

MEMO

FROM: Dr. James Mandigo (he/him), Provost and VP Academic
DATE: May 29, 2025
SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report

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This is my last Senate report as UFV's Provost and Vice-President Academic. It has been the honour of a lifetime to serve in this role at UFV since 2019. I would like to thank Dr. Tracy Ryder Glass for agreeing to serve as Acting Provost and to Dr. Awneet Sivia for agreeing to serve as Acting Vice Provost as we begin our search for UFV's next Provost and Vice-President Academic. Both Tracy and Awneet have been instrumental in supporting UFV's mission of engaging learners, transforming lives, and building communities throughout their career and UFV's academic enterprise is in good hands under their leadership during this transition period.

As I prepare to assume the role of UFV's ninth President and Vice-Chancellor on July 1, and to also serve as Senate's next Chair, I look forward to continuing to work alongside my Senate colleagues. As the governing body responsible for academic excellence, Senate will continue to play a vital role as we start UFV's next 50 years. Some of the issues that I foresee Senate playing a vital role include:

- Continuous reflection and review of our academic programs to ensure that they are supporting the needs of the communities that we serve and preparing students to be changemakers who have the skills they need to thrive
- Supporting our faculty and preparing our students to thrive in a world of Artificial Intelligence
- Rebuilding Canada's brand as a place where students from around the world are welcomed and can receive a worldclass University education
- Continuing to demonstrate that UFV's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion are fundamental values that make us and our communities stronger and better
- Ensuring our resources remain aligned with our core mandate and strategic priorities
- Supporting UFV's commitment to being a Student Ready university

While some of these topics may seem daunting, I am extremely confident in the cumulative expertise and experience of our Senators and the entire UFV community to embrace these issues through our vision of being a house of transformation where learners, leaders, and

seekers can gather to pursue diverse pathways of scholarship, leading to community connection, reconciliation, and prosperity, locally and beyond.

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.

- On April 30, the Computing Students Association co-hosted an all-night gaming event with UFV Esports.
- The University of the Fraser Valley has been selected as one of only three post-secondary institutions—out of nineteen applicants—to receive the BCcampus Open Education Institutional Grant. This competitive grant, valued at \$33,000, will significantly contribute to the advancement of UFV’s Open Education Strategy, with a particular focus on the development of a Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Program aimed at reducing financial barriers for students. The funding will support the creation of a new Open Strategist position, to be filled by a faculty member, as well as an Open Education Student Assistant role, enabling dedicated capacity to guide and implement open education initiatives across the institution.
- The Chilliwack Library recently unveiled a new back window display titled Under Pressure, which explores the complexities and challenges of land use in the Fraser Valley. This visually engaging display is designed to spark curiosity and encourage reflection on the impact of development, agriculture, and environmental stewardship in the region.
- Twenty-one high school students from Smithers BC visited Trades & Technology Centre and were also given a tour of the campus.
- The Department of Modern Languages (MOLA) is organizing two upcoming Study Tours for 2026: one to Quebec for French language students and another (with History) to Japan for students of Japanese language, culture and history. These immersive experiential learning opportunities will connect students with cultural, linguistic, and historical contexts outside the classroom.
- UFV Theatre students presented Pages of Time as part of the final project in THEA 452 – Devised Theatre. The performance, developed collaboratively under the direction of instructor Parjad Sharifi, explored the power and symbolism of books. The showcase was presented at the UFV Performance Studio and featured at the 2025 INTERPRET Festival.
- Natasha Mariette, Assistant Professor and UBC doctoral student, was awarded Mentor of the Year for her mentorship in the UBC REX program.
- Dr. Vandy Britton, Program Chair for the BEd Program, received the “Teacher Advocate of the Year Award” from the Association of BC Deans of Education. Vandy’s long-standing work around Indigenization and decolonization, both in preservice and inservice education, as

well as her tireless advocacy with the BC Teachers' Council made her a worthy recipient of this year's award.

