

MEMO
FROM: Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic
DATE: April 5, 2021
SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report

Ey Swayel

COVID-19 Updates

One year ago, I wrote the following in my April, 2020 Senate report:

“The month of March, 2020 will go down in history as the month when the COVID-19 global pandemic significantly impacted every aspect of life in North America. At the time of writing this report, the World Health Organization reported more than 1.2 million global cases of the viruses resulting in close to 68,000 deaths worldwide. British Columbia, along with the rest of Canadian Provinces, are under states of emergency with only essential businesses open. All schools and post-secondary institutions across the country are now delivering their classes through a variety of remote methods joining 90% of the world's students who can not physically attend their schools. And while the availability of effective treatments and vaccines to stop the spread of COVID-19 are still months away, there are glimmers of hope emerging from society. One of those is education. While our ability to deliver our courses and programs has been limited to primarily online methods, we have not let the virus stand in our way of the pursuit of knowledge. By rapidly shifting to alternate forms of course delivery and continuing to pursue our academic vision as we remain open primarily through virtual methods, we have demonstrated to the world that we will not be deterred in our commitment to engage learners, transform lives, and build communities.”

One year later, while the Province of BC is still under a state of emergency and operating under restrictive public health orders, the hope that we have been waiting for these past 12 months is turning to reality. With each passing day, the distribution rates of four highly effective vaccines starting with our most vulnerable populations and the promise of access to the vaccine to all British Columbians by the end of June, 2021, means that a return to a sense of normalcy is within our reach.

These past 12 months have demonstrated the resilience and innovation that education has to offer. We have shown to the world that despite a global pandemic which requires drastic measures to mitigate its impact, the academic community is committed to providing exceptional educational experiences and generate impactful scholarly activities that benefit our community and our society.

At the April 16th Senate Meeting, senators will receive a report that provides planning principles and recommendations on our approach to the Fall, 2021 semester. Working under the guidance of BC's top

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physician, Dr. Bonny Henry, BC's post-secondary institutions are planning for a full return to on-campus activities by the beginning of September, 2021. The report is the result of 2 months of consultations and is based on the COVID-19 science and research presented in Dr. Henry's March 8th letter to BC's post-secondary presidents.

Integrated Strategic Plan

A number of initiatives are underway to support the implementation of the Integrated Strategic Plan:

- A number of institutional metrics that align with the Goals of the Strategic Plan will be identified and presented to the Board of Governors and Senate for their input by June, 2021.
- The Provost's Office will be leading the development of a new Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) Plan that aligns with the Institutional Strategic Plan. A draft of the SEM plan will be presented to APPC and Senate during the Fall, 2021 term for their feedback.
- The Terms and Application Process to apply for funds from the newly created Strategic Initiatives Fund will be announced soon with the first call for proposals slated for June, 2021.
- By the end of the summer, the Vice-Presidents will be sharing planning templates with their respective areas to assist in unit level strategic plans and priorities that align with the institutional Integrated Strategic Plan.
- The first Strategic Plan Annual Report that outlines progress to date will be submitted to the Board of Governors and Sente by June, 2022.

Sr. Administrative Search Updates

- UFV's first Director for EDI, Sundeep Hans, officially joined the University on April 1, 2021. Welcome Sundeep!
- The search for a new Dean for the College of Arts has concluded and I am pleased to announce that Dr. Sylvie Murray will be the new Dean starting July 1, 2021. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Murray on being the successful candidate in a national search for this position.
- The search for UFV's Head Librarian is actively underway. You can access the advertisement and position profile [here](#).
- The call for expressions for a 2 year appointment for an Interim Dean for Applied and Technical Studies closed on March 12, 2021. I hope to announce the successful applicant in the very near future.

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

- We have had about 100 students take part in the online CLIMB orientation event for the summer semester. These sessions will continue up until April 30th. A quick overview of the event schedule can be found [here](#).
- 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.

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- Dr. Kseniya Garaschuk wrote a piece for the Canadian Math Society Notes highlighting some events on her journey of indigenization teaching mathematics <https://notes.math.ca/en/article/some-stories-from-my-journey/>
- At UFV, 87 students submitted papers to WriteAway to get feedback and support. WriteAway is an excellent program that offers undergraduate students online feedback on their academic written work from a trained tutor, and is used in 16 institutions across BC. <https://www.ufv.ca/asc/writeaway/>
- The Library continues to purchase or license digital materials that support teaching, learning and research. Some recent additions include: [ProQuest Open Theses \(PQDT\)](#); [Sage Research Methods](#) and [Sage Video Nursing Collection](#)
- UFV has signed up to take part in the Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE) survey. CSRDE is an association of higher education institutions with the common goal of achieving the highest possible levels of student success through collaboratively sharing data, knowledge and innovation. Participation in this project will allow us to compare our retention and graduation rates to many other institutions across Canada and the USA. Institutions taking part are sorted by the Carnegie Classification; we are in the Baccalaureate Colleges, Diverse Fields.

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

- Faculty and community providers went above and beyond to volunteer and provide free training to the Social Justice and the CALL practicum students. Some of the trainers were Patrick Storey, *Mental Health First Aid*; Kim Norman (while on sabbatical), workshop on *Grant Writing*; Brianna Strumm, development and facilitating *Online Youth Groups*; Carolyn Burke and Tamika Schilbe co-presented on *Holistic Health Approaches to Anxiety, and Self-Compassion in Times of Stress*.
- April 8 – [UFV Student Research Day](#) – asynchronous online showcase launches 12:30pm PST
- May 3 – Deadline to nominate students for [Undergraduate Research Excellence Awards 2021](#)
- PD Day: Join your colleagues from April 27-29 to engage with keynote speakers Dr. Lee Brown, and Dr. Susan Biali-Haas, laugh along with comedian Rajnish Dhawan, and enjoy music by Dr. Jonathan Hughes. The theme for this year's PD Day virtual event is wellness - "Be Well. Learn Well. Work Well. The connection between good health, and academic and workplace performance." Events will be focused on how wellness impacts our personal and work lives. For more information <https://ufv.ca/pd-day/>
- The UUP department and the Faculty of Access and Continuing Education congratulate Michelle Rickaby, UUP's Chilliwack Instructional Assistant, for being nominated for one of the Fraser Valley Cultural Diversity Awards in the Champion of Diversity category; she attended the awards on Match 8th.
- Modern Languages and UFV are co-hosting the Upriver Halq'eméylem Translation Contest Friday April 30th.
- UFV SoCA Associate Professor Melanie Jones was recently awarded the [TIFF-CBC Screenwriter Award](#).
- Gathering virtually to explore ideas of PLACE, SPACE and COMMUNITY, the 2021 Community Arts Practices group from The University of the Fraser Valley has developed an open inquiry about the communities in which we create, live and work. As artist-citizens, students challenged historical narratives and negotiated meaningful, ethical, cultural contexts for new art works. Guided by conversation, in-class proposals and ongoing reflections, the theme of 'convergence' was recognized as particularly relevant to our group. We

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are excited to share these creative explorations with you at the Community Art Space at the Reach Gallery Museum. Convergence is open to the public at The Reach Gallery Museum Community Art Space (CAS) from March 25, 2021 – May 8, 2021

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

- Online Article: ADED's Mindfulness Based Teaching and Learning (MBTL) Program The Cascade discusses mindfulness practices and mental health and features ADED's MBTL Program, calling it the Gold Standard. Read the article here: <http://ufvcascade.ca/paying-attention-to-the-moment-can-improve-our-mental-health/>
- Students in ECE132, Nutrition, Health and Safety, and CYC296 Inclusive Child and Youth Care Practice, are engaged with the Little Warriors Training on the prevention of child abuse.
- April 8 – PARC/College of Arts Collegium roundtable: "[Talking Racism](#)" hosted by Dr. Rashad Mammodov (Communications) Thursday, April 8, 2021 4:00pm PST
- We gratefully accepted a donation for our Heavy Duty Mechanical program from Northview Enterprises for two Detroit Diesel 12V71 Diesel Engine Cores. These donations go a long way in enabling the students to have the hands on learning essential to their success within in the program where they have to build and repair engines from their core status. A hearty thank you to Jamie Ubell, head instructor for the program and the rest of the Heavy Mechanical department who continue to work with industry supporters ensuring students have relevant materials and equipment to be part of their educational experience here at the Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies.
- Biology Adjunct Professor, Dr. Carin Bondar has had another busy month. She hosted UFV's International Women's Day event on March 8 <https://events.ufv.ca/events/international-womens-day-4/>. She took part on a panel for the International Women's Day for the Fraser Valley Labour Council. The Squiala School in Chilliwack invited her to speak to their K-12 students about science and biology. Carin filmed a segment for Strange Evidence back in November which premiered this week on the Science Channel this month: <https://www.sciencechannel.com/tv-shows/strange-evidence/>. On March 24, she led a nature walk through the Chilliwack Community forest with the Chilliwack Metis Association. On March 27, she spoke at High Ground 2021 (a civic governance forum put on by the Columbia Institute) on Creative Approaches to Science Education. She finished off the month by hosting a science communication workshop for the Youth Innovation Challenge with Science Fair BC <https://www.sciencefairs.ca/>.
- Dr. Olav Lian participated as an invited speaker on March 2 in the Science Talks series <https://blogs.ufv.ca/blog/2021/03/olav-lian-to-speak-march-2-in-science-talks-series/> presenting on his research and how our physical environment is adapting to climate change.
- On February 24, Dr. Cherie Enns was invited to speak at the Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC) as part of a Webinar Series, The Impact of COVID-19 on Planning. Her talk was entitled *How COVID-19 is changing the way we plan Cities as we move toward a healthier, spatially just and more sustainable outcome*.
- In March, the Hope Centre hosted two sessions of UFV Elder Virtual Lounge to allow UFV students to connect with ISC Hope-based Elders.

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- The University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) Global Development Studies program, in partnership with the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC), will host a youth-led webinar on the theme 'Choose to Challenge'. Youth panelists who've attended the recent UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will speak about how they "choose to challenge" for greater gender equality and social justice, and what they have learned about global youth advocacy and change-making by attending the Commission on the Status of Women.
- Dr. Gill has also been co-awarded (along with Catherine Smith from UFV Nursing) \$242,910 to implement a project entitled 'Leaving No One Behind: Empowering Persons with Albinism, particularly women and girls, in rural regions of Sierra Leone', together with our local partner in Sierra Leone, Albinism Royal Foundation (Executive Director, Ms. Sarah N'gaiwa). This project will start in June 2021 and continue for 15 months.
- [Black Lives Matter Social Justice Art Project](#) launches with UFV SoCA Associate professor Shelley Stefan as an Art Mentor for the project.

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

Ey Si:yam
Dr. James Mandigo
Provost & VP Academic

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