

## MEMO

FROM: Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic

DATE: March 6, 2024

SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report

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On Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, UFV was informed by the Minister of Post Secondary and Future Skills that we would have access to 2588 Provincial Attestation Letters (PALs) for the 2024 calendar year. We were also informed that the provincial system to administer the PALs was to open on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. As of the time of writing this report, four provinces have now launched their PAL allocation system (BC, AB, MB, QC). UFV was then able to issue our first PAL to an international student applicant shortly after the system was open. While we are still in uncharted territory regarding the recruitment impact of this new system, we are confident that our allocation of the PALs are sufficient to support our international enrolment targets outlined in our SEM plan for the 2024/25 academic year. I would like to acknowledge the work of the Registrar's Office for their preparation to respond quickly to these significant changes. While we are extremely grateful to the province for prioritizing the development of the PALs system in record time, it is a manual process that requires quite a bit of work by staff to issue each PAL. To be one of the first institutions in BC able to issue a PAL is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff in the Registrar's Office to support students throughout their educational journey – including before they officially become a UFV student.

Over the past month, there have been several examples of areas across UFV supporting the educational journey of learners across the Fraser Valley. Local high-school students and their teachers have been regular visitors. The Leap into Trades Open House attracted over 1000 visitors including local high school students and their teachers to participate in a number of hands-on activities and demonstrations across all areas of the Trades programming. Over 150 Grade 9 and 10 students from Chilliwack interested in a broad range of science programs took part in several hands-on demonstrations at the CEP Campus. As well, the first two Microlearning Exchange Webinars with local Fraser Valley School Districts took place this past month. They included: Innovative pedagogies to support student success (Feb 13); and Facilitating math and science readiness (Feb 27). Supporting lifelong learning and ensuring that learners are supported as they transition from high school to post-secondary is a key priority of our SEM plan. My thanks to all those who have helped to organize, support, and participate in these many events to demonstrate and encourage this commitment.

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.*

- Dr. Cherie Enns, Planning, Geography, and Environmental Studies hosted a roundtable 'Indigenous Knowledge + One Health' with Ramson Sinya Karmushu to discuss the topic of land, health, and Indigenous knowledge. Ramson Sinya Karmushu, Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation – IMPACT Kenya, led the conversation and shared thought-provoking insights from an Indigenous One Health perspective.
- Dr. Robin Endelman, Math & Stats, has organized four Super Science Clubs with local elementary and middle schools. Each club is hosted by two UFV students providing hands-on science demonstrations, activities, and investigations for the students. Each club runs for 4 – 5 weeks.
- Fizza Haider and Michelle Johnson joined Michelle Superle's Special Topics Diversity and Accessibility in Children's Literature class. They presented ways Teaching and Learning support faculty in general and specifically with regards to Accessibility, UDL, and specific programs such as the FLEx and the Micro-Learning sessions with School District teachers. They discussed possible further collaborations and having students attend upcoming events (portfolios and CVs) to prepare them for the workplace.
- Michelle Johnson facilitated The Fifth Annual Tech Talk Forum which provided an update for participants, just over a year after the introduction of Chat GPT and other AI technologies to Higher Education. Attendees learned about developments in Teaching and Learning, student experiences, and celebrated faculty ingenuity. The event brought together over 40 participants from various disciplines to discuss its impact, challenges, and possibilities at UFV. Sandra Smith from the Academic Support Centre addressed student concerns and the development of support systems for AI tools. Dr. Anna Griffith, Assistant Professor in the School of Creative Arts, focused on experiential learning and discussed her work at the intersection of creativity, sustainability, and EDI, including her current project on Regenerative Education featured on her podcast Creative Praxis.
- FEB 15 - Faculty Microlectures hosted by the Research Office, saw 18 faculty researchers race against the clock to deliver snapshots of their research in two minutes or less.
- Dr. Lenore Newman Director, Food and Agriculture Institute is leading a new partnership with the University of Guelph to look at improving competitiveness, profitability and national food security within Canada's \$140 billion food and agriculture industry
- The Future Students Office has been very active working with high schools and the Fraser Valley community in raising interest in UFV, supporting and encouraging admission to the University. We have invited high school counselors and allied staff to an in-person meeting

on campus in April where we promote UFV as an institution of first choice for their students. We have not held this event on campus since the pre-Covid period.

- In honour of Freedom to Read Week in Canada, UFV Library in partnership with the Student Union Society held its 1st Annual Freedom to Read Event on February 26th in the S building Atrium hosted by University Librarian, Camille Callison, with readings of challenged or banned books by numerous students, faculty, senior leadership and with a special reading by President and Vice-Chancellor, Joanne MacLean. Special thanks to the Student Engagement Working Group and Library Team members: Janelle Sztuhar, Cara Straforelli, Samantha Gibbs, Dan DeGroot, and Robert Baschak for organizing!
- Karen Natho has connected KIN 465 (Adapted physical activity) students visit Stitó:s Lá:lém Totí:lt Elementary/Middle School. The focus has been on observational learning opportunities of indoor and outdoor spaces with students to look at universal design and inclusive spaces foci.
- ECE: Monique Belanger from À: Imèlhàwtwx Early Education Centre received a grant to continue to support the dual credit students and has been participating in joining the students' book club on Social and Emotional Learning for young children
- Physics and Engineering faculty members hosted the grade 9 students from Chilliwack Secondary High School in UFV CEP physics lab by presenting some cool physics demos.
- Automation & Robotics students volunteered along with former ATS AD Randy Kelley to host the grade 9 students from Chilliwack School District. The students led activities in the Automation lab demonstrating the basic principles of pneumatic systems. By all accounts, our student volunteers did an excellent job.
- On January 22, CHASI, WINRACK, and a number of other partners collaborated to welcome Salome Bukachi to UFV. The global health expert spoke about what could be done to prevent the next pandemic through the lens of One Health. A detailed recap and full record of the event is now available.
- On January 26 and 27, 2024, UFV SoCA and UFV's School of Computing hosted The Global Game Jam (GGJ). The GGJ is the world's largest game creation event taking place around the globe boasting tens of thousands of participants (jammers) at hundreds of physical and virtual sites in over one hundred countries around the world.
- Criminology Assistant Professor Dr. Mark Kersten submitted a brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development on the role of Canada in investigating and prosecuting international crimes and violations of human rights law.

