

**MEMO**

**FROM:** Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic  
**DATE:** February 16, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Senate Provost's Report

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**COVID-19 Updates**

- On February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, British Columbia extended the expanded the [Province-wide restrictions](#) until further notice. For a detailed list of these health orders please visit the [UFV COVID Site](#).
- On the same date (February 8, 2021), the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training released updated [Go Forward Guidelines for BC's post secondary sector](#). The most notable change was updated protocols related to the COVID-19 Self Assessment tool required to access campus safely. Anyone who is required to be on campus is asked to review the WorkSafe BC [Entry Check Poster](#) prior to coming onto campus. All employees will need to report to their supervisor that they have reviewed the criteria on the Entry Check Poster prior to coming onto campus. UFV's current safety practices are in compliance with these updated guidelines.
- On February 12, 2021, the Federal Government of Canada announced an extension and expansion of the temporary postgraduate work permit measures (PGWP) which were set to expire on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
  - Studies completed outside of Canada will be counted towards the eligibility and length of a future PGWP up to December 31, 2021
  - Up to 100% of a student's program can be completed online from outside Canada while remaining eligible for a PGWP
- The Provost's Office is currently coordinating a number of consultations with members of the UFV community to hear their thoughts and advice on UFV's approach to the Fall, 2021 term. A report of these consultations as well as a recommendation from the Emergency Policy Committee regarding the Fall, 2021 term is expected by the April 22, 2021 Senate Meeting.

**Integrated Strategic Plan**

I would like to thank Senators for their endorsement and support of UFV's Integrated Strategic Plan (ISP) entitled: [IYAQAWTWX \(House of Transformation\)](#). Following Senate's successful motion, the Board also unanimously approved the ISP. Work is currently underway to outline the implementation of the ISP. Senators will receive an update on the implementation plan at the April, 2021 Senate meeting.

**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

I am very pleased to announce that Sundeep Hans has officially accepted an offer to be UFV's inaugural Director for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) starting April 1, 2021. Sundeep is a specialist in anti-racism and anti-

oppression work and brings over 12 years of experience in healthcare, education, government, and non-profit organizations advancing EDI issues. Her most recent position is the Equity and Inclusion Officer with the Waterloo Regional District School Board in Ontario. Welcome Sundeep!

### **Sr. Administrative Updates**

- The search for a new Dean for the College of Arts is nearing its conclusion with shorted list candidates making their public presentations the week of February 22.
- The SAC for UFV's Head Librarian are finalizing the advertisement and position profile tentatively scheduled to be released on March 1, 2021.

To align my report with the new Integrated Strategic Plan, I have reorganized the activities across the Academic Units under the Mission and Goals of Engaging Learners, Transforming Lives, and Building Communities.

### **Engaging Learners: Yoystexw ye totilthet**

*Provide inclusive learning environments for everyone*

- In collaboration with Continuing Education, the College of Arts (COA) offered new Digital Marketing Microcredentials for the Winter 2021 semester. Most courses filled on their first day and a variety have waitlists.
- COA participated in My Campus Life's virtual Campus Engagement Expo on Jan 27. Four panels (Humanities, Social Sciences, Arts Practicum Opportunities and Integrated General Studies) were facilitated by volunteer faculty members for UFV students.
- UFV and NVIT are excited to confirm that a Bachelor of Integrated Studies degree completion cohort for graduates of the NVIT Chemical Addictions Workers advanced diploma will be offered in 2021-22. Courses will be confirmed in January with plans to begin courses in April. Courses are to be offered through online delivery, and are expected to run through the summer. The funding received from the province of BC allows UFV to offer the courses of this degree completion cohort tuition free.
- The Criminal Justice Student Association held a series of virtual sessions with CRIM alumni (Jan 11-15) to provide an opportunity for current students to connect with alumni and get their insights about working in various criminal justice fields, such as law, policing, corrections, probation, and policy.
- In January we welcomed our new cohort of students into 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.
- Following [UFV's EDI Guiding Principles](#), the Research Advisory Council (RAC) has created an EDI Sub-Committee to raise awareness and provide training on incorporating EDI into research activities and methodologies, as well as the decolonization of research.
- Update on Open Education Faculty Fellows program: The OEFF program completed the adjudication process in December, and we are pleased to announce the inaugural recipients. Three proposals were selected for funding:
  - Dr. Luisa Giles, School of Kinesiology: Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and indigenization in Nutrition: Improving a nutrition OER for undergraduate students.

