

MEMO

FROM: Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic
DATE: January 11, 2021
SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report

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COVID-19 Updates

- British Columbia is still operating under expanded [Province-wide restrictions](#). These restrictions apply to UFV and are in effect until at least midnight February 5, 2021. These expanded health orders have been extended a number of times already. For a detailed list of these orders please visit the [UFV COVID Site](#).
- On Friday, December 18, 2020, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training released updated [Go Forward Guidelines for BC's post secondary sector](#). UFV's current safety practices are in compliance with these updated guidelines.
- Given the state of the pandemic and current health orders, Senators will be asked at the January 22, 2021 meeting to consider extending their approved motion for Winter, 2021 to include the Summer, 2021 (May to August) term as well.
- The motion for Senate to consider also provides additional clarification on the type of face-to-face assessments that will be considered for approval. Senators are reminded of the report developed by the Online Exam Task Force. The report is available through the Teaching and Learning Website located [here](#).

Integrated Strategic Plan

After over two years of ongoing consultations, I am excited that UFV's new Integrated Strategic Plan is being considered for adoption by the Senate. Following Senate's approval, a motion to approve the Integrated Strategic Plan will be put forward for consideration by the Board of Governors at their meeting scheduled for February 4th. I wish to thank all members of the UFV community who have been actively engaged in the development of the Integrated Strategic Plan. With regards to Senate, I wish to also thank members of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC) who have contributed towards and reviewed several iterations of the Integrated Strategic Plan and for Senate itself for its input and feedback along the way. While there have been countless number of people engaged throughout the development of the Integrated Strategic Plan, I wish to acknowledge the work of the [Stakeholder Group](#) and the [Working Group](#) over the past year that was instrumental in the plan being presented to Senate and the Board of Governors.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

The search for a new Director of Equity Diversity and Inclusion is in its final stages. I wish to thank members of the UFV community who participated in the public presentation portion of the interview process. I would like to

thank all members of the SAC for providing their expertise and time to serve on the Selection Advisory Committee (SAC):

- Adrian Bontuyan - Coordinator, International Student Success, UFV International
- Jerri-Lynne Cameron - Director, Research Services, and Industry Engagement
- Martha Dow - Associate Professor, Department of Social, Cultural and Media Studies, & Acting Director, Centre for Health & Social Innovation Hub
- Shirley Hardman - Senior Advisor on Indigenous Affairs, Indigenous Affairs Office
- Jacqueline Nolte - Dean, College of Arts
- Tanveer Saroya – Student
- Joanna Sheppard - Associate Professor, School of Kinesiology, & EDI Committee Co-Chair
- Jon Thomas - Associate Professor, School of Business, & BC Regional Innovation Chair on Canada-India Partnership Development
- Alisa Webb - Vice-President, Students
- Maureen Wideman, Associate Vice-President, Teaching and Learning
- Marnie Wright - Associate Vice-President, Human Resources

Sr. Administrative Updates

- I would like to offer my sincere thank-you to John English following his 8 plus years of service as Dean for the Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies (FATS) John has agreed to serve as Special Advisor to the Provost for Engineering prior to his planned retirement in May, 2021. Dr. Peter Geller has been appointed Interim Dean for FATS effective January 1, 2021 in addition to his role of Vice-Provost and Associate Vice President Academic.
- Dr. Jacqueline Nolte's second term as Dean for the College of Arts ends on June 30, 2021. The search for a new Dean for the College of Arts has commenced with the following individuals agreeing to serve on the SAC: Chantelle Marlor, Elise Goertz, Zina Lee, Adrianna Bakos, Melissa Walter, Satwinder Bains, Linda Thompson, David McGuire, Jessica Levesque, Alisa Webb, Linda Parady and Lucy Lee.
- Kim Isaac has announced her plan to retire in June, 2021. A SAC consisting of the following individuals has been formed to assist in the search for UFV's next Head Librarian: David Milobar, Jamie Gamble, Leslie Olsen, Martin Warkentin, Patti Wilson and Garry Fehr

