

MEMO

FROM: Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic

DATE: May 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report

Ey Swáyel

As we transition from our Winter to Summer term, I would like to thank each and every Senator for your commitment towards being the academic stewards of our academic mission. The work that each of you do as a Senator and as a member of the UFV community is vital to achieving our mission of engaging learners, transforming lives, and building communities. Our generative discussion at our May Senate meeting will focus on the challenges and opportunities posed by a rapidly growing population across the Fraser Valley. As a regional university with an access mandate to serve the people of the Fraser Valley, we will need to all work together to find ways to maintain that commitment in the absence of a Provincial funding model that is not based on population growth. Preliminary enrolment numbers from 2023/24 academic year saw a 12% increase in total student enrolments over 22/23. This exceeded the enrolment growth target that was set at 10% last year. (NOTE: The official numbers will be presented at the June Senate meeting with the 23/24 SEM Report). While this growth was forecasted and planned in UFV's SEM Plan, it will be critical for UFV to continue to implement the goals and actions outlined at each stage of the SEM Plan to successfully manage the continued growth and continue to fulfil our commitment to the people of British Columbia.

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. Lauren Erland, Director of Berry Horticulture Research, spoke to CBC's Stephen Quinn about how berry environmental resilience research and innovation will focus on helping berry farmers adapt to climate change.
- Twelve members of the Community Health and Social Innovation Hub (CHASI) team presented work at the Pacific Sociological Association's annual conference in San Diego from March 21-25.

- On March 9th, the Kids in Developmental Science (KIDS) Lab, led by Dr. Madison Pesowski from the Department of Psychology at UFV, in collaboration with the 20 Harvest Challenge Team, led by Dr. Michelle Superle from the Department of English, and the Centre for Philosophy for Children, led by Dr. Anastasia Anderson from the Department of Philosophy hosted the PSYC'D About Reading event at the UFV Abbotsford Campus. More than 20 UFV undergraduate students joined forces to organize the event, which attracted over 30 families from the local community.
- Congratulations to History Sessional Instructor Dr. Sharanjit Kaur for receiving the 2024 Community Change Maker Award from Sikh Heritage Month BC.
- 18 students are embarking on Global Skills Opportunity (GSO)-funded experiential learning experiences abroad this summer. Destinations include Colombia, Kenya, Ecuador, Sierra Leone (virtual), and Spain
- Copyright Librarian, Martin Warkentin, collaborated with the Food and Agriculture Institute and the Office of Sustainability on March 28th in co-hosting a Fermentation Event in the Library makerspace: <https://events.ufv.ca/events/bubbling-bliss-a-fermentation-fiesta/>.
- At Chilliwack Library, the Seed Library is now open, and seed are being borrow for spring planting and has just the first seed donation of a bunch of new flower seeds.
- On April 23, the Future Students Office hosted more than 60 Counsellors and related student support personal from regional high schools. The morning event included an informative session on program changes and updates, providing information on the admission cycle and how school staff can support students during this critical decision-making stage. With the enthusiastic turnout from the schools and an unprecedented participation from the Faculties and student affairs offices this event is sure to return for next year.
- Students from Dr. Cherie Enns and Jennifer Hetherington's GEOG 364 class participated in the Winter 2024 HUBUB. The project "Game on for Climate Action! Leveraging Gamification in Climate Awareness" by Elena Van Buschbach, Kiyah Price, Ryan Stafford, Cole Lakovou, Liam Fuller, Tariq Malik, and Sydnee Piers won the CityStudio Team Award. Through the project, students learned about the transformative power of gamification in raising awareness about climate change and extreme weather events. The proposed game aims to simulate flood scenarios with the intent to engage and educate the public, while simultaneously enhancing their understanding of preparedness and mitigation strategies.
- Congratulations to Teaching and Learning's, Claire Hay who was awarded the The J. Lewis Robinson Award for Meritorious Service from the Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers.

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.

- 17 UFV Students participated in the Provincial Skills Competition. They took home 1 gold, 4 silvers, and 4 bronze metals. Logan O'Reily from the Yale Secondary Automotive class moving on to nationals in Quebec City.

- BSW student James Cunningham won a Provincial scholarship and is featured on the website of BC Study Abroad (BCSA): <https://www.bcstudyabroad.ca/blog/announcing-winners-our-spring-2024-scholarship>.
- Dr. Joanne Robertson is working with the Chilliwack School District to research the efficacy of their new Early Literacy Framework. Joanne will act as research lead providing mentorship to school district curriculum leads on designing program evaluations. This work will culminate in a presentation to the Chilliwack School Board.
- Dr. