

**MEMO**

**FROM:** Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic  
**DATE:** January 9, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Senate Provost's Report

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**COVID-19 Updates**

With the rapid onset of the highly contagious Omicron variant, UFV has adopted a 3 phased approach to its academic continuity plan to start the Winter, 2022 term. At the recommendation of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST), UFV delayed the start of the majority of programs to January 10<sup>th</sup>. However, Phase 1 identified several programs that resumed educational activities the week of January 4<sup>th</sup> due to time constraints. Phase 2 starts on January 10<sup>th</sup> to January 23<sup>rd</sup> and includes the resumption of all classes scheduled for the Winter, 2022 term; the majority to be delivered remotely to support academic continuity. There are some classes and programs that require in-person learning to achieve the identified learning outcomes. Finally, Phase 3 will start on January 24<sup>th</sup> with a return to regularly scheduled modes of delivery identified in the Winter 2022 timetable.

To accommodate for the delayed start as requested by AEST, UFV has adjusted the instructional dates for the Winter, 2022 term. Classes will now end of Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> for a total of 64 instructional dates. Exams will now commence on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> after the Easter Weekend. Senate is being asked to consider in a motion from the Registrar for an extension of the exam dates to April 29<sup>th</sup> in order to maximize the number of available dates to minimize student exam conflicts.

**Sr. Administrative Updates**

On January 1, 2022, Dr. Christophe Schinckus assumed the role of Dean for the Faculty of Professional Studies. Dr. Schinckus has served as the Director for the School of Business since arriving from Taylor's University in Malaysia in April, 2021.

On January 1, 2022, the Faculty of Access and Continuing Education (FACE) officially became the Faculty of Education, Community and Human Development (FECHD). Initially, only the existing Departments within FACE (Applied and Business Technology, Upgrading and University Preparation, English Language Studies, Continuing Education, Assessment Services) will be a part of FECHD. It is anticipated that the Teacher Education Department, Adult Education Department, Department of Information Studies, School of Social Work and Human Services, and Child, Youth and Family Studies Department will join their colleagues in FECHD by April 1, 2022. Until then, they will remain within the Faculty of Professional Studies.

Dr. Tracy Ryder Glass will assume the role of Acting Dean for FECHD until June 30, 2022. On July 1, 2022, Dr. Allyson Jule will assume the role of Dean for FECHD. Dr. Jule joins UFV from Trinity Western University where

she has served as Dean for the Faculty of Education since 2017. Dr. Jule also joins UFV as a 3M National Teaching Fellow which she received in 2016.

### **Strategic Enrolment Management Plan**

To support the implementation of the Integrated Strategic Plan, UFV is undergoing a renewal of its Strategic Enrolment Management Plan. At the time of writing this report, a total of 101 responses to an institutional survey have been received to help inform key priorities for the SEM Plan. The survey is open until January 14<sup>th</sup>. A series of institutional focus groups following the results of the survey are planned in the next few weeks.

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

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

*Provide inclusive learning environments for everyone*

- The Centre for Education and Research on Aging (CERA) launched the fourth episode of their podcast: Gero Nurses: Tales from the front – Episode 4.
- The School of Computing is partnering with Enactus club to promote and facilitate participation of students from Computing in activities with a social impact, as a supported strategic initiative.
- UFV Int'l is working closely with Fraser Valley India to launch a robust, person-to-person pre-departure information briefing for all students in India who plan to transition to UFV in Canada. Our goal here is to give students an opportunity to ask questions or get clarification on key items before boarding a plane for Canada. With the recent attention that various news articles have shone on unscrupulous recruitment behaviour, we see this as a responsible move that should manage students' expectations and bolster retention.
- The Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society has informed the Office of the President & Vice Chancellor that UFV will receive \$90,000 in funding for distribution to student as part of the One World International Scholarship program for 2022-23.
- Collections Librarian with input from the Liaison Librarians elected and ordered a variety of materials to support the educational and research needs of UFV students and faculty, with priority given to materials supporting equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Teaching and Learning Specialist, Indigenization Lorna Andrews is establishing a working group to develop a short module as an introduction to Indigenous and Stó:lō peoples and history. The module is to support the need to provide international students and others with a foundation on Indigenous knowledge and history. More information to come as the working group is established. Lorna is also working on a series on new one-hour workshops to begin in January. Check the TLC website for topics and schedules.
- On November 5-6, the Fraser Valley Literacy Festival took place at the University House at the UFV Abbotsford Campus. For the first time, the festival tried a hybrid approach which had an excellent outcome. The online event was sold out and all those who have registered for the in-person event attended day 2 of the festival. Next year, the English department plans to continue with a hybrid approach to this event since there was a strong student attendance. [Click here](#) to watch the full presentations.

