

MEMO

FROM: Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic

DATE: February 6, 2024

SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report

Ey Swáyel

On January 22, Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) announced that they would be capping the number of new applications for student visas they will accept at 606,250 for both 2024 and 2025. British Columbia was subsequently informed that IRCC will only process up to 83,000 new student visa applications in these years. This process will be managed through a Provincial Attestation Letter which must accompany all new student visa applications as of January 22, 2024, 8:30 EST. As of the date of writing this report, UFV has not been informed of the number of Letters of Attestation we will be able to provide to international students applying study at UFV nor has a provincial system to support the distribution of these letters been announced. I will be providing a detailed overview and update to Senators at the February 16th Senate Meeting with regards to the new regulations and potential impact to UFV.

The Teaching and Learning Centre has been coordinating a series of microlearning exchange webinars in partnership with school districts across the Fraser Valley to discuss how to successfully support student transition from K-12 to Post-Secondary. The themes for these webinars follow a successful Education Leadership Summit last November with Sr. Administration leaders from UFV joining Sr. Administrative leaders from the six public school districts across the Fraser Valley. Together, UFV and the School Districts committed to supporting more successful student transitions to Post-Secondary through the development of learning exchanges. Provincial data points to a decline in high-school students transferring to Post-Secondary institutions despite labour market shortages requiring Post-Secondary education. The Webinars are open to anyone who wishes to attend free of charge with the aim of further collaboration through the exchange of ideas and promising practices from those working in the K-12 and Post-Secondary sector. Participants can register using the following Zoom link: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Here are the dates and topics of the all webinars. They are one hour in length and all start at 3:00 pm. Participants can register for all of them at the link above:

- Innovative pedagogies to support student success (Feb 13)
- Facilitating math and science readiness (Feb 27)

- K-16 Assessment: School Districts and UFV Listening to Each Other (Mar 12)
- Indigenization: Moving forward in a good way (Apr 9)
- Tools for Learning: Trades partnerships with school districts (Apr 23)

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.

- What can be done to prevent the next pandemic? Global health expert Salome Bukachi shared her expertise for CHASI and the Rotary Club of Abbotsford Sumas' fourth Exploring Equity presentation on January 22nd, 2024, titled "Community Resilience in Pandemic Prevention."
- The Faculty of Applied & Technical Studies is organizing their Leap into Trades Day on February 29, including the Skills Canada BC Regional Competition, Try-a-Trade activities for Grade 9 students from across the Fraser Valley, and a public Open House.
- 13 students in Continuing Education completed Eng081 for Health Care, a program offered in partnership with Archway Community Services. This program is funded by the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, 2022/23 ABE/ELL Pathways.
- The secondary math/science Teacher Education cohort spent an exciting day at the Chilliwack campus focussed on learning about Semá:th (also known as Sumas lake) The morning involved learning from Si:yemiya/Sonny McHalsie and Dr. Keith Carlson, supported by drummers and Elders, about Semá:th. In the afternoon, teacher candidates worked on integrating what they had learned into a variety of subjects. Many thanks to all involved, especially Dr. Judy Larsen and Dr. Jas Uppal for arranging this opportunity.
- All teacher candidates spent a morning learning from Trevana Spilchen, a trans-female teacher and SOGI (sexual orientation-gender identity) coordinator from the Delta school district. Through poetry, discussion, and the sharing of experiences, teacher candidates became more aware of issues related to queer students and teachers and teaching about the gender identity spectrum in K to 12 classrooms. Teacher candidates were also able to examine issues related to anti-SOGI protests across the Fraser Valley and beyond. This was critical learning for future teachers working to support inclusive schools for all learners.
- Dr. Iris Lesser is supervising two Kinesiology students who are volunteering at the Fraser Birth Collective and are planning to offer group exercise classes at the clinic over the coming months.
- The Abbotsford Library became an Ask Me Stations Partner, which involves working with the Student Experience Office to have the Library as an "ask me station" so students know they can come to the Library with questions year-round.

- The Chilliwack Library is providing the space for the KIN 360 class, each class will start with students presenting some current news headlines as they pertain to health, and then pairs of students will be presenting. Three Kin profs have agreed to participate on the topic of Chronic Pain on February 27th.
- Education Librarian Heather Compeau compiled resources, prepped and taught around Two-eyed seeing and finding resources with three TEP cohorts (83 students) for science classes in Abbotsford Library Makerspace on January 25th, January 29th and January 30th.
- Bachelor of Agricultural Science student Mwenda Dyck competed in the 'Farmer's Den' competition at the Pacific Agricultural Show in the 'seedlings' category which was for students or recent graduates with emerging agricultural companies or ideas for an agri-business.

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.

