

MEMO

FROM: Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic
DATE: October 7, 2021
SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report

Ey Swayel

I would like to personally thank our faculty and staff for safely welcoming back our students to our campus this past month. Once again seeing students on our campus, our faculty in our learning environments (both in person and online), and our staff supporting the needs of our UFV community is at the heart of what we do.

COVID-19 Updates

At the time of writing this report, the Public Health Officer has implemented [additional health measures](#) for those living within the Fraser Health Authority from Abbotsford east to Hope. We have been in contact with our Fraser Health partners and they have reassured us that our current Return to Campus Safety Plans meet the high standards in place to mitigate the spread of the SARS-Cov2 virus on our campuses. These include the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training's [Return to Campus Guidelines](#) and the BC Centre for Disease Control's online resources posted on their [Post Secondary page](#) including a detailed [Return to Campus Public Health Guidance](#) to support on-campus activities. UFV continues to do its part by supporting and promoting the importance of vaccinations as evidence by September's vaccination levels of 90% amongst the UFV community. You can see the full results of the vaccination disclosure survey [here](#).

Integrated Strategic Plan

A total of 39 applications to the Strategic Initiatives Fund were received to support the implementation of [IYAQÁWTXW: House of Transformation](#). Applicants will be informed the week of October 18th regarding the status of their application.

Sr. Administrative Updates

The search for two new Deans ([Dean for the Faculty of Professional Studies](#) & [Dean for the Faculty of Education, Community, and Human Development](#)) has commenced. Please feel free to share the job postings amongst your colleagues and networks.

Truth and Reconciliation

September 30th was Canada's first National Truth and Reconciliation Day. On that day, we stopped and reflected upon how we can all work towards authentic truth and reconciliation with Indigenous people. This journey is one that is more than just one day a year. It is a journey we must all continue to commit to each and every day. I encourage all of you to continue to participate in events and activities that will further your understanding and commitment to truth and reconciliation throughout the year.

To align my report with the 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

- School of Business has launched the International Business Major and Minor for Fall 2021. These paths will open up a whole new world of opportunity for our students.
- As a new component of KIN 350 (Stress and Chronic Disease), Dr. Michael Gaetz is having students conduct a reflection of their knowledge related to indigenous schools and the transgenerational trauma that may have resulted
- Dr. Iris Lesser co-authored the following Science Communication (knowledge translation) article on The Conversation: “Outdoor exercise benefits new mom’s mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic”. Link: <https://theconversation.com/outdoor-exercise-benefits-new-moms-mental-health-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-167097>
- [The Graphic and Digital Design department is hosting an online Portfolio + Info Night on October 26 at 6 pm.](#) This info session aims to provide more information for prospective students about GDD’s programs, careers in the creative industry, and important tips about building a solid portfolio for admissions.
- As part of Lá:lem te Baker (Baker House) resident programming, the Advocates for Change – Living Learning Community provides educational programming to address issues of racism and diversity. Lorna Andrews worked with staff to first, Indigenize the general programming, and then provided training for Circle Works. Circle Works is a culturally appropriate way to infuse Indigenous Circles as a pedagogical tool that non-Indigenous facilitators can use for learning purposes. There were 11 student staff and UFV staff who participated in the training. The second round included 14 participants comprising collaborators, program partners, and curriculum presenters.
- Applied Business Technology has incorporated the Hyflex format of course delivery into the program this semester. The first Hyflex class was held on Friday, September 24, with nineteen students attending in person at the Clearbrook Centre and five joining virtually via Blackboard Collaborate. In-person students successfully engaged in group work with their remote classmates using various forms of technology (phones and laptops).
- CE partnered with Kinesiology faculty Dr Luisa Giles to offer “Exercise and Air Pollution” online course to exercise professionals; the course provides specialized training relevant to increased air quality issues due to forest fires and was a component of Luisa’s research.
- Centre for Education and Research on Aging (CERA) – launched their first podcast. [Gero Nurses: Tales from the front – Episode 1.](#)
- Food and Agriculture Institute (FAI) was awarded \$120,000.00 from Mitacs Accelerate for PostDoc internship projects. The project, “*The potential role of vertical agriculture in sustainable and resilient community food systems*”, collaborates with industry partners QuantoTech and i-Open Technologies.
- Elder Josephine Charlie visited both Abbotsford and Chilliwack libraries and welcomed student to do Indigenous arts specifically beading medicine bags or making dreamcatchers
- UFV has received confirmation that one of its proposals for the Federal Mobility project was successful. This should result in approximately \$500k to promote and assist students (particularly those from underrepresented groups) in going abroad. In addition, the consortium-based proposal with Douglas College and Langara College to promote indigenous mobility was also successful (approximately \$700k).

