

MEMO

FROM: Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic
DATE: April 12, 2022
SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report

Ey Swayel

COVID-19 Updates

April 8, 2022 marked a major milestone in the COVID-19 pandemic when the majority of public health measures, including mandatory masks and vaccine passports, were repealed. Over the past two years, scientific discovery and understanding of the SARS-CoV-2 virus has led the way in society's response to the pandemic. This has not stopped. We have entered a phase in the pandemic where education has taken on a critical importance. Organizations, including UFV, now have the knowledge and tools to make informed decisions that enable us to safely fulfil our mandate to the people of British Columbia without the requirement of public health orders. This has always been the goal of our public health officials and we are grateful to them for their leadership in helping us to navigate a novel virus and for their continued support in outlining how best to reduce the risk of the SARS-CoV-2 virus [see [Post-Secondary \(bccdc.ca\)](https://bccdc.ca)]. As the focus now shifts to personal responsibility and education to help individuals make informed decisions, I encourage all members of our UFV community to continue to respect the individual choices that people make with respect to mask wearing. There are still many who choose to continue to wear masks for a number of reasons and UFV will continue, in the absence of a mandatory health order, to support personal choice when it comes to mask wearing on campus.

Strategic Enrolment Management Plan

During the week of March 28th, 2022, three institutional focus groups were led by Dr. Mary Saudelli, David Johnston, Sundeep Hans, and Laurier Authier to delve deeper into the critical issues helping to inform UFV's new SEM Plan. I wish to thank everyone who participate in these focus group and a summary of the findings from this report will be made available shortly.

Global Refugee Crisis

The humanitarian crisis being played out in Ukraine over the past two months continues with limited hope for a peaceful resolution in the near future. Evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity continue to mount on a daily basis. Those trying to flee the violence are themselves targeted by invading forces. And when they can safely cross into welcoming countries, their journey is far from over. The Federal Government of Canada ([Immigration measures for people affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine - Canada.ca](https://immigration.measures-for-people-affected-by-the-Russian-invasion-of-Ukraine-Canada.ca)) and the Provincial Government of British Columbia ([Welcoming Ukraine - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://welcoming-ukraine-province-of-british-columbia.gov.bc.ca)) have both announced increased supports for those who have been able to leave their home country. As a result of these measures, and in particular the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel, Ukrainian nationals who qualify under this special immigration status are eligible for a work permit, student visa, and domestic tuition rates.

In March, UFV announced the launch of the [International Education Fund](#) to support two international students who have been displaced from their home country as a result of conflict.

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

- **Mar 31 | Student Research Day** returned in its in-person format in Evered Hall. The event featured student Micro-Lectures followed by the student research poster competition.
- **Community Health And Social Innovation (CHASI) Hub has debuted the CHASICAST**, a new podcast that speaks to experts about current topics and chat about how they impact our lives. The [first episode](#) features recently-retired UFV Dean of Arts Jacqueline Nolte.
- **Celebrate Learning** – The TLC will be hosting the following two events May 3 – 4, 2022:
 - The **Celebrate Learning - Indigenization** event on **May 3rd** includes concepts related to decolonization, Indigenization, and Reconciliation efforts occurring at UFV. These can be demonstrated through relationship-building, infusing Indigenous worldviews and/or Indigenous Ways of Knowing and being into the classroom.
 - And the second annual **Celebrate Learning at UFV** event which will be held **May 4th**. This event which will recognize and celebrate adaptability, ingenuity, and dedication to students' learning.
- Global Development Studies Associate Professor and CHASI Faculty Associate Dr. Geetanjali Gill recently gave an in-depth interview with the [Bigger Than Me Podcast](#), created by UFV Alum Aaron Pete. Gill spoke about citizenship and national identity, gender, and development, as well as her research and teaching.
- Hosted by UFV History Department in partnership with George Washington University and UFV's Peace and Reconciliation Centre (PARC), the [Women in Exile in Early Modern Europe and the Americas Symposium](#) was presented on March 4-5, 2022, in-person and virtually. History Department Head Dr. Adrianna Bakos was one of the main organizers of the symposium.
- Communications Associate Professor Dr. Marcella LaFever along with her co-authors Shirley Hardman (Office of Indigenous Affairs) and Pearl Penner (UFV alumnus) proudly announce a long-awaited publication. The article "Indigenous Stories of the Fraser River: Intercultural dialogue for public decision-making" was the culmination of a project that looked at the use of story during Indigenous testimony to the Cohen Commission on the Decline of sockeye salmon in the Fraser River. The research appears as Chapter 5 in "[Signs of Water: Community perspective on water, responsibility, and hope](#)" published by the University of Calgary.
- Applied and Technical Studies is partnering with Seabird Island Community School (SICS) to provide an Explore Trades program for SICS High School students. The program started on March 26 and will be taught at both the UFV Trades and Technology campus and at Seabird high school.