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

Our Faculty & Staff

- UFV values inclusivity and the TLC has resources to provide faculty with strategies and tips for being more inclusive in their instructional practices and to make the classroom experience more accessible to students <https://ufv.ca/buildingstrengths/>. In addition to Building Strengths, we offer the Teaching and Learning Tool Kit with resources on how to assist learning for students with disabilities. <https://www.ufv.ca/media/assets/teaching--learning-centre/Teaching-and-learning-tool-kit.pdf>

- \$25,000 grant awarded to CECE and UFV International. The CICan and Universities Canada Outbound Student Mobility Pilot Program's grant in the amount of \$25,000 has been awarded to the "Global Challenge project-based learning: exploring access and capacity" proposal. The project aims to build on UFV's one-time pilot project "Global Challenge: Vietnam" launched in the Winter 2020 semester by UFV International and the Centre for Experiential and Career Education in collaboration with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Ho Chi Minh City. This project aims to satisfy multiple institutional goals: internationalization at home, increased access to outbound mobility, expanding experiential learning, graduating global citizens, increasing intercultural competencies, and cultivating civic awareness.
- Dr. Carin Bondar, Biology Adjunct Professor served as a mentor/panelist and judge at the virtual 'ComSciCon CanWest' meeting held November 13-15 <https://comscicon.com/comscicon-canwest-2020>. A group of 65 science graduate students from across Canada came together to share the results from research in their field. Earlier this month Dr. Bondar streamed her interview and live chat with journalist and science writer, Dr. Emily Willingham, author of the new book "Phallacy". View interview: <https://youtu.be/yZRF9kU1XWk>.
- Shirley Anne Hardman was re-elected to the executive of I-Lead, a provincial body of Indigenous leaders in post-secondary education.
- The [2019/20 Factbook](#) has now been released. The Factbook provides some 60 pages of data on all types of instructional activity and student characteristics. Also included are submissions from other areas that provide information on finances, the UFV library, human resources, research, student services, and facilities. This year's Factbook has a new look and Institutional Research and Planning has updated some of the data definitions to make the document clearer and easier to use.
- This month the Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies launched Best Practices Conversations with Faculty and Staff. The purpose of these conversations is to learn from one another's successes in our current circumstances. We celebrate the many hurdles in adapting the face to face components for programs such as, Automotive Service Technician, Auto Collision Repair, Carpentry, Culinary Arts, Electrical, Plumbing and Welding. All of these trades have key elements which have to be taught face to face, finding solutions in making the modifications required while maintaining everyone's safety and allowing for our exemplary teaching to continue.
- The Teacher Education Department has updated their website and Admissions processes to affirm the TED commitment to social justice, anti-racism, decolonization and Indigenization. I encourage you to visit: <https://www.ufv.ca/teacher-education/>
- Drs. Kseniya Garaschuk and Shaun Sun were both successful in their applications to the UFV Open Education Faculty Fellows program <https://libguides.ufv.ca/OpenEducationFacultyFellows>. This program supports faculty projects that create, develop, or modify open education resources to be used in UFV courses as well as similar courses taught at other institutions.
- Dr. Lenore Newman and her team with the Food and Agriculture Institute with has been awarded a Watersheds BC contract for \$65,000 to produce an environmental plan. The program is funded by the BC Agriculture Council and Watersheds BC and will employ three UFV students.

- Research Advisory Council has created an EDI Task Force to raise awareness and provide training on incorporating EDI into research activities and methodologies. [More information](#)
- HR has facilitated over 800 student evaluations this semester, using a combination of Blackboard and Remark software. The Blackboard pilot has been very successful and we envision expanding the pilot.