UFV is situated on Stó:lō Temexw, the traditional lands of the Stó:lō people.

- On November 12th, Carpentry and Culinary Arts collaborated on the UFV Bar-q-terie project, combining beautiful hand-crafted student made boards with delicious student made charcuterie.

### **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*

- The Peace and Reconciliation Centre (PARC) launched a research project to examine the spread and impact of disease amongst Indigenous peoples in the Pacific Northwest to determine origins, actions, and mitigation strategies for future epidemics among Indigenous communities. Full article [here](#).
- The Enactus UFV project, The Big Brain Literacy Program (BBLP), has been selected to receive a \$2,500 grant as part of the Shaw Youth Entrepreneurship Project Accelerator.
- A special program has been approved by the Human Rights Tribunal, enabling the University to hire indigenous staff and faculty on the basis of their ancestry.
- Dr. Afia Raja, Assistant Professor from SLUEC and collaborators Drs. Cherie Enns, Jennifer Hetherington, and Talha Qadri also from SLUEC were successful in their SSHRC Partnership Engagement Grant application "Collaborative Community Planning through tactical urbanism for Mission Water Front Development" in the amount of \$24,723.
- TLCAsks Podcast – The TLC is producing a series of podcasts on teaching and learning issues and successes featuring our own faculty as well as experts from across Canada. Catch the latest with Communications professor Hannah Celinski on Student Success. [https://video.ufv.ca/media/TLCAsks+E2A+Hannah+Celinski+on+Student+Success/0\\_b6h5ctrf](https://video.ufv.ca/media/TLCAsks+E2A+Hannah+Celinski+on+Student+Success/0_b6h5ctrf)
- TLC in partnership with UFV International will be hosting a series of podcasts called Student Voices that will include interviews with students on a wide variety of topics.
- Modern Languages student Yujia Jiang has recently won the Most Creative Award in the 2021 BC Chinese Bridge Mandarin Singing Contest.
- Visual Arts Sessional Faculty Toni Latour and collaborator Dr. Syrus Marcus Ware received \$70,000 from the Canada Council for the Arts and \$15,000 from the BC Arts Council for the production of The Black Lives Matter Memorial Project, which will be exhibited in the summer of 2023.
- BBC documentary "Canada's Missing Children" features CHASI researcher: In May 2021, CHASI Faculty Associate Dr. Sarah Beaulieu located what are likely human burial sites at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. She was recently featured in a BBC Our World documentary on the topic, "Canada's Missing Children."
- As part of the ongoing Cultural Resurgence S'wes events, Indigenous students were invited to partake in two events:
  - A hybrid Halq'emeylem workshop led by Willow Mussell, Elizabeth Phillips, and Bibiana Norris. The hybrid platform allowed us to open up the event to others in the Sto:lo community. For example, a Halq'emeylem class from Chilliwack Secondary School, where able to participate virtually from their classroom.
  - Resident resource person, David Gutierrez, led a hybrid Storytelling workshop. Once again, we were able to extend our reach both within the Sto:lo community and UFV Indigenous students, by using a hybrid platform.

