

MEMO

FROM: Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic
DATE: March 9, 2021
SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report

Ey Swayel

COVID-19 Updates

- On March 8th, 2021, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST) released a [public statement](#) that based upon the advice of Dr. Bonnie Henry in a [letter to all Presidents](#) of BC Post-Secondary Institutions, post-secondary institutions in British Columbia should be planning for a safe resumption of regular on-campus activities starting in the Fall, 2021.
- Updates to the current [Go Forward Guidelines for Post-Secondary Institutions](#) are currently underway to provide guidance on how to ensure our campuses are safe for a return to increased on-campus activities.
- As a result, the Academic Continuity Committee will now be turning its attention to planning to ensure a safe return to campus over the coming months in preparation for a resumption of of-campus activities in the fall.
- 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

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.

Sr. Administrative Search Updates

- The search for a new Dean for the College of Arts is nearing its conclusion and I hope to be able to make a public announcement in the near future.
- The SAC for UFV's Head Librarian have finalized the advertisement and position profile. You can access this [here](#).
- A call for a 2 year appointment for an Interim Dean for Applied and Technical Studies has been [posted](#) and will remain open until March 12, 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

- Two faculty members from the Math & Stats department were successful as 2 of 3 inaugural Open Education Faculty Fellows (OEFF) program. Drs. **Kseniya Garaschuk** and **Shaun Sun** will each receive funding to hire an Open Educational Resource student assistant to assist in their respective projects. See <https://libguides.ufv.ca/OpenEducationFacultyFellows/faculty-profiles>
- The delivery of the first three micro courses in the *Digital Marketing Skills* micro credential program has completed and student surveys were launched to gather feedback on their experience and what motivated them to enrol. A second offering of three different micro courses commenced in early February with full enrollment. We have recently agreed to offer a fourth cycle of classes as our budget permits. This exciting program is being offered in partnership with the College of Arts.
- In early February, the 2nd edition of the Open Education Resource textbook *Vital Sign Measurement Across the Lifespan* was released. UFV Nursing professor Lee-Anne Stephen contributed to this textbook. Another professor, Debbie Jobb, and 2 UFV Practical Nursing students were also part of the advisory committee for this work. See the textbook at: <https://opentextbc.ca/vitalsignmeasurement>
- SOCA is hosting “SoCA Zoom Hangouts” for students. SoCA faculty and staff are invited to join these informal virtual conversations about topics and issues that are arising in their disciplines and practices.
- Chat-I is now being offered by our TLC Specialist Carol Suhr. This is a new online drop-in event, hosted weekly, to talk all things Internationalization. A safe space for casual conversation around internationalization, interculturalization, diversity and inclusion and is a good way to connect with others. Carol is also working with Liana Thompson of CECE on panel discussion recordings for future students (international students) applying for co-op and workstudy programs.
- Dr. Wideman is leading the development with the BCTLC for a West Coast Teaching Award for postsecondary, publicly-funded institutions. Each college, institute and university in BC and the Yukon will be able to submit two candidates for one of five west coast teaching awards. The call for submissions will go out in March.
- Check out the Teaching and Learning Newsletter! This is truly a team effort each month. <https://mailchi.mp/bdc5934b75d8/tech-tools-for-teaching-welcome-back-microcourses-985979?e=259ed5a7f9>
- UFV collaborated with Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) on a successful funding proposal to the Community Mental Health Worker Program Expansion, Advanced Education, Skills and Training, Province of British Columbia. The funding will support completion of the UFV Bachelor of Integrated Studies for a cohort of graduates of the NVIT Chemical Addictions Worker Advanced Diploma, beginning in April.
- UFV researchers who want to publish in open access, reputable, high impact journals will be interested to learn that the UFV is now part of a transformative agreement with SAGE. This agreement was negotiated by CRKN, as part of the three-year renewal of the SAGE journal package. As a member of CRKN, the UFV Library chose to participate in this agreement. UFV faculty will be able to publish their articles, open access, in over 900 SAGE Choice (hybrid) journals without paying an Article Processing Charge, or APC. They will get a 40% discount in APCs to publish in SAGE Gold Open Access Journals. More information about the agreement is available here: <https://www.crkn-rcdr.ca/en/canadian-research-knowledge-network-announces-transformative-agreement-sage>. Interested faculty should contact their liaison librarian.

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

- On February 12th, Chemistry student Connor Frey was awarded the CIC 2nd Year Award in Chemistry for 2019-2020 on his outstanding academic accomplishments in Chemistry by the Chemical Institute of Canada (CIC).
- Apr 08 – UFV Student Research Day
 - Online registration forms going up online March 1-5
 - Registration deadline: Thursday, March 25 [extended]
 - Poster deadline: Thursday, April 1
 - Online event: Thursday, April 8
- SASI was awarded the Historic Resilience Award for its work with the National Historic Site Gur Sikh Temple by the National Trust of Canada <https://nationaltrustcanada.ca/nt-awards/gur-sikh-temple-national-historic-site>
- The English Department (ENGL) and School of Creative Arts (SOCA) held a “Peace, (Re)conciliation and Social Justice Student” forum on February 25 from 10-11:30am and 1-2:30pm. The event was sponsored by UFV’s Peace and Reconciliation Centre. Dr. Michelle La Flamme (English Associate Professor) and Dr. Anna Griffith (Theatre Assistant Professor) co-facilitated the event featuring student research projects from their IDS 300 course (Race, Space and Place) and student research projects from the Peace and Conflict Studies at UFV. The forum consisted of two main panels organized around two central ideas: (1) (Re)Conciliation as Peace and (2) Anti-Racist Education as Social.
- Theatre’s second production of the 2020-21 season: Pariah (The Outcast) by August Strindberg, directed by Parjad Sharifi, will be held on March 24, 25, and 26 at 7pm and March 27 at 2pm.

