

**MINUTES**  
**Applied & Technical Studies Faculty Council**  
Thursday, October 9, 2025 - 2:00 PM  
Trades and Technology Centres, Rivers Dining Room 1068

---

**Present:** Alex Palameta, Avner Bachar, Brock Hartman, Carl Janzen, Chris Monkman, Elmer Magsino, Greg Wedel, James Mandigo, Jamie Ubell, Jeff Chizma, Jenna Glover, Jeremy Abbott, John Garrett, Karen Cooper, Mark Ryan, Martin Warkentin, Nick Penner, Prabhjot Parmar, Russ Thompson, Shahrzad Malek, Sian Hurley, Teresa Kisilevich, Trevor Beugeling, Trevor Murray, and Wes Macaulay

**Regrets:** Carl Nienhuis, Carmen Herman, Daniel Smythe, Dean Key, Don Weitzel, Jennifer Lau, Jim Carson, Joel Feenstra, Lin Long, Marc Bardaro, Mark Rempel, Matt Olafson, Mike Dieleman, Myles Andrew, Pat McGurk, Peter Mulhern, Rodney Smith, RoseAnne Timbrell, Spenser Julsethwhite, and Ted Zak

**Guests:** Redmond Chambers, Marta Ciccia, Kelli Graham, Sergio Nunes, Shawn Sun, Janelle Sztuhar, Patrick Watchorn

**Recorder:** Marlie Murphy

**1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR**

Teresa welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced our guests.

**2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Teresa reflected on the importance of honouring fiscal and academic responsibilities as well as personal and organizational goals towards reconciliation and decolonization.

**3. PRESENTATION**

**3.1. Guest Speaker(s):**

**Janelle Sztuhar, Scholarly Communications & Copyright Librarian,  
Library**

**Shaun Sun, Associate Professor, Math and Stats**

**Topic: Building an Open Education Strategy for UFV**

- Faculty interested in joining the ad hoc working group for Building an Open Education Strategy for UFV should contact Claire Hay.
- BCcampus grants provide opportunities for connections between teaching, research, and scholarship.
- Six OEMPG micro-grants are available for student projects.
- Benefits include reducing student textbook costs and recognizing faculty contributions to open education research.
- The deadline is March 2026 via BCcampus

#### 4. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

##### 4.1. Agenda – October 9, 2025

An additional item (6.5 – Scholarships) was added.

**Motion:**

That the agenda for October 9, 2025, be approved as amended.

- *Moved by:* Jamie
- *Seconded by:* Brock
- **Carried**

##### 4.2. Minutes – September 11, 2025

**Motion:**

That the minutes of the September 11, 2025, meeting be approved as presented.

- *Moved by:* Wes
- *Seconded by:* Trevor
- **Carried**

#### 5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

##### 5.1. Yard Committee - Chris Monkman

Chris reported that the Yard Committee includes 11 volunteers representing all program areas. The purpose of the committee is to better utilize the TTC and Building S spaces. Updates will be brought back to Faculty Council.

##### 5.2. Action Items:

**Fire Alarm Update – Teresa and Chris**

- The recent fire drill went smoothly.
- TTC will develop its own Fire Warden program.
- Jamie recommended exploring additional drills (e.g., lockdown, earthquake).
- **Action:** Chris to connect with Safety & Security.

1. **Shop Computer Update – Teresa**

- Efforts are underway to streamline the process for shop computer updates.

2. **Skilled Trades BC Exam Process – Teresa**

- Faculty should contact CAS (Centre for Accessibility Services) for exam accommodations.
- The goal is to provide CAS with information as early as possible.

#### 6. NEW BUSINESS

##### 6.1. Program Changes - Engineering Common Core Certificate - Trevor M/Trevor B

**MOTION:**

That the proposed program changes for the Engineering Common Core Certificate be approved as presented.

- *Moved by:* Trevor M
- *Seconded by:* Trevor B
- ***Carried***

Trevor B. spoke to the proposed program changes and answered faculty questions . Teresa confirmed her support and noted that the revisions will streamline the program, reduce instructional time, and provide cost savings for students.

**6.2. Program Changes - Engineering Physics Diploma - Trevor M/Trevor B**

That the proposed course changes for Engineering Physics Diploma approved as presented.

- *Moved by:* Trevor M
- *Seconded by:* Trevor B
- ***Carried***

Trevor B. spoke to the proposed program changes and answered faculty questions . Teresa confirmed her support and noted that the revisions will streamline the program, reduce instructional time, and provide cost savings for students.

**6.3. Course Changes: ENGR 113, 123, 124, and 153 - Trevor M/Trevor B**

**MOTION:**

**Motion:**

That the proposed course changes for ENGR 113, 123, 124, and 153 be approved as presented.