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### **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 Health Care Assistant – Partnership Program (HCAPP) in the School of Health Studies partnered with Thomson Rivers University in providing lab space and faculty at CEP campus to assist 17 of their HCAPP students complete the lab component of their program.
- Jason Brandenburg met with the co-founder of a non-profit organization called The PowHERful Movement to explore experiential learning opportunities for KIN students. The PowHERful Movement, based in the Fraser Valley, focuses on encouraging strength training and weightlifting in teenage girls.
- TEDx Abbotsford presented *Resilience* on December 2 featuring Dr. Awneet Sivia, Associate Professor, Teacher Education; Dr. Keith Carlson, Director PARC; Karin Jager, Associate Professor, Visual Communication.
- *Science Talks: To Serve and Protect: The Value of Academic, Agency, and Community Collaboration in Police Research* by Dr. Irwin Cohen, Director of the Centre for Public Safety and Criminal Justice Research, UFV took place December 7. This concludes the current series. Recording available [here](#).
- Work by the South Asian Studies Institute (SASI) has been highlighted in the Government's *Report on Multiculturalism* (p18-19).
- PARC awarded an *i2i (Ideas to Ivory Tower)* grant to *Great Blue Heron Reserve*. The collaborative meeting between UFV faculty & off-campus organization leaders will brainstorm ways to address challenges identified by external organizations within the community and work together to create innovation solutions.
- The Centre for Education and Research on Aging (CERA) seeks *Age-Friendly University status* for UFV, to become the first such accredited University in BC. The accreditation consists of ten guiding principles created by Dublin City University to address global efforts for greater inclusion of the older populations in programming and inclusion, as identified by the WHO.
- Students from Dr. Mariano Mapili's GEOG 357: Conservation Geography class participated in the CityStudio Virtual Hubbub #8. The challenge was: To explore how a site to be re-imagined from the perspectives of sustainability, green strategies, and site activation/optimization, and inclusive placemaking. The team of UFV students Lisa Horton, Ramneek Poonia, Jeevan-Nicole Samra, and Jamie Claire not only won the best Team Award but also the People's Choice Award for their project "Bringing Sustainability and Community to Our Infrastructure". <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zFaXggRHn2lsiaDI9lfqYnszbtllq8Ai/view>  
<https://letstalkabbotsford.ca/citystudio-virtual-hubbub8-fall2021>
- Simran Gill from Dr. Carin Bondar's BIO 420: Methods in Science won the CityStudio Chilliwack Team Award for their project "Water Unsung Hero". The challenge was: When it comes to water access and sustainability, what are some of Chilliwack's biggest challenges? How can we inform the public about the importance of local aquifer management? Listen to the winning podcast here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_fztVLTMPivOryRFp\\_0K12NXly27d7Op/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_fztVLTMPivOryRFp_0K12NXly27d7Op/view)
- On November 30, Dr. Michelle Rhodes, Director of Integrated and General Studies, co-facilitated an online interactive event, *Sparks and Bright Spots*, exploring sources of innovation in municipal government. The event was co-hosted by Continuing Education, the City of Abbotsford, and the Municipal Innovators Community (MiC), and the session included participants from across BC, Alberta, and southern Ontario.

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- The SASI was pleased to host the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, Melanie Mark at the Sikh Heritage Museum, National Historic Site and Gur Sikh Temple on November 12, 2021. In addition to hosting the Honorable Minister, the SASI was joined by UFV President and Vice Chancellor Dr. Joanne MacLean, honourable Minister of Labour Harry Bains, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister Bob D'Eith, MLA's Jagrup Brar, Jinny Sims, Pam Alexis, and Mike Murray, Council member of the BC Arts Council for a roundtable discussion regarding how we will preserve and showcase our history through a South Asian Canadian Museum in BC.
- SASI has also received a \$13,000 grant from the Anti Racism Initiatives Engagement Branch of the Province of BC to facilitate a workshop looking at the nature of disaggregated data collection within the University sector.
- The SASI was pleased to travel its original Haq and History exhibit, curated in partnership with the Royal BC Museum, to three schools in Abbotsford's school district #34. The three schools, Eugene Reimer, Rick Hansen, and Abbotsford Traditional Middle School displayed the exhibit panels and engaged in additional learning about the significance of Punjabi Canadian histories across British Columbia.
- As part of Apprenticeship Recognition Month UFV hosted Parliamentary Secretary of Skills Trades, Andrew Mercier and Chilliwack MLA's Dan Coulter and Kelli Paddon, which included a visit to the Electrical shop to set up a motor control trainer and pizza making with the Culinary Arts students in the TTC Teaching Kitchen.

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Dr. James Mandigo

Provost & VP Academic