

**MEMO**

**FROM:** Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic  
**DATE:** May 4, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Senate Provost's Report

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**COVID-19 Updates**

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, the *COVID-19 Return-to-Campus Primer* was [released](#) by AEST to “help B.C.’s post-secondary institutions plan for a full return to on-campus teaching, learning and research in September 2021”. This Primer was developed in consultation with the Public Health Office, AEST, BCCDC and representatives across a number of post-secondary institutions in BC. I encourage all Senators to review the Primer. UFV’s current Fall Planning Principles and Recommendations document presented at the April Senate meeting is currently being updated by the Emergency Policy Committee to ensure alignment with the Primer and to integrate all areas of the University in our planning for the fall. UFV’s Academic Fall Planning Principles and Recommendations that was presented at the April Senate meeting is consistent with the newly released Primer and there are no recommended changes to our academic planning at this time. An update to the [Go Forward Guidelines for Post-Secondary institutions](#) are expected to be published later this month and come into effect August 1, 2021.

**Integrated Strategic Plan**

A number of Key Performance Metrics that align with the Goals of the Strategic Plan will be identified and presented to Board of Governors and Senate for their input by June, 2021. Feedback around a draft of the Institutional KPI’s will be presented at the May APPC committee of Senate.

**Sr. Administrative Updates**

- The search for UFV’s Head Librarian is nearing completion. I hope to announce the successful applicant in the near future.
- Dr. Peter Geller was the successful candidate to assume the role of Interim Dean for Applied and Technical Studies for a two year period. Dr. Geller’s term as Interim Dean will be extended to August 31, 2023.
- Dr. Geller’s term as Vice-Provost ends on August 31, 2021 to enable him to focus on his Interim Dean position in FATS. The search for a new Vice-Provost Academic (VPA) has commenced with an anticipated start date of September 1, 2021.
- As part of the reconfigured Vice-Provost Academic position, the Registrar’s Office and Institutional Research and Planning will now report directly to the VPA.

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*

- The Chilliwack campus library now has pick-up lockers for library holds. If you place a hold on a physical item in the library catalogue, and request to pick it up in Chilliwack, library staff will retrieve the item, sign it out to you, place it in a locker, and send you the code to access it. The lockers are located outside of the Library in CEP Building A, and since the building's hours are longer than the Library's, this makes it easier for users to pick up their request at a time that is convenient for them
- TLCs continues to research, redesigning, and create of new workshops including Universal Design Learning, Jamboard, Hyflex, creating a student-centred course syllabus, online teaching fundamentals, and online assessments. Workshops will continue to be offered weekly and can be found at this link [http://events.ufv.ca/tlc/?\\_gl=1%2A59qhf%2A\\_ga%2AOTUyNjg4OTAzLjE1MjA1NTAzNjU.%2A\\_ga\\_TTGXF08HS7%2AMTYxOTYzNjM0NS4yMjcuMC4xNjE5NjM2MzQ1LjA](http://events.ufv.ca/tlc/?_gl=1%2A59qhf%2A_ga%2AOTUyNjg4OTAzLjE1MjA1NTAzNjU.%2A_ga_TTGXF08HS7%2AMTYxOTYzNjM0NS4yMjcuMC4xNjE5NjM2MzQ1LjA)
- Indigenization Specialist, Lorna Andrews, is developing a 90 minute webinar for the Child and Youth Care Education Accreditation Board of Canada titled "Indigenization...it's more than Indigenizing". As well, she is developing a workshop for UFV faculty on "teaching Indigenous learners". She is collaborating with Faculty of Professional Studies Indigenization Committee to develop a cultural sensitivity/anti-racism micro-course. Lorna is also participating on the I-EDI Lens working group to develop lens to assist in implementing the principles and EDI action plan
- Lee-Anne Stephen (RN) will be engaging with the National League of Nursing (NLN) on a simulation project. The project will focus on the creation of an unfolding simulation case study focused on the LGBTQ+ population. The NLN is engaging Lee-Anne as a content expert (simulation and paediatric knowledge) to provide support for the development of these simulations.
- May 18 & 20 – Two workshops for researchers on EDI and decolonization of research. Information to be shared through REGS channels soon.
- Partnering with CASE (Canadian Association for Supported Employment) and three Community Futures (North Fraser, BC; Yorkton, SK; and Central, BC) Continuing Education (CE) is developing a Digital Literacy Program for their client groups. All materials will be close captioned, and we are exploring options to make materials ASL compliant.
- Visual Arts Instructor Toni Latour is the recipient of the BC Arts Council Grant for \$15000 for a collaborative art project with Syrus Marcus Ware.
- BFA student Luke Pardy currently has a public art exhibition with Abbotsford Parks, Recreation, and Culture (PRC) and the Abbotsford Arts Council called Stranger Days. The exhibition is a photographic portrait project that can be seen at various locations throughout Abbotsford, which are The Kariton Art Gallery, the windows of the Matsqui Centennial Auditorium (MCA), and various bus stops throughout Abbotsford. Click [here](#) to view the exhibition available online
- From April 8-10, UFV Theatre students presented the Devised Theatre Showcase 2021: No Strings Attached. Online performances were well-received and well-attended. The Devised Theatre Showcase was the final

project presented by UFV Theatre's fourth year Devised Theatre class and was a chance for students to apply everything they have learned in the course.

- Ten Welding Foundation students engaged in 4 week capstone project that involved students interpreting blueprints, cut and formed materials, and fit and welded into them into the final product. The students used a variety of industrial metalworking machinery and various welding processes with lessons along the way. This roll off bin will be used by a local vendor (who is also a UFV Welding Alumni) to help his business grow, and to continue to support our program. The nature of this project involves students working to the highest tolerances, and within a very limited timeframe at industry expected speed, while engaging in team building and problem solving every step of the way

### **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*

- Sandra Smith, ASC's Coordinator, and two colleagues from Simon Fraser University, are the 2021 recipients of the national Learning Specialists Association Team Award for their development of a Canadian Procrastination Avoidance Week. See more at: <https://blogs.ufv.ca/tlc/2021/04/14/innovation-spark/>
- Several of our nursing faculty with ICU specialty are dedicating their time to help care for COVID patients in the Abbotsford Regional Hospital (ARH). The critical need for nurses' professionalism, care, and dedication has been brought into focus during this pandemic.
- Research Support Funds from The Tri-Councils have increased from \$249,004 in 2020-2021 to \$307,701 in 2021-2022.
- Biology student, Kennedy Zwaych (faculty supervisor, Dr. Sandra Gillespie) won the Vice President, Student Award for her project "Pathogen prevalence in wild bumblebees (*Bombus* spp.) across the Fraser Valley" at UFV's Student Research Day. Dr. Nathan Bialas' research student and Science Faculty Council Student Representative, Kabeer Poonia, won the Faculty of Science Dean's Award for his project "The effects of Haskap Berry (*Lonicera caerulea*) extract on oxidative stress resistance and its intergenerational inheritance in *Caenorhabditis elegans*".
- Chemistry students, Kevin Gajesek, Brianna Whatley, and Gavyn Lastoria (faculty supervisors, Drs. Jacob Spooner and Noham Weinberg) won the Provost & Vice President, Academic Award for their project "Efficacy of molecular clutch systems for large scale molecular machines" at UFV's Student Research Day.
- Completed the Indigenous Certification Board of Canada's re-accreditation process for the Bachelor of Integrated Studies completion program, the only Bachelor's level program in Canada to achieve this status. UFV, in partnership with Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, developed this program for NVIT's Indigenous Holistic Wellness & Addictions Advanced Diploma graduates.
- Emily Rettich, a UFV Physics student has been awarded a \$5,000 scholarship from the Canadian Institute for Nuclear Physics (CINP) in recognition of her high level research experience.

### **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 Library will be piloting a Student Library Ambassador program this summer, as part of a gradual reopening of library spaces. We will be hiring a number of students in both the Abbotsford and Chilliwack libraries to greet visitors, direct students to pre-booked individual study tables, refer people who need assistance to library staff either on-site or online, monitor for COVID safety, and help ensure a welcoming and safe environment. We look forward to working with our new student ambassadors, and want to thank CECE for their support in helping us with this program.
- CECE's CityStudio Chilliwack has been launched in Winter 2021 semester which extended the model into the heart of the Fraser Valley. The inaugural GEOG/CMNS 257 class Environment: Science and Communications is team-taught by Dr. Paul Fontaine and Dr. Carin Bondar, and looks at the water conservation issue. The students are responding to the challenge: What can the City, residents, businesses and industries do to shift the balance towards a sustainable water future?
- UFV International, through Friends Without Borders, will be hosting an open and supportive conversation about race and anti-racism on May 13th (10:00 – 11:30 am). This event aims to provide a safe space for students to support one another, learn from each other, and be empowered by the stories, passion, and courage of panel members.
- Dr. Carin Bondar shot a documentary for CBC and ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) 'Carbon – An Unauthorized Biography' which is hosted by Neil DeGrasse Tyson. It will be featured on 'The Nature of Things' in late 2021
- The UFV Team of Drs. Kseniya Garaschuk, Vanessa Radzimski, and Stan Manu joined forces with UBC to organize this year's Sq'ep "Mathematical and Indigenous Futures: Generational Journeys" to be held on May 11 and 18, 2021. <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2021/04/12/register-today-indigenous-math-symposium-may-11-18/>
- UFV will be welcoming 17 Surrey Fire Service students over the summer term, with another 28 students expected in the Fall as part of our ongoing partnership with Surrey Fire.
- Global Development Studies Assistant Professor Dr. Geetanjali Gill was awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership Engage Grant in collaboration with the NGO Right to Play International, for her research on 'Socio-Cultural norms and gender responsive play-based education: a qualitative study of students, teachers, and families in Rwanda, Ghana, and Mozambique'

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