

MINUTES
Applied & Technical Studies Faculty Council
Thursday, January 15, 2026 - 2:00 PM
Trades and Technology Centres, Rivers Dining Room 1068

Present: Alex Palameta, Avner Bachar, Brock Hartman, Chris Monkman, Daniel Smythe, Earl Pannila, Elmer Magsino, Greg St. Hilaire, Greg Wedel, Jeff Chizma, Jenna Glover, Jennifer Lau, Jeremy Abbott, Joel Feenstra, John Garrett, Karen Cooper, Lin Long, Marc Bardaro, Mark Rempel, Martin Warkentin, Nick Penner, Pat McGurk, Rodney Smith, Shahrzad Malek, Sian Hurley, Ted Zak, Teresa Kisilevich, and Wes Macaulay

Regrets: Brendan Matthews, Carl Janzen, Carl Nienhuis, Carmen Herman, Dean Key, Don Weitzel, Jamie Ubell, Mark Ryan, Matt Olafson, Mike Dieleman, Myles Andrew, Peter Mulhern, Prabhjot Parmar, Russ Thompson, Spenser Julsethwhite, Trevor Beugeling, and Trevor Murray

Guests: Kelly Koch, Ed Simon, Michelle Morier, Kelli Graham, Marta Ciccia

Recorder: Marlie Murphy

1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

The Dean welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced our Guest Speaker, James Mandigo, President & Vice Chancellor

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The territorial acknowledgement was provided by the President.

3. PRESENTATION

Guest Speaker, James Mandigo, President & Vice Chancellor

Key Highlights included:

- **SkilledTradesBC funding:** SkilledTradesBC funding is expected to double over the next three years.
- **Tools & equipment:** Continued emphasis on ensuring students are properly prepared with the necessary tools and equipment.
- **Budget pressures:** Immigration policy changes are driving an estimated \$22M reduction in UFV's 2026–27 budget. Voluntary retirement letters are expected next week. UFV is focusing on maximizing other resources before any layoffs.
- **Post secondary Sector-wide review:** The Minister has announced a review of universities and colleges. Sector-wide financial challenges were acknowledged, with a focus on long-term sustainability and may be exploring shared services

across BC (amalgamation is not being discussed).

- **International enrolment outlook:** Provincial Attestation Letters (PALs) will be significantly reduced (approximately half), and international enrolment is not expected to grow. A (up to) 50% decline is forecasted.

Summary from Open Discussion with James:

- **CEP expansion (housing/services):** Expansion plans are moving forward, with additional services being explored as part of the growth.
- **Trades building:** Trades space needs may be addressed over the longer term, potentially through reconfiguration; no immediate direction was confirmed.
- **International enrolment and budget for Trades programs:** International tuition supported all UFV programs and the reduced international student enrolment will affect all UFV programs
- **Layoffs:** If required, layoff notices will occur late February 2026.
- **Retirements and replacements:** Replacement decisions for retirements will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- **Vision moving forward:** Emphasis was placed on integration, maintaining a positive outlook, and continuing to drive meaningful change while the work remains recognized.

James closed by thanking everyone for their support during the flooding response and for their continued collaboration.

4. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

4.1. Agenda – January 15, 2026

Motion: that the agenda be approved with the following addition: 6.4.
Attendance Policy for Trades Foundation Programs
Moved by John, seconded by Brock, **carried.**

4.2. Minutes – October 9, 2025

Motion: That the minutes from October 9, 2025 be approved as presented.
Moved by Jeff, seconded by Ted, **carried.**

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Divisional Reports

Divisional reporting is UFV's way of tracking and sharing the key work our faculty does each month and aligning it to UFV's Integrated Strategic Plan: Engaging Learners, Transforming Lives, and Building Community. These reports are submitted to the Provost's Office and key highlights are then shared in the Provost's report to Senate.

If you have an activity, update, partnership, student success story, event, or milestone that fits one (or more) of these area, please send a brief note to your School Coordinator or the Administrative Coordinator, Marlie, to ensure it gets included in the next divisional report.

6.2. Health & Safety

Health & Safety reminder (shops, labs, kitchens, classrooms)

A recent health and safety incident in a local school district resulted in a permanent disability. This is a strong reminder for us to stay vigilant in our own spaces—please continue to follow established safety procedures, use required PPE, keep walkways clear, and report hazards or near-misses right away so they can be addressed.

Cold & Flu season

Reminder: As we move through the cold and flu to please stay home if you're unwell. If you're recovering or have lingering symptoms and need to be on campus, please consider wearing a mask to help reduce the spread.

Action item: Chris Monkman will connect with Mary in Facilities to request that hand sanitizer stations across our areas be refilled.

6.3. Dual Credit Programming

Concerns were raised regarding the number of Dual Credit students in some programs and it was suggested that we implement a stronger admission vetting process and/or mandatory orientations for all incoming high school students.

Action: Create a Dual Credit Committee - Marc, Rod, Pat, Joel, Jennifer, and Nick volunteered to sit on this committee and will report back at a future Faculty Council meeting. The Dean's office will send a calendar invite.

6.4. Attendance Policy for Trades Foundation Programs

The UFV Attendance Policy (#62) does not fit well for foundation programs within the Faculty of Applied & Technical Studies. The Associate Dean would like to develop attendance guidelines/procedures and will consult with each area for input.

Action: Lin will reach out to individual programs to determine whether they prefer one common attendance guideline or program-specific attendance guidelines.