- *Moved by:* Trevor
- *Seconded by:* Trevor
- ***Carried***

Key updates include reducing learning outcomes, updating textbooks, and revising math entrance requirements.

**6.4. Discussion - Yearly Subscription for Kahoot! - Patrick Watchorn**

Patrick noted that Kahoot! has changed its pricing model and the free version now has limited functionality.

- **Action:** Chris M. to contact IT to review Kahoot! licensing options for ATS.

**6.5. Entrance Scholarships**

A reminder that there are three entrance scholarships valued at \$2000 each for new students in foundation programs. Deadline extended to October 10, 2025.

**7. DEAN'S REPORT**

### 7.1. Dean's Report Attachment

## 8. COMMITTEE AND SENATE REPORTS

### 8.1. Senate Report | Greg/Joel/Teresa

James provided an overview of the recent Senate Town Hall presentation. Teresa shared additional details.

- Budgets are expected by the end of October or early November.

### 8.2. Faculty Council Representatives

Nominations for sessional/relief instructors and students will close today at 4:00 p.m. Marlie will follow up with an email listing the nominations.

## 9. EVENTS

- 9.1.
- **Opportunity Fair - October 16, 2025**
  - **Open House - October 18, 2025**
  - **Regional Skills - February 26, 2026**
  - **Provincial Skills - April 15, 2025**

## 10. INFORMATION ITEMS

Redmond spoke to the idea of coordinating an ATS float or participation in the Chilliwack Christmas Parade on November 29.

- Approximately 9–10 volunteers are needed (walkers and a driver).
- The group could build a float or decorate a truck or van
- Entry fee: \$125
- Redmond will also attend the Saturday Information Session.
- **Action:** Marlie to work with Redmond to send a call for volunteers and ideas.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING

### 11.1. Adjournment

**Motion:**

That the meeting be adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

*Moved by:* Sian

**Carried**

Next meeting: November 13, 2025

## Dean's Report

Faculty Council  
Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies  
Thursday, October 9, 2025

### People

Shout-out to Sian Hurley, who in partnership with Archway, has been awarded a SSHRC PEG Grant looking into food sovereignty has been approved. Speaking of research, the inaugural *ATS Faculty Research & Scholarly Activity Funds* have been awarded to Dr. Shahrazad Malek to support student research in nanodroplets and to Trevor Murray to support the creation of a technology open resource. Congratulations to you both! Applications for the 2026-27 Fund will be distributed in early January 2026.

Thanks to Nick Penner and his team of former Collision students for their participation at the Community Launch event in Mission on September 24. If you haven't seen the article highlighting these students' work, make sure you check out the newest Community Report.

Congratulations to Welding instructor Jim Carson on his recent retirement. Please join us in honouring Jim's career at UFV on Friday, November 14 at the Jolly Miller in Chilliwack.

Just a reminder, if you see someone doing something great for our Faculty, please let me know so I can share it widely (including in our Divisional Reports, which feed up to Senate).

### Finances

This past Tuesday, President James Mandigo led a Town Hall to discuss both the current 2025-26 and the projected 2026-27 fiscal situations. This presentation was recorded and should be distributed soon. In the meantime, I wanted to give some context for these changes for the Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies.

National context: Since 2023, there have been some significant changes for international students wishing to study in Canada. These changes include limits on Provincial Attestation Letters (PALs), reduced visa approval rates, and dramatic shifts in which programs and certifications lead to Post-Graduate Work Permits (PGWPs). Most – if not all – post-secondary institutions across Canada have been negatively affected, with [Ken Steele](#) (an education/economics analyst) projecting nearly \$1 billion in combined losses at post-secondary institutions and \$3 billion in economic activity.

Institutional context: As per Dr. Mandigo's presentation on October 7, UFV's 2025-2026 General Operating Revenues were projected to be \$180 million. Of this, approximately 47% comes from the Provincial Operating Grants, 24% comes from Domestic Tuition

and Fees, and 27% comes from International Tuition and fees. Salaries and benefits account for 82% of the Expense budget.

With the dramatic and sudden reduction of international students applying for or being accepted to study in Canada, including at UFV, that 27% from International Tuition will not be realized in this fiscal, leading to a likely \$5 million shortfall in our current fiscal.

And the situation becomes more challenging when we look at the next fiscal year. The Preliminary Operating Budget for April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027, shows a drop in revenue of over \$21 million, with an overall preliminary financial impact of \$20 million. That's over an 11% reduction in revenue, which means that we also need to reduce our expenses by the same amount. UFV, like all public post-secondary institutions, is required to present a balanced budget to the Ministry each year.

