at 7 pm and November 28 at 2 pm.
- Criminology and Criminal Justice (CRIM) Professor Emeritus Yvon Dandurand and undergraduate student, Raelyn O’Hara, co-authored a report on alternatives to detention for children in conflict with the law (Chin, V., Dandurand, Y., & O’Hara, R. (2020, July 29), entitled: “Consolidating and Further Facilitating the Use of Diversion and Alternatives to Detention for Children in Conflict with the Law in Indonesia.” This report was prepared for the Directorate General of Corrections, Ministry of Law and Human Rights, Government of Indonesia, Turin (Italy): United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)).

### Our Community

- Signed MOU with Bioenterprise’s Food and Agri-tech Engine to establish an agritech accelerator at UFV ([article](#))
- Signed MOU with Cubic Farms and Nutriva to conduct climate change research in fodder production using the Hydrogreen system
- The Honourable Rosa Galvez, Canadian Senator, has accepted our invitation to present at an upcoming FoS Dean’s Seminar Series to be held in November <https://ufv.ca/science/deans-office/science-speaker-series/>. Her presentation will be screened in advance of the Q & A period to be held on November 12 from 10-11 am via Zoom. Dr. Charles Ikejiani, Orthopedic Surgeon from the Royal Victoria Hospital, Barrie Ontario has also accepted our invitation to present later this fall.
- MLA for Vancouver-Fraserview, George Chow, welcomes the South Asian Studies Institute’s (SASI) “[Hag and History: The Punjabi Legacy Project](#),” a project in collaboration with the Abbotsford Community Foundation, which has \$1.14 million in provincial funding.
- 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 over the past several months and in the months ahead of us.

Ey Si:yam

Dr. James Mandigo

Provost & VP Academic