

## MEMO

FROM: Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic

DATE: May 31, 2024

SUBJECT: June Senate Provost's Report

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Recently I was a panel member on the role of education to prepare the Fraser Valley's future workforce. I was asked "There are a lot of priorities in the province and dollars can be hard to come by. Tell us why governments, investors should take interest in you?". While I won't bore you with all the details of my long-winded response, my answer basically came down to: "Because we make the world a better place to live".

As Senators, the work that you do to support the academic mission of the University is core to our ability to have a positive impact in our community and throughout society. I would like to take this opportunity thank all Senators for the dedication over the past year to stewarding our academic mission. While there are some who complain that our academic processes are too slow at Canadian Universities due to Senate's oversight of academic programming, I would argue that the care in which Senate and its members take to ensure high-quality academic programming is at the highest level possible and has made Canadian Universities the envy of many countries around the world. As highlighted in your Senate packages this month, the Íyáqáwtxw Annual Report and the SEM Plan Annual Report demonstrate that collectively, we have made great strides in achieving our goals and commitments to supporting our academic mission. Both of these plans were developed and have been implemented in conjunction with the advice and guidance of Senate. It is because of the care each of you have taken at Senate and as members of its various committees that we have been able to achieve the many goals that we have set for ourselves and in turn, make our world a better place. Thank you.

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.*

- ConnectED 2024: We had a great turnout of 148 total attendees for the hybrid conference and have ideas from feedback surveys on how to improve this event for 2025. Dr. Kevin Gannon's keynote was excellent and inspiring – radical hope has been resonating with many of us since his talk.
- The College of Arts is proud to present a new YouTube series called “Research Talks”. Featuring Arts students, this series aims to share students’ experiences conducting research during their undergraduate studies. The first two videos feature Psychology Honours students Savannah Abaju and Jamie McKenzie. You can watch the full series on the College of Arts YouTube channel.
- History and Peace and Conflict Studies Associate Professor Dr. Steven Schroeder was involved in supporting the event “The Law and the Prophets: An Online Discussion” organized by the Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East. The event is tied to UFV Peace and Conflict Studies partnerships locally and internationally and connects to the History 335 course on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which is regularly offered.
- Philosophy Professors Drs. Anna Cook and Anastasia Anderson Anastasia Anderson met with Chilliwack Philosophy high school teachers on April 29, 2024, to brainstorm curriculum (with an emphasis on Indigenous philosophy) and collaborate on future projects.
- Political Science Assistant Professor Dr. Noah Schwartz was featured in a CityNews documentary on gun control in Canada.
- The first Professional Cook 3 Showcase Reception took place May 1st to commemorate the completion of a challenging journey for our Red Seal Culinary Students.
- June is Indigenous History Month. Assistant Professor, Carolyn Roberts, recently released a blog post focused on what can be done to inject Indigenous brilliance into every day. See her suggestions here: <https://www.carolynroberts.net/single-post/indigenous-history-month-in-the-classroom>
- Both Social Work (Austria) and Culinary (Indonesia) are in the planning stages of sending groups of students abroad this summer.
- UFV Student Engagement Working Group presented at the British Columbia Library Association Conference on April 24th. Student Engagement Librarian, Janelle Sztuhar, Media & Circulation Technician, Samantha Gibbs, and Chilliwack Team Leader, Dan de Groot, gave an excellent presentation, “Paddling in the Canoe Together.” In 2021, UFV Library Created a Student Engagement Working Group (SEWG) and through this work our Library Staff have developed a strong relationship with multiple student groups. We have noticed a shift in how our students engage with the Library since returning to in-person services a few years ago which has prompted the Library to ask, ‘What do students want and need?’ The title ‘Paddling in the Canoe Together’ is inspired by Indigenous artwork in our campus Libraries that remind us we are all in this this journey together. Through our work with our students, we have committed to projects that support EDIIDA initiatives.

