

MEMO

FROM: Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic
DATE: January 31, 2023
SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report

Ey Swayel

I hope everyone has had a great start to the Winter term.

This past month, the media has been filled with stories of the rapidly growing field of Artificial Intelligence (AI). While AI is not a new phenomenon, open source and user friendly platforms such as ChatGPT have accelerated discussions around their use in our learning environments. Some institutions have tried to ban the use of AI in an effort to prevent plagiarism. Others have identified AI as a powerful learning tool within the learning environment. Recently, the Teaching and Learning Centre hosted a workshop with over 60 participants across UFV to discuss the impact of AI. My thanks to Dr. Awnet Sivia for sharing the following key takeaways from that session about the potential use of AI in UFV's learning environments:

- Re-thinking assessment design
- Incorporating "lived experiences" of students into learning activities
- Use in-class collaborative learning strategies (PBL, POGIL, etc.)
- Adapt assignments that ask students to analyze even 'correct' solutions
- Focus on process rather than product
- Create tasks that build capacities

You can review the [session recording](#), the [session slides](#) or the [Resource Guide](#) full of resources and strategies curated by Claire Hay, TLC Specialist. [Click here to register for upcoming Tech Talks.](#)

In June, 2021, the [Accessible British Columbia Act](#) was officially passed. As part of the implementation roll-out of this legislation, all public post-secondary institutions must "...establish an accessibility committee, an accessibility plan and build a tool to receive feedback on their accessibility" by September, 2023. UFV's General Council and Acting Vice-Provost are currently leading a process to ensure that UFV is in compliance with these requirements. It is important to recognize that this legislation goes beyond ensuring our physical infrastructure is accessible. The new legislation will require all of us to ensure that our work and learning environments also support equity, diversity, and inclusion for all. As part of our newly approved SEM plan, UFV has made a commitment to being a barrier free institution throughout a student's learning journey that starts even before they officially become a student. My hope is that as a UFV community, we will not just settle for "being in compliance" but strive towards exceeding these legislative requirements to reflect our commitment to EDI.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Teresa Kisilevich will be the next Dean for the Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies effective August 1, 2023. Dr. Kisilevich is currently the Associate Dean of Trades and

Apprenticeship at Okanagan College where she has served in several instructional and administrative roles since 1999. Dr. Kisilevich brings with her extensive knowledge and experience of trades programming across BC and has developed strong industry partnerships that have further enhanced academic programming opportunities. Dr. Kisilevich has demonstrated a strong commitment to Indigenization and EDI within the trades and has actively implemented pathways for students who have historically been marginalized within the trades. I would like to personally thank Dr. Peter Geller who has led the Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies as Acting and then Interim Dean since the fall of 2020. Dr. Geller has fostered a collaborative culture within FATS and has further enhanced the reputation and opportunities across the Faculty during his time as Dean.

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 Explore Trades for Women program started January 9th, 2023 at the Aerospace Centre Campus with 14 students registered. This is a hands-on career exploration program for the skilled trades, providing opportunities for women to enter Trades Foundation training or seek an apprenticeship.
- The Stó:lō Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training (SASET) Pre-Apprenticeship Cook program started January 9, 2023 with 9 students.
- Dr. Saeed Rahman mentored our UFV Enactus students and the Fraser Valley AgroConnect website is now live. Thanks to the SIF grant, the project now became a reality. Note that this is a work-in-progress initiative as the website will be revised and updated with the gradual achievement of the project. For more info: <https://fraservalleyagroconnect.com/>
- Singing the song 听我说谢谢你 (Listen to me, thank you), [Mandarin 101 students led by Mandarin Instructor Dr. Yujia \(Eulice\) Jiang participated in the 2022 Chinese Bridge Singing Contest](#) held on UBC on November 26, 2022, and scored second place amongst several teams from BC.
- UFV Theatre, School of Creative Arts and CHASI have partnered to launch a digital art competition based on The Laramie Project. Currently enrolled UFV students [are invited to submit an original digital art piece](#), providing their own perspective on or response to The Laramie Project, as part of a digital art competition with a top prize of \$3,500 cash and an interview with [The Cascade](#) about the winning entry.
- UFV's Community Health and Social Innovation (CHASI) Hub is excited to announce its [Community Action Cohort \(CAC\) initiative](#), which will support 24 student research assistant and intern positions through 2023 and 2024. These students will be involved in rich experiential learning opportunities working alongside research and knowledge mobilization professionals and supported by a faculty and community mentor.
- Carl Nienhuis will be at the 2023 Winter Games in PEI as a sports psychologist and will be conducting live UFV classes from the games to engage his students.
- Libraries worked with faculty on acquiring curricula for the Indigenous Film Festival with teacher candidates for EDUC447: Indigenous Education and BC Schools.

- APR 9 | [Student Research Day](#). Registration is open for this year's Student Research Day, featuring microlectures and the research poster competition. Promotion to begin start of February.

