

## MEMO

FROM: Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic  
DATE: January 8, 2025  
SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report

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Ey Swáyel

Happy New Year and Happy Start to the Winter Academic Term! I hope everyone had an opportunity to take advantage of the holiday season and find ways to celebrate in ways that were meaningful to you with those closest to you.

First, an update on our Winter enrolments. As of the date of writing this report, UFV is on pace to once again break a new enrolment record for semester-based programs in the Winter term. Overall, course enrolments are up 2% over last Winter's record final enrolments currently sitting at 34,803. These course enrolments are being driven by continued growth of domestic enrolments which are up 6% over 2024's Winter enrolments. This growth is a function of both an increased number of new and returning domestic students. On the international side, the number of returning international students are up 18%; however, following a record intake of international students in the Winter of 2024, this year's new international student numbers have dropped by 67%. This is a direct result of the new measures taken by IRCC in 2024 to limit the number of student visas, changes to PGWP eligibility, enhanced student visa requirements, and Canada's overall reputation as a welcoming place for international students. UFV International has been actively engaged in continuing to promote UFV as a destination of choice for students around the world and promoting the high quality of education that all our students receive in our programs. There are 66 countries represented among the international students registered for the winter semester. In terms of new incoming students registered, the top four countries are 1) India; 2) Nigeria; 3) Nepal; and 4) Iran.

Related to this is the new [International Code of Practice](#) that has come into effect this January for all Designated Learning Institutions (DLI) in BC. Educational institutions with a DLI are permitted to admit international students into their academic programs. Institutions must declare that they are meeting the standards outlined in the Code of Practice on an annual basis or face having their DLI registration revoked by the Province. The Code of Practice includes the following areas as they relate to international students:

- Marketing and Promotion
- Education Agents
- Offer, enrolment, contracts, and tuition

- Student orientation and support
- Progression, attendance, and academic learning support
- Student safety, well-being, and health
- Housing assistance
- Post graduate employment information
- Complaints, harassment, and dispute resolution
- Critical incident and crisis management

UFV will need to make its declaration in March and our preliminary analysis of the criteria indicates that we are meeting and/or exceeding the requirements in all required areas.

To align my report with the Integrated Strategic Plan, I have organized 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.*

- SWHS: Dr. Timothy Dueck, along with seven Bachelor of Social Work students published an article together in the Taylor and Francis journal, *Social Work Education: An International Journal*. In this article, they reflect on BSW curricula through an international lens, and revisit their learning from a Spring 2024 international study tour to Austria. Article is available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02615479.2024.2438262#d1e349>
- School of Business students showcased impactful collaborations at a Community Project Showcase with community projects aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This experience demonstrated the students' experiential learning.
- Dr. Keith Carlson, Director, PARC, appeared at The Reach Gallery Museum to provide an overview of BC history to encourage thought and meaningful contribution to the process of transcending settler colonialism.
- Dr. Shelley Canning was the recipient of a 2024 Michael Smith Health Research C2 grant in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society of BC. Elise St-Martin, a teacher in SD #34 Abbotsford, is the co-lead investigator for this one-year study that will bring together a team of dementia scholars, teachers, people with lived experience, knowledge users, and two UFV nursing student RAs. The goal of this project is to create age and dementia-aware education resources for kindergarten to grade 5 teachers that align with provincially mandated learning outcomes.
- Swiftie Scholar: an academic conference hosted at UFV on December 5, applied an academic lens to the impact and influence of the mega-star Taylor Swift on the day before her three-night visit to Vancouver. With support from CHASI, the event brought speakers

from around the world to share analysis of Swift's cultural impact with UFV and Fraser Valley community members.

- The Council of Canadian Academies (CCA), and its Expert Panel on Atypical Food Production Technologies for Canadian Food Security, with Dr. Lenore Newman, Director of the FAI as Chair, has released a new report titled "The Next Course", exploring innovative approaches to atypical production of fruits, vegetables, and proteins in Canada.
- SASI is thrilled and proud to announce that it has been awarded \$300,000 USD Mellon Foundation grant by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) for the project Histories of South Asians in Canada: A Visual Ethnographic Documentation of renowned South Asian Canadian photojournalist, Chandra Bodialia's remarkable collection.
- Graphic & Digital Design major student, Hannah Lord, was one of two winners of \$1,000 [Jim Rimmer Scholarships](#) on November 21, 2024. Their project is called "Torn", and their instructor was Eric Lee. This prestigious scholarship is awarded every year to standout students whose brilliant design work champions community programs, non-profits, social, or environmental causes.
- This fall, 18 graduating students from UFV's Graphic and Digital Design (GDD) diploma and degree programs took part in an enriching work-integrated learning experience. The workshop, funded by a federal grant and supported through a partnership with UFV's Centre for Experiential and Career Education (CECE) and ISEMPOWER, connected students with local design professionals and entrepreneurs to explore how design shapes the local retail economy and how they can promote themselves as emerging designers and entrepreneurs.