UFV is situated on S'olh Temexw, the traditional lands of the Stó:lo.

- Dr. Kseniya Garaschuk, Department of Mathematics and Statistics: Calculus I and II for Life Sciences Coursepack.
- Dr. Shaun Sun, Department of Mathematics and Statistics: Web-based Statistical software application for Statistics Education and Statistical analysis.

### **Transforming Lives: Ayeqet kw'e shxwaylexws**

*Provide opportunities for people to discover, develop, and share their gifts while also recognizing and celebrating the gifts of others*

- UFV news covered the story of Queering Cancer. “Meghan McInnis, Amanda Bolderston, and Evan Taylor formed the team that worked on Queering Cancer ([www.queeringcancer.ca](http://www.queeringcancer.ca)) that is a new website that addresses systemic disparities in access to cancer support and information for people who identify as LGBTQ2+.” The site is the brainchild of a research team that includes Dr. Evan Taylor, an assistant professor in the UFV School of Social Work and Human Services, and colleagues from Queen’s University and the University of Alberta.
- HR has launched the employee fitness challenge with approximately 200 active participants from across the University. <https://blogs.ufv.ca/ufv-at-work/2020/12/11/ufv-employee-fitness-challenge-strive-to-thrive/>
- COA held its third annual [Student Leadership Symposium: Mobilizing Hope](#) virtual event on Jan 5. The event included a "[Mobilizing Hope](#)" keynote address by Cicely Belle Blain (92 attendees), a "[Fundamentals of Anti-oppression](#)" workshop by Cicely Belle Blain (65 attendees), a "[Contemplative Practices and the Pedagogy of Hope](#)" workshop by Christine Slavik (59 attendees), a "[Building Hope through Radical Truths](#)" lunch panel by UFV's Race and Antiracism Network (RAN) (63 attendees), a "[Hope in Action](#)" workshop by Andrea Fruhling (58 attendees) and a "[Wrap-Up](#)" session (54 attendees). Attendees were student leaders nominated by faculty members from an Arts department. Six student leader ambassadors helped to moderate each virtual session, six student panelists spoke at the lunch panel and a Graphic and Digital Design student artistically archived the day. Attendees had positive reviews, for example one attendee noted: "The stories were inspirational with such powerful speakers."
- The School of Creative Arts (SOCA) presented the [Visual Arts Diploma Show Class of 2020](#) at the S'eliyemetaxwtexw Art Gallery from Jan 8-28. This group exhibit featured UFV Visual Arts 2020 Diploma graduates Chantelle Trainor-Matties, Cobi Timmermans and Allie Risley.
- The English (ENGL) Department welcomed UFV's new [Writer-in-Residence Lindsay Wong](#).
- THEA 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).
- The TLC PD Day committee, made up of faculty and staff from various departments at UFV, is deep into planning the UFV-wide PD Days, which will take place April 27 – 29, 2021. The event will be virtual and will focus on wellness in the working and learning environment. The event will include keynote speakers, workshops, and of course, prizes.
- In December, UFV hosted the Quality Assurance Process Audit external site visit, which took place December 14, 15 and 16, 2020. The QAPA External Panel has now submitted their Assessors' Report to the Provost. The External Panel praised UFV's willingness to proceed with the QAPA review under the difficult conditions

imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The report also commended UFV for its commitment to quality assurance and quality enhancement, which was evident in the consistency and rigour of our program review and program development processes. The PDQA office has drafted the Institutional Response to the commendations, affirmations, and recommendations outlined in the Assessor Report, which will now be circulated to the Way Finders advisory group and to UEC, GSC, APPC and Senate for consultation. The final version of the Institutional Response is due to the Degree Quality Assessment Board in mid-April, 2021.