- 8 Brightspace Intro workshops sessions were hosted by Learning Designers Soowook Kim, Fizza Haider, Courtney Boisvert, Sabine Decamp, and Stephen Eide. The sessions gave attendees a first look at Brightspace, giving them basic information about how to navigate the platform and build content. The sessions were interactive where attendees asked questions regarding course migration, content development, tools and features within Brightspace etc. Sessions were offered both online and in-person. Attendance was much higher in online sessions, ranging from 30-35 attendees on average. In-person sessions had 10-15 attendees each approximately.
- Teaching and Learning hosted ConnectED 2025 on May 7th – 141 attendees, 24 sessions, Keynote with Dr. Carrie Nolan.

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 UFV Enactus student club were the semi-finalists for the Enactus National Competition.
- The CHASlcast was pleased to welcome Dr. Rita Dhungel, an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work and Human Services, to discuss the challenges for trafficking survivors. Dr. Dhungel shares her experiences working with human trafficking survivors in Nepal, and how she carries that knowledge forward with her.
- Dr. Lauren Erland is co-leading Project Leaf Hope, a national effort that aims to make sure we're ready for a wave of plant-eating insects that is slowly but steadily making its way north. With climate change lengthening their migration window, it's not a matter of if, but when the invasive leafhoppers arrive.
- Dr. Iris Lesser was recently featured by the Sport Information Resource Centre highlighting UFV's postpartum movement project. The project aims to present realistic, representative imagery of new mothers engaging in movement as a way to counter media narratives of what a postpartum body "should" look like.
- On April 5, University Librarian, Camille Callison and Associate University Librarian & Archivist Kendra Long, along with Community Engagement's Manager of Communications & Media, Anne Russell, officially launched the University Archives during UFV's 50th Alumni & Friends Weekend at Evered Hall.
- Cynthia Thomson presented the latest findings from "Let's talk about pain! How best to introduce pain as a multifactorial experience?" from the phase 2 results from health care professionals at Pain Care BC Summit on April 2nd.

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.

- Jason Campbell presented a paper at the Humane Canada Summit which contributed to the national dialogue on humane policy and advocacy.
- This year's Grounded Innovation Summit hosted dynamic entrepreneurs, industry leaders, policymakers, associations, academics, and students to shape the future of British Columbia's agri-technology ecosystem. Participants were the first to collaborate on visioning the next steps for the Sustainable Food Systems for Canada (SF4C) initiative, a \$16.2 million federally funded national program focused on agrifood innovation and entrepreneurship.
- The Canadian Federation of University Women B.C. Council invited CHASI Director Dr. Martha Dow to co-present the keynote speech at their annual general meeting. Dr. Dow was joined by Food and Agriculture Institute Director Dr. Lenore Newman for the joint keynote.
- On April 16, Rita Dhungel (SWHS) and Shelley Liebembuk(SoCA) hosted a community-building gathering for international students, fostering connection, inclusion, and intercultural dialogue.
- The School of Education at the Mission campus hosted the 2025 Teacher Education Roundtable event. Representatives from all nine teacher education programs in the province spent two days in discussions around teacher education in the province of BC. Events included an awards ceremony, reception at Cannon Estate Winery, a tour of St. Mary's residential school, and an Abbotsford hike.
- BSN Buds (headed by Paula Stubbings and Manjot Gill) had a food drive to support the Salvation Army Food Bank (April 2025).
- Semester 7 (NURS 403) collaborated with Kinesiology, KINSA, the Indigenous Centre, the Centre for Sustainability, Students Wellness to host a Community Health Fair on Thursday, April 10th in the Atrium. This event was attended by members of the public and various school groups.
- Regional K-12 Science Fair: Held at UFV on April 10, 2025, students competed for the chance to represent the Fraser Valley at the Canada Wide Science Fair, they also vied for ribbons and monetary awards donated by local UFV departments and community sponsors.
- On May 1, 2025, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics hosted the 26th Annual BC Secondary School Math Contest. The contest was held at the UFV Chilliwack campus, where nearly 50 students wrote the contest. Enrichment for students and professional development for teachers was available through the day as well.
- Dr. Awneet Sivia co-facilitated the Education Summit 2.0 alongside former Abby SD Superintendent Dr. Kevin Godden. This year's Summit utilized a Kiva approach to engage panelists from K-12 and UFV on the following topics: Assessment and AI; Supporting Indigenous Students, Dual Credit.

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