### **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.*

- ADED: Dr. Amea Wilbur presented virtually at the Pathways to Prosperity Conference on Impacts and Outcomes of the Pathways to Leadership Program. Her presentation was titled, "Pathways to Full Integration for Racialized Immigrant and Refugee Women".
- DIS: Dr. Lynn Kleinveldt is a Project Partner at the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). CLIR and UFV's South Asian Studies institute recently received a \$300,000 USD award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the "Digitizing Hidden Collections: Amplifying Unheard Voices Awards" project. A complete list of projects and summaries is available at <https://www.clir.org/hiddencollections/funded-projects/>.
- The School of Business received funding from Enterprise Car Rentals to launch the Student Social Media Ambassador Program. The program supports student engagement and outreach initiatives.
- Dr. Faisal Naeem presented at an outreach event with the Chilliwack Rotary Club on December 5, 2024. There were 21 participants in attendance. The high school students

showed keen interest in computing-related fields and inquired about the requirements on how to apply to UFV for future studies.

- Dr. Opeyemi Adesina and Robbie Wright (Computing Student) completed a six-week Fall 2024 edition of the CoderDojo coding program held at École Heritage Park Middle School, Mission on December 12, 2024. This program trains middle school students across Mission Public School District. It is a collaborative effort involving UFV School of Computing, Mission Literacy in Motion, and Mission Public School district.
- Dr. Satwinder Bains, Director of the South Asian Studies Institute contributed to the release of the province’s 2024 report on Racial Diversity in the BC Public Service.
- UFV has been announced as a proud recipient of the prestigious 2025 Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships program (QES). All projects will focus on the adaptation, response and resilience to a changing climate. The program will support 21 outgoing students and 8 incoming, from Kenya, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and the Philippines, with Dr. Geetanjali Gill, Dr. Mariano Mapili, and Dr. Enns as the leads.
- The SASET Cook Program cohort ended on a high note, showcasing the skills and techniques they acquired under the teaching/supervision of Chef Wolfgang Schmelcher with a sumptuous meal. From this program, they've received tickets in key areas (e.g., FoodSafe, Occupational First Aid) that will give them the edge in their employment search. See Instagram post for end of program celebration.
- Associate Professor, Visual Arts, Shel Stefan, presented their work in a two-person art exhibition at the Museum of the Italian Cultural Centre in Vancouver, BC, Canada. The exhibition, titled “They, They, & It: Reflections on Trans Identity”, ran from April 11, 2024 - July 5, 2024, and drew upwards of 1000 visitors to the museum in support of the work. Stefan featured two series of works in the show: Self Portraits, a set of 6 life-size acrylic paintings on panel, and Gargolla, a series of 10 clay, wood, and wire sculptures. One of their paintings was also featured in *The Georgia Straight Newspaper*, 2024.

### **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.*

- SWHS: On November 22, the SWHS Field Education Team facilitated a virtual workshop focused on Neurodiversity as part of the *Voices of Passion and Purpose: Inspiring Stories from the Field* practice panel. Panel presenters were from the Fraser Valley Child Development Centre, Inclusion Chilliwack Society, Inclusion Langley Society, Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) from the Ministry for Children and Family Development (MCFD), and the Chilliwack School District. 52 students attended.
- Dr. Russell Campbell supported 6 Computing students in the industry GitHub Game Off 2024 open November 1 to December 1. The students produced a group submission:

<https://itch.io/jam/game-off-2024/rate/3149566> and voting for the event will end on January 8, 2025

- Dr. Ismail El Sayad supported School of Computing student, Harjobanpreet Sidhu, and a Graphic and Digital Design student in a web development project with the Seabird Island community during the summer of 2024. This webpage successfully launched in November 2024: <https://api.learningwithseabird.ca/> providing the Knowledge Keepers and community members with a way to share and preserve their rich history and culture of the Seabird Island, Tiyt Tribe, and Stólō Nation communities.
- EFCIE co-sponsored Co-work Chilliwack - Startup Challenge Live Pitch Event where participants from Community Futures South Fraser's Start-Up Challenge pitch their small businesses.
- CHASI was pleased to collaborate with the Sumas First Nation Emergency Management team on a report looking at disaster risk, recovery, and resiliency in the community. The report draws largely from analysis of the Abbotsford flooding event in November 2021 and examines the 12 greatest potential hazards identified by the community and the consequences they could have.
- Iris Lesser has an ongoing partnership with Best for Babies under Archway community services which has allowed for another postpartum workshop offered by students in the School of Kinesiology.
- On November 13, 166 Indigenous students in grades 11 and 12, and 30 support staff, from local school districts and on-reserve schools visited CEP campus for a chance to check out some of the programs in Science, Health Science, and Technology that run on that campus, to learn about the supports available in the Indigenous Student Centre, and to meet some of the enthusiastic and engaging faculty and staff behind these programs and services.
- On November 16, 48 local high school students visited UFV's Abbotsford campus to take part in the Art Last Memorial Chemistry Lab Skills competition. Art Last was a long-serving faculty member in the Chemistry Department at UFV, who coordinated an annual Chemistry Lab Skills competition for many years, until his retirement in 2005. There were 12 teams of 4 students from local high schools who competed in the all-day event completing two separate labs demonstrating their lab skill prowess.
- The Library Team held its annual Winter Celebration and PD event with presentations from UFV International on their programs and opportunities for cross-collaboration with the Library with Director of International, Daryl Smith, and Associate, International Relations, Walter Foremen, and a session on Intercultural Communications from Teaching and Learning Specialist, Victora Surtees.

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