- In December, a story was published on collaboration between UFV semester 6 BSN students and UBC medical residents. These students engaged in a simulation that focused on interprofessional collaboration for safe patient care in mid-November. This project was spearheaded by UFV faculty member Lee-Anne Stephen, who says “This is an experience we have wanted to incorporate into our curriculum for years. Interprofessional communication and collaboration in the clinical setting has a direct impact on patient outcomes. As learners engage in collaborative interprofessional learning experiences, they work as a more cohesive part of the team. And when a healthcare team works well together, patient outcomes are improved.” Read the story at: <https://blogs.ufv.ca/health/ufv-nursing-students-learn-with-ubc-medical-residents/>

### **Building Community: Thayt kw’e st’elt’elawtexw**

*Collaborate and partner in pursuits that enrich the lives of all people on our campuses, in our local communities, and beyond*

- Awneet Sivia and Vandy Britton were interviewed for a community service project organized by Nerlap Sidhu (recent winner of the UFV Betty Urquhart Community Service award) and her grade 6 students at Eugene Reimer Middle School. The questions focused on ‘filling your equity backpack’.
- The Community Health and Social Innovation (CHASI) hub has formalized ties for existing and future projects with the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council (NIFSC). Possible implementation of programs or activities may include: joint research, cultural, and educational activities, exchange of researchers, and collaboration on/exchange of research materials, tools, publications, and other information.
- The Faculty of Science with the Pre-Med Student Association at UFV hosted a Q&A session via ZOOM with Dr. Charles Ikejiani, Orthopedic Surgeon from the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie, Ontario on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. He pre-recorded a presentation at <https://youtu.be/qJzGN89NQEg> where he shared his journey into medicine and offered some advice to students who are planning a career in medicine. **Dr. Lucy Lee** contributed a picture to UFV’s 2021 EDI calendar. One of her paintings graces the month of May. See [https://ufv.ca/media/assets/presidents-office/edi-resources/EDI-wall-calendar\\_Print.pdf](https://ufv.ca/media/assets/presidents-office/edi-resources/EDI-wall-calendar_Print.pdf)
- A big congratulations goes out to SLUEC who won both the CityStudio Award and the Peoples Choice Award at the City of Abbotsford’s virtual event: <https://letstalkabbotsford.ca/citystudio-virtual-hubbub-fall>. Dr. Afia Raja and Dr. Cherie Enns had various teams participating in the event. From Dr. Afia Raja’s GEOG 252, Aiden Haagensen won the Peoples Choice Award for his poster “Safety and Abuse Data Understood Through Analytics.” From Dr. Cherie Enns’ GEOG 360 Angela Rieberger, Lana Harach and Travis Weishaar won The UFV City Studio Award for their poster “Inclusivity of Indigenous Artwork into Abbotsford Schools.” Karen Fech also received a special mention for her GEOG 252 project “A Comparative Assessment of Abbotsford Community Needs Pre and Post COVID-19.”

- In our continued partnership with the Chilliwack School District and participating schools Chilliwack Senior Secondary and Sardis Senior Secondary our Automotive and Welding Cohorts began on February 1, 2021. These partnerships are a unique way of allowing the students to participate in a dual credit program where they have the first twelve weeks of class taught at the Secondary School and then they join us at the Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies to complete their first year of Trades. This opportunity is for high school aged students who are able to complete their required core courses to meet the new graduation requirements for grade 11 and 12 in an accelerated manner, including UFV courses in their last secondary school year. Cohorts are offered in Automotive Service Technician, Carpentry and Welding.
- Signed an MOU with Quantotech to establish a small indoor growing room for research, student training, and demonstration. Discussions ongoing on logistics and location in Chilliwack (partnership with VP, External)

Thank you to all those who contributed to providing these updates from the Faculties and Academic Units.

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Dr. James Mandigo

Provost & VP Academic