- UFV students, who competed in the KIN Games mid March were the academic champions amongst 600 individuals from Universities across Canada.
- Dr. Ben Vanderlei, Associate Professor and Math and Stats Department Head had applied for the internal Open Education Micro Grants Program and was recently approved for funding. The grant will allow him to hire a student to help expand the Open Education Resource that he created while on sabbatical last year.
- Dr. Carin Bondar, Biology Adjunct Professor and Sessional Instructor was part of a Carbon documentary hosted by Neil deGrasse Tyson. 'Carbon: An Unauthorized Biography' premiered on CBC docs and the Nature of things earlier this month. Catch Carin around the 12:00 minute mark. Watch the movie on CBC Gem: <https://www.cbc.ca/documentaries/the-nature-of-things/carbon-is-not-our-enemy-we-need-to-understand-it-to-protect-our-future-1.6371353>. She also filmed an episode in a series called 'Frick, I love nature' which premiered on CBC Gem on March 25. She appears at 4:55 in the video <https://gem.cbc.ca/media/frick-i-love-nature/s01e05>

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

- **Mar 17** | EFCIE presented [An alternative business model for social innovation in the Fraser Valley](#) featuring Prof. Chris Schinkus, Dean, Faculty of Professional Studies and Director, UFV School of Business
- **Indigenous Global Learning Collective (IGLC)**. A Community Connection Building trip to the American Cultural Center at Northern Arizona University was scheduled for April 9th to April 14th. Shirley Hardman, Betty Peters, and Daryl Smith will represent UFV. Other delegates from Langara College and Douglas College will also participate. The goal is to build a relationship between Indigenous communities in support of the Indigenous student field school trip in summer 2022. Seven Indigenous students from UFV have been accepted to participate in the field school this summer
- **Accessibility** - Learning Designer Katherine Kohler is scripting, filming, and editing a new video tutorial series on accessibility. This first tutorial will show you how to create accessible documents that are able to be read by various screen readers. This is especially helpful for students and users with disabilities. [Creating Accessible Word Documents with MS Word](#)
- Kevin deWolde held a field school information session on March 1st. The 2022 field school, study aboard opportunities, and the new International Business Major and Minor were discussed. Over 40 students have expressed interest in these types of international opportunities, over 30 students attended the information session, and over 20 people have signed up for more information on the 2022 field school.
- The School of Trades hosted the Regional Skills Competition on March 3, bringing high school students from across the Fraser Valley together for competitions in Electrical, Automotive, Carpentry and Welding at the Trades and Technology Centre. This marked the return to an in person Regional Skills Competition since COVID-19 resulted in remote-learning events over the past 2 years. See <https://blogs.ufv.ca/blog/2022/03/skills-canada-competition-returns-to-ufv-after-covid-hiatus/>
- On February 1st, 2022, the Teacher Education Department hosted two workshops with a trans educator, Trevana Spilchen (a high school teacher from Delta SD), who talked with the teacher candidates about the important role that they can play as educators in ensuring that LGBTQ+

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

students/staff feel safe and welcome. They shared their stories through spoken word poetry that was then elaborated upon through the conversation with the TCs.

- On February 8th, 2022, the Teacher Education Department hosted a day-long workshop with Mission SD educator, Peggy Janicki. In this experiential workshop, Peggy shared the history of the Sto:lo peoples from pre-colonial times to present day, discussing the ramifications of the Indian Act, residential schools, and other government legislation on Sto:lo communities.
- Dr. Talha Qadri, SLUEC Instructor, arranged a field/study trip to the Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve for his ENV 200: Bioregional Communities class this month. <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2022/03/25/class-field-trips-back-on-course/>

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

- For Black History Month, [CHASI](#) and a number of collaborators produced a [video](#) sharing interviews with four Fraser Valley artists who created a series of paintings with a clear focus on increasing awareness of the systemic racism faced by Black people
- **Mar 11** | The [Centre for Global Development](#) (CGD) hosted a virtual panel on the [Conflict between Russia and Ukraine](#). UFV faculty from a variety of disciplines and research background shared their insights on the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- UFV International submitted seven applications for the Emerging Leaders from the Americas Program (ELAP) to fund students from these countries to attend UFV for one semester:
 - Brazil (two students)
 - Colombia (two students)
 - Dominican Republic (three students)
- Our Enactus UFV team (under the mentorship of Saeed Rahman) has achieved remarkable success in this year's Enactus Regionals Competition since the team is the Winner of the CWB Financial Literacy pitch competition (Our team became first out of 37 applications) and it ends 2nd runner for all three challenges: CWB Financial Education Challenge, Scotiabank Climate Action Challenge and TD Entrepreneurship Challenge.
- School of Trades and the department of Agriculture participated in the Fraser Valley Women's Expo, Chilliwack (March 4-6). This was an opportunity to promote FATS programs at this event which brings in participants from women-led and woman-focused businesses in the Lower Mainland.
- Cindy Schultz, Shellie Steidle and Kate McCulloch met with the Team in Fraser Canyon Hospital to explore student preceptorship opportunities in the upcoming months. We have now formed a partnership with this site and will be providing students in our Health Studies programs the opportunity to complete final practicum experiences in FC Hospital, Long Term Care and Community Settings.
- In collaboration with Vancouver Police and community-based organizations working on violence against women, Dr. Rita Dhungel and two BSW practicum students virtually organized an *International Women's Day* event on March 8th.

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- Three BSW students began their third- or fourth-year practicum at the School's Counselling, Advocacy, Learning, and Leading (CALL) service at UFV's Heritage Park campus in Mission. Students are engaged in a variety of community development and direct service initiatives in partnership with the Mission School District, Mission Community Services, the City of Mission, and other organizations.

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