7. DEAN'S REPORT

7.1. Dean's Report attached

8. COMMITTEE AND SENATE REPORTS

8.1. Senate Report | Greg/Joel/Teresa

- Ted Zak's sabbatical project and Daniel Smythe's fire alarm training was mentioned in the Provost report to Senate last month.
- Changes from Physics will be going forward to Senate tomorrow, Friday, January 16, 2026

- Model Principles and Guidelines for the Use in Artificial Intelligence:
 - https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/post-secondary-education/institution-resources-administration/digital-learning-strategy/draft_v1_-_model_principles_and_guidelines_for_the_use_of_ai.pdf

9. EVENTS

9.1. Build Your Future | February 26, 2026

Regional Skills Competition, Try a Tech & Trade, and Open House: Updates were provided and planning is on track. Programs with dual credit students were asked to connect with school representatives to support student registration, as the deadline is approaching. For updates on Try a Tech & Trade and Open House demonstrations/information sessions, contact Chris or Marlie.

9.2. Provincial Skills Competition, April 15, 2026

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

10.1. Vacation

Faculty and staff were reminded to keep vacation reports up to date and ensure carryover balances are within the maximum allowable limit before fiscal year-end.

11. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.
Next Meeting: February 12, 2026

Dean's Report

Faculty Council
Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies
Thursday, January 15, 2026

People

- Congratulations to Trevor Beugeling for applying for and securing a TIPP Fund (Teaching Inquiries into Pedagogical Practices) to “adapt the course materials of Engineering 124 to ensure that course projects primarily focus on sustainability applications, a core value of the engineering profession.”

Progress (on 2025-26 ATS Plan)

Engaging Learners:

- 1) T1033 renovation update – we are moving closer to renovation date. At the moment, we are awaiting the building permit from the City of Chilliwack. Weekly meetings are being held online with members of the working group, which provide the opportunity to monitor changes more quickly. This week's focus is furniture that will be required for the classrooms being created.
- 2) T1034 (assessment classroom) – plans are underway to make this a more utilized space.
- 3) Working group has had an initial meeting to examine and potentially revise the criteria for the ATS Dean's Medal. We are currently waiting confirmation from the Registrar's office prior to establishing our next steps.

Transforming Lives:

- 1) As part of “provide and encourage governance and committee opportunities,” I would like to thank you all for making Faculty Council a priority in your monthly calendars. Please make sure you send regrets if you are unable to attend (and, remember, we do offer an online option for attendance. Although, I do love to see folks in person, I must admit.)
- 2) The “go-live” date for the online registration system was moved from December 1, 2025, to January 20, 2026. There will be three programs in this first run-through of the new system, including our April 2026 Powerline Technician program. Fingers cross that all goes well. Implementing a 24/7 online registration system could significantly impact our Industry Services enrolments (for the better).
- 3) I am currently in discussions with a research company (Sage Transitions) to look at inclusivity in trades as a funded research proposal. If you are interested in knowing more, please contact me and I will share the draft with you. The goal is to “examine system elements that affect entry, access, and success for

Community in education, training, employment, and support. The research will explore elements help and hinder Community to obtain safe, inclusive, satisfying, and well-paying work in trades in the UFV region.

Building Community:

- 1) We continue to look for opportunities to create revenue generating streams. With the increased funding for 2026-2027 trades training announced late last year, we have been able to access more funding for this fiscal year as well.
- 2) Lin and I met with JK Kim from South Korea to discuss renewing the partnership/relationship that UFV had with KUMOH several years ago. These are currently very preliminary talks.
- 3) I met with a representative from a new family foundation regarding potential bursaries for trades students.
- 4) And, speaking of bursaries, there are currently several bursaries available for trades students with financial need
 - a. Donald Erho award – “open to all trades; open to those up to age 25 who have been out of high school for at least one year” (\$750/award, multiple awards available)
 - b. Bannister Auto Group Chilliwack Annual Bursary - \$1500 award (three awards available)
 - c. Allteck Indigenous Students in the Faculty of Trades Annual Bursary - \$1000 award (one available)

If you have a student that you know is experiencing a critical need, they can reach out to Financial Aid & Awards. (The list of awards is available [here](#))

Programs

Industry Services:

- We are fortunate to have Industry Services as part of ATS, as this allows a revenue stream to support capital and scholarship even as it provides income to instructors. Please check out the upcoming course listings at <https://www.ufv.ca/trades/courses/> - motorcycle training anyone?

Upcoming Events & Activities

- January 23, 2026 – Town Hall in Chilliwack/online
- One focus for the next few weeks will be our February 26 “Build Your Future” event. This full day of Regional Skills, Try-Tech-and-Trades, and Open House is the main recruitment day for TTC. Thank you in advance for all you do to make this day the success of the year. (Once again, Agriculture and Health Sciences will be joining in for the Open House portion of the day.)

In Other News...

I recently read an article called [*Finding Hope in the Admin-Faculty Divide*](#) by Tamara Leary, which I found to be quite thought-provoking. In speaking about an institution's governance structure, the author had this to say about structures like our Faculty Council:

...there is value in this tension or divide in these spaces, where we hold one another accountable, uphold our values, affect change, and foster the continued growth and success of the institution

As we move through the changes and challenges the next fiscal and academic year may bring, it is my hope that we will be able to work together with respect, collegiality, and purpose.

Thank you for all that you do,

Teresa