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

- Approximately 70 UFV visitors “traveled” through the Teaching and Learning Centre. Everyone received a map of the different stations hosted by members of Teaching and Learning. Guests received stamps after visiting each station and learning more about the amazing work being done in all areas of our division. Stations included:
 - internationalization with Victoria Surtees
 - Indigenization with Lorna Andrews
 - curriculum and assessment with Claire Hay
 - tea with Teaching Excellence Award winners Linda Parady, Sheryl MacMath, Ian Affleck, and Judy Larsen
 - an interactive quiz on old technology with Michelle Johnson and Rhonda Darbyson
 - technology ideas for Blackboard online courses with Leaning Designers Soowook Kim, Fizza Haider, and Courtney Boisvert
 - a live demo from students with a drawing presentation by Supported Learning Groups
 - accessible learning from the lens of the POUR (Perceivable, Operable, Understandable, Robust) framework by Fizza Haider
- ILO Revision Project – The revision committee, which consists of 40 faculty and staff from all areas at UFV, will be consulting with faculty councils, divisions, committees, groups, associations, and individuals over the next seven weeks to gather UFV community feedback to update the ILOs. A working session is planned for Feb 28th to analyze the feedback and develop a draft of updated ILOs. Committee members have been able to check in and seek support from Awneet through “Ask Anything” sessions every Monday morning.
- Dr. Jelena Brcic to has been invited by Polar Knowledge Canada, to sit on a committee to develop the Canadian Antarctic Research Program Framework.
- [Media Arts student Sarah Parker has been featured in a recent article at the Abbotsford News](#). Her practicum role with the Abbotsford Canucks and Soccer Canada and her aspiration to become a professional soccer player caught the attention of the media, which also highlighted her exceptional skills in sports media. The article also spotlights the excellent relationship being built between the College of Arts and the Abbotsford Canucks, noting that Parker was the first UFV Arts practicum student to work with Canucks.
- Libraries Student Engagement Working Group asked Mitch from MarCom come to the Abbotsford Campus Library for a photo shoot of UFV students using our spaces for use in social media posts, on the library website, in reports and PowerPoints. You can browse the collection in the UFV Flickr online (<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAiuYj>). There is another photo shoot scheduled at the Chilliwack Campus Library.
- The Library is hosting the Fibre Museum in January and February which is an interactive display located in the makerspace area and will lend other supports in the form of resource guides and makerspace-related options. The Fibre Museum, a mobile, hands-on fibre museum was developed by Michelle Superle, English

Professor and RA with UFV Food and Agriculture Institute to support the integration of sustainability themes into teaching, community awareness events, and other related initiatives. This museum will also be part of a broader UFV March sustainability event in March that focuses on the issue of clothing and textiles.

- The Admissions and Enrolment Services Units were able to admit and register 871 new students for the Winter 2023 semester. This includes 310 new international students. This represents an increase of 8.5% in domestic students and a 56% increase of international students over the same period last year.
- JAN 27 - MAR 18 | [Flood Stories exhibition at The Reach Gallery Museum](#) | Dr. Michelle Superle's [Flood Stories](#) launched in January 2022 as an outlet for those affected by the 2021 flooding events to share their experiences in creative format.

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

- New Student Orientation (NSO) - SLG participated in the NSO on the first day of classes and volunteer leaders gave out information about the program and how it can help first-year students in the academic journey. A lot of international students stopped by to not only inquire about support but also how to get involved in the program by becoming a leader.
- Open Education – Claire Hay, Learning Specialist, continues to work with Martin Warkentin and Janelle Sztuhar in the UFV Library on open education-related issues. They met in mid-January to strategize plans for moving open education initiatives forward this semester. This work includes applying for work-study positions, hosting the Open Education Working Group, report writing, and promoting open education during Open Education Week in March.
- Global Development Studies Associate Professor Dr. Geetanjali Gill will be the moderator of the upcoming Peace Talk hosted by PARC about the Pakistan Floods. The talk will take place on February 9, 2023, from 9:45 AM to 11:00 AM on [Zoom](#).
- On behalf of Archway Community Services, CHASI is conducting a research project on the 2021 Abbotsford Flooding. If you were an Abbotsford resident (or know someone who is/was) who accessed services due to the flooding in November 2021, [please take part on this survey](#) for a chance to win a \$500 gift card. Your participation will give voice and make an impact on future policy decisions in your community.
- The CDA program recently offered a prosthodontic workshop for the students that was facilitated by guest presenter Jean Crawshaw, who works for the dental company Dentsply/Sirona. This was a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with a UFV community partner to offer a unique learning experience that introduced students to common practices in the specialty field of prosthodontics.
- The 8-week boccia program run by Alison Pritchard-Orr and Karen Natho wrapped up with a final program wrap up party on December 6th. Plans and funding via SportAbility and Boccia Canada are in place to continue with another 8-week boccia program in fall 2023. G.W. Graham will be used again as program site for athlete accessibility and space availability.
- Winter '23 surpassed Fall '22 as UFV's most diverse fall semester with students from 64 (vs. 63) countries.
- The [Peace and Reconciliation Centre](#) (PARC) is once again offering the [Community-engaged Collaboratorium](#) over the summer of 2023. The Collaboratorium is designed to provide community organizations with

sophisticated research services at a fraction of the cost that would be associated with a corporate consultant, while providing students with opportunities to deploy and enhance the research skills they have been developing in their classes.

- Registration is now open for the Fraser Valley Regional Science Fair (FVRSF) 2023 to be held at UFV on April 6. Students from Grades K-12 in the Fraser Valley are invited to present and compete for cash and prizes including the chance to join Team BC and represent the Fraser Valley at the Canada Wide Science Fair to be held in Edmonton, Alberta in May. <https://ufv.ca/science-fair/>
- Drs. Mariano Mapili, Afia Raja, and Talha Qadri from SLUEC assisted the City of Mission in securing funding from the Union of BC Municipalities for an Extreme Heat mapping, Risk Assessment and Planning. This month, the team started the mapping of vulnerable population with our student researcher Saba Berenjforooshazar. The same team will work on a similar project with Leq'á:mel First Nations. We hope to contribute in mitigating the effects of extreme heat to vulnerable population of the City of Mission and the Leq'á:mel First Nation.

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Provost & VP Academic