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

- The Provost’s Office has been engaged in a number of community meetings including partnering with the McConnell Foundation and Universities Canada on a series of consultations with community leaders in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Mission, Hope and First Nations Communities on a Build Back Better strategy.
- The Faculty of Science, Faculty of Applied and Technical, the Office of Research, Graduate Studies and Engagement presented at the Chilliwack Economic Partners Corporation Board in Chilliwack regarding opportunities in Agricultural programming.
- Dr. Cherie Enns participated in a web seminar hosted by the Planning Institute of BC on Feb 24 on The Impact of COVID-19 in Planning. See <https://www.pibc.bc.ca/event/pibc-2021-webinar-2-impact-covid-19-planning>
- Hope Centre is hosting UFV’s Hope-based Indigenous Student Centre Elders for their weekly virtual student appointments in the computer lab for Winter 2021 semester.
- The Global Engagement team is in full programming swing with *Language Exchange, Now Serving, Friends Without Borders*, and *STEP Café*. Student Success ‘programming’ has been very busy. The Coordinator, International Student Success is working with the Academic Success Centre and the Student Support team to

offer workshops on repairing your GPA and how to avoid academic misconduct. CLIMB is being moved to the CVENT online platform. Content is being created (on CVENT, the website, and social media) and CLIMB on CVENT will be launched in March. Promotion is starting for incoming students to join CLIMB by March 5. The GE team met to determine Goals and Strategies for the current and upcoming term.

- BC Arts Council, Arts Infrastructure program grant in the amount of \$24,436 to assist SASI in its curation, redesign, and permanent installation of the Vancouver Maritime Museum's 2014 exhibit titled Komagata Maru: Challenging Injustice. The exhibit will be displayed at the Sikh Heritage Museum located in the National Historic Site and Gur Sikh Temple in Abbotsford, BC in April 2021. Launch date: April 14, 2021 at KDS Abby and April 15 at the VMM.
- 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).
- 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/>
- MOLA's Mandarin instructors, Dr. Yujia Jiang (Mandarin Sessional Faculty) and Frieda He (Mandarin Sessional Faculty), co-hosted a "Chinese New Year Celebration 2021" event on February 20 at 5-6:30pm. The event included: CNY traditions, guess riddles, papercutting and origami, Chinese songs, and interactive time.
- The establishment of a Child Life Internship at the 73 bed Ronald McDonald House on the campus of BC Children's hospital is being developed. This is a ground-breaking experiential learning opportunity for students in the Graduate Certificate in Child Life and Community Health. The students will be working with patients, their siblings and their parents to help them cope with the stress and anxiety associated with illness and hospitalization.
- UFV in the Community: Counselling, Advocacy, Learning & Leading (CALL). CALL has resumed services and is working closely with the Vice-principal and education counsellors at Abbotsford Senior High School. The focus is to provide services to high school students who are experiencing anxiety. We are offering individual and possibly group services.
- As part of BEd programming, we ask our teacher candidates to consider ways that they can 'give back' to the schools who provide them with a practicum placement. Given the complexities of organizing large-scale activities during COVID, the Secondary TCs took it upon themselves to put together a series of videos highlighting the accomplishments of Black Canadians and Americans, both past and present, in honour of Black History month. The videos were shared with the principals of the schools where the Secondary TCs are placed, in hopes that this information would be passed along to teachers and their students. Here is the link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ALjlxN4c16WBfloUG2BiFngCXe_w0_hXUChwb4tdnXs/edit?usp=sharing
- We gratefully accepted a donation for a Ford F150 from Ford Canada and Chilliwack Ford. This donation also included access to the Ford LMS diagnostic system. A hearty thank you to Brad Coupland, one of our Assistant Professors with the Automotive Program who was key in initiating this donation. It is a wonderful demonstration of how we continue to work closely with community in supporting the furthering of the education for our apprentices. It is fundamental that they gain opportunities such as this to work on the latest vehicles as they journey through their apprenticeship to be becoming certified Red Seal technicians.

<https://www.theprogress.com/news/ufv-automotive-students-get-hands-on-training-with-donated-ford-f-150/>

- On February 10 at 10-11:30am, GDS held a webinar event co-hosted with UFV International, the Arts Practicum and Internship Coordinator, Elise Goertz, and UFV students (past and present) to share recent GDS and Queen Elizabeth Scholarship (QES) internship experiences. The event was entitled: “One in 8 Billion: Global Internship Opportunities.”

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