- The School of Business presented a research seminar on Corporate Social Responsibility, hosted by Dr. Todd Green, Associate Professor, Marketing, Goodman School of Business, Brock University.
- Dr. Lauren Erland, CRC Berry Horticulture, was recently interviewed by Jas Johal to discuss the challenges posed by climate change on B.C's berry industry, and how UFV's new BERRi Lab seeks to address this.
- Dr. Stefanie Pizzirani presented a talk on April 29th called "The Future of Food" at Magee Secondary School in Vancouver at a Mercury Rising event led by the Kimberley Foundation
- Dr. Awneet Sivia gave the Keynote Address at the Memorial University Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) conference. Her talk focused on the six orientations that can propel us toward innovative teaching and re-imagining all teaching as inherently innovative.

### **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.*

- Criminology Associate Professor Dr. Erin Osterberg was awarded the City of Mission's Community Service Award, which is awarded to outstanding residents for their commitment to the community and their volunteerism and demonstrating exemplary leadership.
- Dr. Keith Carlson, Dr. Sheryl MacMath, Dr. Vandy Britton, and Dr. Satwinder Bains have hired two work-study students, supported by the Collaboratorium from the Peace and Reconciliation Centre at UFV, to create a series of videos of teachers sharing how sexual orientation and gender identification (SOGI) are taught in schools.
- Drs. Iris Lesser and Cynthia Thomson research assistant, Shawn Aurora, are leading a study exploring the Feasibility of a Peer-led hiking program for older adults this Spring ("Hike with me"). They have engaged with the community by establishing a partnership with the National Hiking Trail organization to assist in promoting the National Hiker Award.
- Victoria Surtees facilitated an interactive session for the Agriculture Retreat on April 22nd. They brainstormed competencies for the Agricultural Technology diploma, theming them, and mapping them to ILOs.

### **Building Community: Thayt kw'e st'elt'elawtxw**

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

- Dr. Khyati Shetty, Director for the School of Business, was elected to the Board of Directors for the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce
- On June 1st, the Chilliwack Cultural Centre will help bring life to the UFV Take Over Festival in collaboration with the University of the Fraser Valley's School of Creative Arts to showcase a diversity of artwork produced by students and alumni. This festival will capture a harmony of artwork including, performances from UFV's Director Showcase, student-produced films, and interactive visual art installations. This is a student-led festival of arts run by Béatrice Frenette, Theresia Tio, and Anu Sharma.

- Welding Instructor, Matt Olafson, Program Technician, Pierce Stoekly, along with Teresa Kisilevich presented the Bio char oven, at the Shakespear Garden.
- Bahamian delegates from Bahama Technical and Vocational Institute BTVI visited our campus and toured the trades building.
- Allison Kilgannon from UUP was elected to the chair position of the BC ABE English Articulation group. Allison will oversee post secondary ABE English course revisions and reviewing outcomes while engaged in that position.
- BSN buds collected 14+ boxes of food for the Chilliwack Food Bank.
- Simone Klassen collaborated with Michelle Beattie, a representative from the First Nations Health authority to facilitate Certified Dental Assistant student oral health education to a Chehalis community in Agassiz. Students worked with K-12 students, a daycare, and an Elders group.
- The Respectful Terminology Platform Project (RTPP) of NIKLA-ANCLA held its Foundational Gathering in the Gathering Place at Chilliwack Campus chaired by co-leads, Camille Callison and Dr. Stacy Allison-Cassin, and included both the Indigenous Advisory Circle and Technical Working Group. This Gathering, hosted by the University of Fraser Valley (UFV), was a profoundly meaningful event to connect with the land, listen to our Elders, and to strengthen relations as we plan our next steps. RTPP is grateful for the generous support for this event from the Mellon Foundation, UFV, Dalhousie University, and the many volunteers in our working groups who make this project possible.
- Dr. Lenore Newman, Director, Food and Agriculture Institute (FAI), was a panelist on the Seeds of Innovation - Ag tech and Food Security for all of British Columbia panel at the inaugural Fraser Valley Economic Summit, on May 21, 2024, hosted in the Evered Hall in the Student Union Building at UFV.
- Dr. Stefanie Pizzirani Met with the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre (SRRMC) and the Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe Management Ltd on May 10th to begin planning the 3rd year of collaborative research between them and members of the PGES department (Stefania Pizzirani, Mariano Mapili, Steve Marsh, and several PGES students). The long-term project is called “Forest Systems and Well-being” and to-date has brought in over \$150,000 of funding for our researchers and students.

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