Our Students

- The second annual career panel featuring women working in a variety of STEM professions was hosted by the science student group WEST (Women in Engineering, Science & Technology) on Nov 25 via Zoom with over 30 virtual participants. Isabel St.Martin and several other students from WEST introduced the panelists. Dr. Joanne MacLean, President of the University, gave the welcome remarks and Dr. Lee closed the session noting the importance of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and how the 5 participating women panelists were amazing role models in their respective fields (academics, environment, computer science, engineering, medicine) to learn, inspire, empower, and network.
- Connor Frey https://itp2020.org/1086/speaker_details and Kenneth Ku https://itp2020.org/1083/speaker_details under the supervision of Dr. Golfam Ghafourifar from Chemistry and in collaboration with Dr. David Chu from Math and Stats, presented at the virtual 27th International Symposium on Electrophoretic and Liquid Phase Separation Techniques, on November 2-4, 2020 <https://itp2020.org/> in the Oral “poster pitch” session. Ken presented his poster titled “Optimizing Immobilization of Chymotrypsin with Formaldehyde and Subjecting Peptide Maps of Digests to Principal Component Analysis” and won 1st place for Best Poster by Popular Vote. <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2020/11/18/chemistry-students-connor-frey-and-kenneth-ku-present-at-itp-2020/>
- The College of Arts organized its third annual “Student Leadership Symposium” held on January 5, 2021 centered around the theme: “Mobilizing Hope.” A keynote presentation and workshop was facilitated by Cicely Blain, along with two other workshops.
- FATS celebrated the graduation of our third cohort of students completing the Culinary Arts pre-trades program. This 12-week program is offered multiple times per year at the Trades & Technology Centre in Chilliwack in partnership with Sto:lo Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training (SASET). Once completed it allows the students to get entry level employment at any food service establishment. In our first year of partnership we have had an impressive 30 students enroll, with 27 completing the program, 24 working full time and 2 having gone on to UFV for Level Professional Cook Trades Training.
- Theatre and SOCA presented their first production for the 2020-2021 season, *Antigone*, adapted and directed by UFV faculty member Shelley Liebembuk on Nov 25, 26, 27 and 28. The production was featured in the [print edition of the Abbotsford News](#). Theatre and SOCA will be presenting a one-act play Pariah (The Outcast) by August Strindberg, directed by Parjad Sharifi. Performances will be held on Mar 24, 25, and 26, 2021 at 7pm and Mar 27, 2021 at 2pm via zoom (free of charge).

Our Community

- In partnership between UFV’s CHASI Hub, Divisions of Family Practice, and the City of Abbotsford Parks, recreation, and Culture, Dr. Iris Lesser and Navdeep Rai have published a report about referred outdoor

physical activity for south Asian women. See the full article at:

<http://blogs.ufv.ca/chasi/files/2020/11/SA-Women-Exercise-Report.pdf>

- The FoS welcomed Canadian Senator, Dr. Rosa Galvez as part of the Dean of Science Seminar Series this month. Her pre-recorded presentation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9iOsrQZqXI&feature=youtu.be> was followed by a live Question and Answer Period held on November 12. Dr. Lucy Lee, had the pleasure of introducing Her Honour to our UFV community. Watch the Q&A Period: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tBHg7An_p0&feature=youtu.be
- UFV and Stó:lō Community Futures signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote opportunities for education, training and capacity building for Indigenous businesses and Stó:lō communities within S'ólh Téméxw. This MOU formalizes a relationship that has existed for many years.
- iCent app: iCent (International Center) is an app for new and returning international students to access up-to-date and centralized information (medical, orientation, relevant external links, handbooks, events, etc.). Students can also receive push notifications for registration and other events. UFV International has full access to make updates, incorporate branding, and modify other interface aesthetics and is hoping to launch this for the winter semester. Our relationship with the Guard.Me insurance provider means this is a free service.
- UFV's Peace and Reconciliation Centre (PARC) was featured in a print edition of the Abbotsford News and an online article of the Chilliwack Progress to highlight funding opportunities for UFV faculty and students, visiting scholars, community activists/artists and guest speakers.
- CRIM Associate Professors Dr. Irwin Cohen and Dr. Hayli Millar participated in the public consultation meeting with BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner on policing and systemic discrimination.
- Local Partner/Immigrant, Refugees and Canadian Citizenship (IRCC) Initiatives ADED is currently collaborating with/advising Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) sector partners on their IRCC initiatives (e.g., Service Delivery Improvements funding applications)
- On the special day of "International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women," November 25th, Dr. Karun Karki from the School of Social Work and Human Services at UFV was the moderator and hosted a webinar. The speakers from the USA, Canada, and Spain, spoke on three different topics on violence against women.

Thank you to all those who contributed to providing these updates from the Faculties and Academic Units. I wish everyone a Happy New Year and great start to the Winter, 2021 academic term.

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Dr. James Mandigo

Provost & VP Academic