

MEMO

FROM: Tracy Ryder Glass, Provost & Vice President, Academic
DATE: May 26, 2026
RE: Provost Report to Senate

As we come to our final Senate meeting before the summer break, I want to reflect briefly on the impact of our collective work this academic year. Across UFV, we continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to engaging learners, transforming lives, and building community.

Engaging learners remains central to our work. This year, we have seen faculty and staff supporting student success through mentorship, experiential and applied learning opportunities, expanding capacity in areas of AI literacy, and inclusive teaching, and opportunities to deepen learning and broaden student experience. In addition, research, scholarship, and innovation have further enriched the learner experience. Events such as the **Grounded Innovation conference** brought together students, faculty, Indigenous knowledge keepers, and community partners to address complex regional challenges through a One Health lens.

In **transforming lives**, we see clear impact on both student outcomes and community connections. Faculty and staff have supported timely student progression. For example, our continuing education and industry services programming has expanded accessibility through 24/7 online registration, helping more learners engage with UFV in ways that meet their needs. At the same time, community-engaged learning continues to make a difference including oral health outreach led by students, restorative justice research partnerships, and programming that supports reintegration and future employment.

Finally, in **building community**, this year has been marked by strong partnerships both locally and globally. We continue to deepen relationships with Indigenous communities through place-based learning and community-led initiatives, while also strengthening global engagement. Internally, significant progress has been made on key enabling work, including the implementation of our microcredential policy, advancement of Strategic Enrolment Management targets, expanded data dashboards, and ongoing development of the Integrated Strategic Plan.

As this is our final Senate meeting of the academic year, I want to thank all of you for your leadership, your thoughtful contributions to governance, and your continued commitment to UFV's mission. I wish everyone a restful and well-deserved summer, and I look forward to our work together in the fall.

Engaging Learners: Yoystexw ye totilthet

Provide inclusive learning environments for everyone.

Dr. Shelley Canning and Alison Pritchard Orr (FHS) have received \$20,000 in funding from the Sienna for Seniors Foundation for the purchase of new trishaw for their ongoing UFV Trishaw Rides programme and to support their work with their CIHR funded study, Dementia in the Outdoors.

Dr. Amanda Wurz (KIN) has received \$10,000: Co-PI on a small grant through SIOP (international society of pediatric oncology) to host a physical medicine and rehabilitation priority setting activity.

On May 13, the Food and Agriculture Institute (FAI) hosted Grounded Innovation 3.0 in Chilliwack. The event brought together researchers, policymakers, Stó:lō Elders and knowledge keepers, and industry leaders to explore what's on the horizon for agri-food innovation in Canada and the Fraser Valley.

On May 12-13, FAI hosted its Hackathon, From Crisis to Capacity: Emergency Food Planning in the Fraser Valley - a hands-on and collaborative hackathon to help design proactive, coordinated emergency food governance frameworks for the Fraser Valley alongside students, policy practitioners, and community.

On June 21 from 2-4pm the South Asian Studies Institute will be hosting an exhibit launch and opening celebration of *Haq and History: Journeys Across BC. At the Sikh Heritage Museum* (National Historic Site)

Nine Enactus UFV students and faculty member (FBC) Saeed Rahman travelled to Montreal to attend the national Enactus competition from May 6-8, 2026. The students were semi-finalists in the competition.

ATS Architectural Drafting students created and presented Revit plans for a potential "training house" for future Carpentry students.

BCWITT and Skilled Trades BC representatives presented to students in the Explore Trades WIT (Women in Trades) cohort, sharing resources available to women in trades, including networking, mentorship, scholarships, and bursaries.

The MAND101 class competing as "The Dynamos," received second place in the 25th Chinese Bridge Chinese Proficiency Competition for Canadian College and University Students (B.C. Region), ranking among 38 entries. The class participated through a group performance of the song Descendants of the Dragon, demonstrating language proficiency, collaboration, and cultural engagement.

Dr. Rita Dhungel (SWHS) and Dr. Victoria Surtees (TLC)—in collaboration with Deepak Biram Thapa from their academic international partner institution, Kantipur City College in Nepal—collaborated in the co-development of a COIL project for the course *SOWK 380: Social Work and Community Development*. This collaborative effort involves collaborative learning experiences for students across institutions.

On May 1, faculty and students from Biology, Chemistry and Physics hosted a tour of approximately 15 Indigenous students from W.A. Fraser Middle School, as part of a visit to UFV hosted by the Indigenous Students Centre. Students were able to see, touch, feel, and smell the wonders of science.

Claire Hay (TLC) facilitated a 4-day Instructional Skills Workshop for the Abbotsford Police Department May 11 - 14. An internationally recognized program that provides participants with opportunities to explore their teaching practice through experiential learning.

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 BC Prior Learning Action Network (BCPLAN) nominated UFV's PLAR Manager, Amanda Roberts to serve on its Board. This nomination reflects recognition of her longstanding contributions to provincial and national PLAR initiatives, and UFV's demonstrated commitment to their mission through its values driven, community-centered approach, embracing our learners' unique educational journeys, which respects storytelling for learner-centered recognition within its PLAR processes.

Dr. Alexander Villafranca (FHS) presented three abstracts (oral presentations) at the European Operating Room Nurses Association (EORNA) annual conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia (May 2026), one of which featured KIN alumni Ian MacDonald.

Dr. Cynthia Thomson and Dr. Luisa Giles have an article published with a KIN student: Thomson, C. Holden, K*, Giles, L., Cianfrini, L., (2026). Let's talk about pain: A mixed methods exploration of patients' pain knowledge and preferred ways to introduce the biopsychosocial model of pain. *Canadian Journal of Pain*. Online May 11. *UFV student trainee (Holden), UFV Kinesiology Thomson & Giles.