- The first Cultural Resurgence S'wes event took place on September 21, 2021, at the Gathering Place. During the first event, the students were introduced to preserving and smoking fish. Overall, the events will provide an opportunity for Indigenous students in S'olh Téméxw to embark on a journey to reclaim Indigenous knowledge and participate in Indigenous activities.

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

- Two different Ministry funding initiatives are currently underway within the TED: (1) Work with the Math'xwi (Matsqui) First Nation on a curriculum project that will bring Math'xwi stories and history into K-12 classrooms has been ongoing for the past year, despite Covid-19; and (2) Dr. Joanne Robertson (new hire, January 2021) secured funding to support French Language instruction for K-12 teachers. With this funding, and the approval of the BC Teachers' Council, we are able to offer a French Language course in the Fall semester for both UFV students and practicing K-12 teachers. As well, for the very first time, we will be able to offer teacher candidates a practicum in Core French or Early French Immersion. Given the desperate need for French Immersion teachers in the Fraser Valley, we are happy to be able to work to support the local school districts in this regard.
- Three students, **Annabelle Czihaly**, **Connor Frey** and **Heather Kelly**, participated in this year's London International Youth Science Forum in August and their experiences have been posted in our blogs:
 - <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2021/09/01/london-international-youth-science-forum-2021-with-annabelle-czihaly/>
 - <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2021/08/27/london-international-youth-science-forum-2021-with-connor-frey/>
 - <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2021/08/27/london-international-youth-science-forum-2021-with-heather-kelly/>
- HCAPP (Health Care Assistant Partnership Pathway) program has successfully launched in August 2021. This is a partnership with the Ministry and Fraser Health in response to the pandemic and the pressing need to graduate more health care assistants to work in LTC and Assisted Living facilities.
- Empowering persons with albinism, Dr Geetanjali Gill, Elicia Tournier and Catherine Liao (UFV Nursing) launched a project with partner organization Albinism Royal Foundation (ARF), stakeholders, and the community. They are working with persons with albinism in 11 districts across Sierra Leone. Their advocacy initiatives have sparked an interest nationally.
- Dr. Carl Nienhuis is supervising a student research project that, in collaboration with Parks BC, will be exploring the barriers and facilitators to accessing Cultus Lake (and potentially other parks) for those that may be disabled or mobility impaired.
- UFV Launch, a two-semester professional development program, began September 27 with 11 new UFV faculty members participating from Nursing, Kinesiology, Physics, Social Work and Human Services, and Teacher Education.
- Digital display created to welcome students at both Chilliwack and Abbotsford featuring library services interspersed with Indigenous imagery, information and links for more information provided on the Metis, MMIWG and the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

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 Graduate Certificate in Child Life and Community Health was successful in being awarded funding to expand internship sites through the Work Integrated Learning proposal which was submitted jointly with SW. Internships will be expanded in the Fraser Health and Interior Health Regions
- Amea Wilbur, Lorna Andrews, and Brianna Strumm provided two online workshops (“Special R- Chats”) in June of 2021 on Trauma-Informed Pedagogy and Practice in response to the discovery of residential School unmarked graves to assist faculty in supporting our Indigenous students.
- Alison Pritchard-Orr and Karen Natho received approvals for their para boccia program for local Chilliwack children with disabilities. The boccia program will take place weekly and run at the CEP campus from Oct 27- Dec 1. This study involves direct community engagement with experiential participation and volunteer work for kinesiology students.
- History sessional instructor and Coordinator at the South Asian Studies Institute (SASI), Sharanjit Kaur Sandhra was interviewed in new [Knowledge Network documentary: British Columbia: An Untold History](#).
- On August 17, CHASI joined the call for the international community to act with immediacy and urgency to ensure the significant gains the Afghan people have made in recent years are not lost. [CHASI researcher Chelsea Novakowski shared some of her personal experience volunteering with Free to Run in Afghanistan](#), and her concerns for the people living there now.
- Teaching and Learning will be hosting a series of podcasts that will be located on the Teaching and Learning website. Learning Designer Katherine Kohler is the producer and the series will explore different aspects of post secondary education. The first podcast features Sundeep Hans, UFV’s Directory of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.
- CECE partnered with Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce to produce 3 promotional videos that feature UFV students that were hired by Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce business (“Why hire UFV?”)
- Continuing Education is delivering training in partnership with three community groups who support individuals with barriers to access to education or employment: MCC – MS Office Basics and Technology to women dealing with domestic violence; SASET – individuals from the Stó:lō Nation looking to build employability skills; and Archway Community Services - MS Office Basics and Technology and Customer Service training to immigrants facing employment barriers.
- Community Health and Social Innovation (**CHASI**) was contracted by the City of White Rock for \$25,000.00 to provide a needs assessment and community scan related to “*Responding to the pandemic*”.

Thank you to all those who contributed to providing these updates from the Faculties and Academic Units and my best wishes and thanks to all Senators at the start of this new academic year.

Ey Si:yam

Dr. James Mandigo

Provost & VP Academic