### **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.*

- Dr. Lauren Erland, Agriculture, gave a presentation to the BC Blueberry Council Virus Workshop on January 16, 2024 on a collaborative research project to better understand blueberry varietal susceptibility to blueberry scorch virus, a virus of increasing concern for growers in the Fraser Valley. Dr. Renee Prasad & Dr. Lauren Erland, Agriculture, are co-

leading this project at UFV with BC Ministry of Agriculture small fruits specialist Carolyn Teasdale and BC MAF Plant Pathologist Siva Sabaratanam along with molecular biologists at SFU on this project.

- Dr. Renee Prasad, Agriculture, was invited to present during a panel session on Hedgerows, Cover Crops, and Insect Conservation at the Island Agriculture Show on February 2, 2024, in Duncan BC. This was the first time anyone from UFV was invited to participate in the Island Agriculture Show and it was great to see our Ag alumni at the show in their diverse roles from producers to specialists with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategies.
- The FLEx project involves TLC Learning Specialists (LSs) partnering with and engaging in learning exchange with faculty instructors from a variety of disciplines. The project has LSs observing classes and discussing pedagogical possibilities. Michelle Johnson will meet with Renee Prasad in Agriculture, Patrick Watchorn in Carpentry, and Samantha Hannah in Communications for Trades.
- For the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, CHASI artist Sharon Strauss created artwork inspired by reading the stories of Holocaust victims. The pieces, as well as Sharon's artist statements, can be read on the CHASI blog.
- The Library/Teaching & Learning partnership was successful in obtaining \$1,000 grant from BC Campus to host an Open Education Week event at UFV. As part of this initiative, an event will be held on March 7th to assist faculty in finding and evaluating existing Open Education Resources (OER) that they can integrate into their course readings.

### **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. Renee Prasad, Agriculture Technology, welcomed about 30 members of the Sumas Holstein Club (4H) for a morning learning about how Agriculture education integrates hands-on practice with theory and opportunities for small-scale applied research.
- CERA Series – MAR 6, 13, 20, & 27 | CERA will be hosting a series of workshops with Chilliwack Elder College. Topics include Healthy aging in the 21st century, Artificial Intelligence, ethics, and creativity, Strategies for optimizing cognitive functioning, and An introduction to hereditary cancer.
- Special Collections Librarian, Brenda Phillips, hosted Yarrow Girl Guides for a brief visit (in conjunction with a visit organized by Michelle Superle) and introduced them to the Heritage Collection and the Newman Western Canadian Cookbook Collection by showing them Yarrow-focused titles.
- Abbotsford Library featured a book display in honour of Black History Month which included a range of books for readers of different reading levels, ages, and interests. The book display included books from the West Coast to the East Coast and contained materials about growing up black in Vancouver, the African diaspora, children's books about Africville in Halifax, and books on slavery in the Maritimes.

- University Librarian, Camille Callison, was the Opening Keynote speaker for the Open Education Summit: Exploring Indigenous Knowledges and Open Educational Resources on February 22nd at the UBC Longhouse and was a participant in the OER National Strategy: Next Steps for Advocacy on February 23rd.
- Iris Lesser is partnering with Fraser Health and YMCA. The aim is to increase community members' access to exercise programming after stroke or brain injury, as well as to offering kinesiology students the opportunity for clinical and community exercise exposure. Partners are discussing best approaches to include kinesiology students in this unique opportunity where they will learn from physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and exercise professionals while working with community members.
- Lorelei Janzen & Sharon Fleming partnered with a local daycare center to create opportunities for the nursing students to observe and interact with healthy children.
- Debbie Jobb and Moe Khaligh-Razavi supported Practical Nursing (PN) students partnering with W A Fraser Middle School in Abbotsford and BCCDC in teaching sessions with Grade 6 students using the Antibiotic Wise curriculum materials.
- Over fifty students, faculty from ECE and TED, staff from School district 33, and our MLA attended À: Imèlhàwtxw Early Education Centre for a day of learning, connecting, and community building around guiding children's behaviour with respect and an emphasis on building a child's sense of belonging.
- Faculty joined the staff from À: Imèlhàwtxw Early Education Centre in experiencing 'Lighting the Path: Stories of Resilience' to honour residential school survivors. This was a powerful way to hear the elders' stories as we walked the journey through the forest together.
- Cindy Rammage will facilitate the annual Brain Architecture & Intro at Chilliwack Secondary. She will bring along 1-2 fourth year CYC students to contribute in early March.
- Opeyemi Adesina is coordinating the upcoming Tech Industry Panel which will host 6 panelists ranging from tech giants like Amazon to local, alumni companies like Kerkhoff Technologies and Zynim Inc. The event will happen on Thursday, March 14 10 am-12 pm on the Abbotsford campus in B101. This will coincide with the CECE UFV Career Fair during 11 am-3 pm in Evered Hall.

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