Dr. Amanda McCormick also delivered two presentations at the 16th Annual Network to Eliminate Violence in Relationships Conference. Her presentations focused on access to medical-forensic exams and stakeholder awareness of forensic nursing and medical-forensic examination services, contributing to professional education and violence prevention initiatives.

Dr. Sameena Karim Jamal (ADED) is presenting a two-part "Teaching with AI" series of workshops for the Faculty of Health Sciences (Nursing, Kinesiology, and Certified Dental Assistant programs). The first session (1.5 hours), titled "Getting Started with AI: Key Considerations for Faculty," will take place on 12 May. The second session (1.5 hours), titled "What Would This Look Like in My Course? AI Teaching Ideas for Faculty," is scheduled for 20 May.

At the annual BC Library Association (BCLA) conference (April 22–24), DIS sessional instructor Tamarack Hockin received the BCCATS J. McRee Elrod Leadership award. This annual award recognizes individuals or work teams who exemplify excellence in the Technical Services field.

The School of Education is excited to share that the Abbotsford and Langley School Districts have received a \$50,000 grant to support a new Dual Credit Teacher Pathways Program for First Nation students interested in exploring careers in K–12 education. The program will focus particularly on learners from the Semá:th, Kwantlen, and Máthxwi First Nations and will provide culturally responsive,

university-level learning experiences connected to Indigenous histories, educational foundations, and pathways into teacher education programs.

Dr. Sheryl MacMath (SoE) was recently recognized with the *Established Educator Award* from the Association of BC Deans of Education. It's a well-deserved recognition as Sheryl's work has had a significant impact on teacher education over time, particularly in how we think about planning, assessment, curriculum, and professional learning. Sheryl excels in making complex ideas practical and usable, and her work continues to shape both our programs and the work taking place in schools.

Dr. Cherie Enns was invited to the 13th session of the World Urban Forum held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan to speak at the Children and Youth Assembly on May 18, 2026. The World Urban Forum is a non-legislative technical forum established by the UN General Assembly in 2001.

Dr. Anna Griffith (TLC/SOCA) through the AI Community of Practice, on May 13 and 20, delivered a hands-on workshop series focused on building foundational AI literacy, strengthening prompting skills, and applying AI effectively in your workflow. Visit tlc.com for more workshops.

Elder-in-Residence Steven Williams provided a blessing to cedar trees before tree felling began on the Abbotsford campus in the project to create the new parking lot. While Elder-in-Residence Denise Douglas attended the BCCAT annual Biology Articulation meeting on April 30th.

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.

Dr. Iris Lesser, together with Kinesiology students and CHASI attended the South Asian Best for Babies Program at a temple in Abbotsford to collect imagery and support pregnant and postpartum women in movement.

Dr. Lindsay Spielman and Mandeep Kang (FHS) visited and presented at three local high schools (Chilliwack Secondary, Sardis Secondary, and G.W. Graham) to speak to perspective students about enrolling in the dual credit HSC 111 and HSC 113 health sciences (anatomy and physiology) program at UFV, while completing their grade 12 year.

DeVry Greenhouses recently welcomed 3rd & 4th year business students for a tour and a behind-the-scenes look at how a large-scale business operates, from day-to-day execution to high-level strategy. The students got to hear from teams in sales, marketing, HR, accounting, and logistics.

Mothers and daughters enjoyed a hands-on baking class with Red Seal Baker Shoshawna Blair, spending the day creating a variety of treats together.

Darren Blakeborough, Associate Professor in Media and Communication Studies (School of Culture, Media, and Society), moderated a professional panel discussion at the 9th Chilliwack Independent Film

Festival, focused on transitioning from short films to feature filmmaking careers. He also hosted the CIFF Oscar Watch Party, a community fundraising event supporting the non-profit Chilliwack Film Society.

Dr. Simon Lambek, Assistant Professor of Political Science, participated in the launch of What's In the Hat?: Laughing Matters, a video podcast and television series developed through posAbilities, the Social Media Fellowship, and TELUS STORYHIVE. The project highlights creators with disabilities engaging academics and experts in conversations about humour, accessibility, and inclusion.

TASK collaborated with Teaching and Learning to create a blog post entitled TASK Students Champion Accessible Movement. The blog highlights the collaboration with Kinesiology, further spreading the word about the TASK program and student successes. https://youtu.be/N4u_SqT2RnQ. The post was also shared to LinkedIn and will be featured in TLC's "Teaching Matters" June newsletter.

Dr. Stan Manu served as a panelist for the UBC Indigenous Mathematics Education Network's 2026 Symposium "Indigenous Pedagogies: Land and Kinship". Dr. Manu was asked to engage the keynote speaker, Dr. Megan Bang, a Learning Sciences and Psychology Professor at Northwestern University, and her research team on their work "Indigenous Storytelling, Land, and Indigenous Pedagogies" as it relates to mathematics classrooms and higher education.

The 27th annual BC Secondary Schools Math Contest final round took place May 1, 2026, and was held at Chilliwack campus of UFV with 53 students participating.

Tenure and Promotion workshops were held on May 20th and 22nd for members of the Division Review Committees and University Review Committees. Further workshops will continue in the coming academic year.

Xwexwilmexwawt's Indigenization Decolonization and Reconciliation course took learners on a day-long Upriver Place Names Tour with Si:yémiya, Dr. Sonny McHalsie; Si:yémiya also carries the hereditary name Naxaxalhts'i. Learners were also treated to a warm welcome and a delicious lunch by the Chawathil Elders Group.