During the question-and-answer period, the panel was asked about HR issues, including the possibilities of layoffs or early retirement incentives, as well as whether both administrative and academic areas would be expected to find efficiencies. It was stated that we are unlikely to avoid position reductions, meaning that yes, people will likely be impacted. There are not currently any defined plans for things like early retirement packages or workload reduction options, but I think that information will come at some point. UFV will communicate all the relevant institutional details, but I wanted to spend a bit of time talking about what I see for ATS.

Faculty Context: Our Operating budget for 2025-26 is \$6.8 million, which represents about 4% of the total UFV Operating budget. We also have additional revenue and associated expenses through contracts, additional SkilledTradesBC funding, and Industry Services programs.

I want to acknowledge that news like the projected deficit can be difficult to hear and sort through, and I also want to echo James's statements about transparency and collaboration. There will be a method to submit your creative problem-solving ideas, and I would encourage you to do so. I also welcome your emails with questions, concerns, or suggestions.

At this time, I am not sure how the projected deficit will impact ATS's team members, students, or programs. We will have a better sense of our budget position near the end of October or early November when the preliminary budgets are distributed to Deans and other budget managers.

Overall, I believe it is safe to say we are not in a period of growth. We will need to use our supplies judiciously while still providing the excellent education that our students have come to rely on. I believe we will get through this next phase together, with compassion, care, and transparency. Again, please do feel free to get in touch with me with your questions and ideas.

## Progress (on 2025-26 ATS Plan)

### Engaging Learners:

- **T1033** – A site walkthrough with the architect and others was completed on Tuesday, September 23. We are expecting one or two plans to be submitted for the Working Group's review.
- **Support student learning** – we have just signed an agreement with Coast Capital for \$25,000 in funding. The bulk of this will go directly to students for bursaries, with the balance supporting our upcoming Opportunity Fair.
- **Elevate and celebrate** – As mentioned above, we have created an internal research and scholarly activity fund.
- **Annual Entrance Scholarship Reception**

### Transforming Lives:

- **Social events** – December 11 holiday social (this will likely look a bit different from past years' events)
- **Program reviews** – Engineering Common Core Certificate & Engineering Physics Diploma in Mechatronics (on today's agenda)

### Building Community:

- UFV Community Engagement Framework – September 10
- Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce - September 16
- Community Report Launch – September 18
- Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce Connections: In honour of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – September 23
- Community Launch – September 24
- SkilledTradesBC – Changes to Professional Cook – October 2

## Programs

### Industry Services:

- Floral Design Basics 2 – October 15
- Commercial Vehicle Inspection – October 17
- Building Service Worker – November 4
- Floral Design Christmas – November 17
- Pesticide Applicators Certificate – November 24
- Gas Tungsten Arc Welding – November 26
- Powerline **information session** – November 27

If you have a great idea about an “upskilling” course you would like to develop and/or teach, please reach out to Michelle.

**Engineering** – programs are underway, with full classes. The Engineering Information Session will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28, in room B101 (Abbotsford).

**Physics** – the Physics Students’ Association is active again this year. Madhav Garg, a current student, gave a guest lecture called “Robust Control with Bluetooth” on September 19. A former UFV student and current U of A Master of Science Medical Physics student, Jose Toffoli, presented “Beyond an Image: MRI and MRS as a tool for lipid profiling.”

The PSA’s annual Escape Room fundraiser will take place later this month on the Abbotsford Campus.

**Technologies** – programs are well underway

**Trades** – the following programs will start in the next few weeks:

- Electrical Level 2 (Brock) – October 14
- Electrical Level 3 (Myles) – October 14
- Electrical Foundation (Joel) – October 20
- Electrical Level 4 (Daniel) – October 24
- Welding A (Spenser) – October 27
- Carpentry Level 3 (Ted) – November 3
- Automotive Level 4 (Dean) – November 3

## Upcoming Events & Activities

Opportunity Fair – October 16 – please make time for your students to walk through the TTC halls and connect with local companies and organizations. Pizza will be provided for students. This event is sponsored by Coast Capital Savings.

UFV Open House – October 18 – there is still time to volunteer for UFV’s signature recruiting event. Thank you to all those who have already put your names forward!

## In Other News...

UFV has been designated as a Changemaker Campus by Ashoka U, which is a global organization that supports social innovation and networking. Changemaking efforts at UFV is guided by our four principles of changemaking: inclusive empowerment, decolonization and Indigenization, sustainable futures, and reciprocity. You can find more information at [ufv.ca/changemaking](http://ufv.ca/changemaking).