- What does accessibility mean in practical terms, and what is life like for a student with disabilities? To mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (Dec 3) and Human Rights Day (Dec 10), UFV student Madison joined CHASI research assistant Chloe to discuss her experiences and what effective allyship looks like.
- Professors from a range of disciplines at the University of the Fraser Valley are sharing their knowledge with the individuals who are currently incarcerated at Pacific Institution in Abbotsford BC. The initiative is a joint undertaking by UFV's College of Arts and the Community Health and Social Innovation Hub (CHASI), alongside the Correctional Service of Canada. With experts in fields ranging from biology to cultural studies, the series of lectures aims to educate, share insights into the research process, and provide a sampling of university learning to those in attendance.
- In anticipation of UFV's first offering of Professional Cook 3, the Culinary Department held two information sessions and workshops entitled "The Anatomy of a Flavour."
- Chris Campbell is serving as advisor and liaison between UFV's community partners (i.e., settlement service providers such as Archway) and the Electrical Joint Training Committee/ employment partners on a potential Skilled Trades BC funded grant to support immigrant pathways into the Electrical Trade. Pending approval, a positive outcome of the grant will be greater opportunities for newcomers to find a good trade and decent work to support their families and communities.
- Continuing Education hosted the third and final panel in the Civic Governance Innovation series, "*Tackling Future Challenges Together with Shared Problem-Solving in Municipal-Indigenous Relations in BC,*" which was attended by approximately 100 registrants.
- Karen Natho completed the development of a four-hour workshop and Action Plan for provincial and National sport organizations for SportforLife, on Inclusive Squash, funded by Squash Canada. She is currently working on training the facilitator to deliver the workshop in Ottawa at end of the month.

- Building Community Across Cultures (BCAC): Planning for trip to India continues for 18 UFV faculty and staff for February 10 to 25. The goal is to equip key faculty and staff with intercultural competencies needed to interact with students from UFV's largest country of origin among international students.
- Courtney Boisvert and Fizza Haider created the following resource video that explains the importance of making tables accessible and highlighting considerations and steps that should be taken to ensure that tables within content can be easily accessed and understood by all. The video is published on UFV MediaSpace and the link to it is as follows: [Making Content Accessible – Formatting Tables](#)

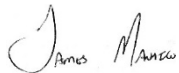
Building Community: Thayt kw'e st'elt'elawtexw

Collaborate and partner in pursuits that enrich the lives of all people on our campuses, in our local communities, and beyond.

- On January 12th, MOLA's Department Head Dr. Alan Cameron and French Sessional Instructor Andrew Iverson visited grades 11 and 12 classes at WJ Mouat's École Secondaire school to promote UFV's French studies program and inform prospective students of the 10 new French entry scholarships available to them.
- Opeyemi Adesina has been appointed to serve on the ICSE (International Conference on Software engineering) 2025 Organizing Committee as Proceedings Chair (<https://conf.researchr.org/committee/icse-2025/icse-2025-organizing-committee>)
- Mandeep Pannu has been selected as Joint-Computing Chapter Chair for IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) and is excited to work with the Computing Students' Association to start a chapter of IEEE at UFV
- Amea Wilbur (ADED) and Dr. Brianna Strumm (SWHS) are researching the experiences of faculty who have (or have had) students in their classes dealing with trauma. They have recently hired a social work student to work as a RA on the project.
- Lorna Andrews and Amea Wilbur are conducting a focus group with ADED students to provide feedback on the development of a fourth year ADED course on Indigenous Pedagogies.
- Monique Goertzen and Dr. Sheryl MacMath are hosting an advisory group on early childhood education to provide support, direction, and feedback for the ECE certificate and diploma. They are bringing together school district personnel focused on early childhood learning, and Stó:lō educators to ensure that the future direction of the program aligns with the needs of our local communities.
- In collaboration with UFV's Continuing Education department, the teacher education department will be running a course titled, "Introduction to the BC K to 12 school system and professional standards for educators." This specialty course was designed for Internationally trained teachers looking to teach in BC. This course was designed by the Association of BC Deans of Education and the BC Teachers' Council and rotates through different universities. UFV will be hosting this course in Fall 2024.

- Dr. Gillian Hatfield presented at the 2024 Health and Happiness Summit in West Vancouver on January 13, 2024. Her presentation was titled “Movement is Improvement: Evidence-Based Tools to Live a Fit Life”. This was a fundraiser for Vancouver General Hospital, and the keynote speaker was Dr. Gabor Mate. The event was sold out in-person, and over 150 live streaming tickets were sold. Almost \$10,000 was raised for VGH.
- University Librarian, Camille Callison, was a guest lecturer for Western University’s MLIS class on Indigenous Perspectives in Librarianship.
- PARC: Tier One of the *Xwelítem Siyáya: Allyship and Reconciliation Building program* is set to start anew with its second cohort this month, following a successful launch last year.
- The Agriculture Technology Department had a booth at the 26th annual Pacific Agricultural Show, showcasing the work and educational offerings of the department. Dr. Lenore Newman, Director, Food and Agriculture Institute, was a judge for the Farmer’s Den competition. Dr. Renee Prasad presented two research projects at the Lower Mainland Horticultural Conference, held in conjunction with the Pacific Agriculture Show.

Kw’as hoy

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Mansu".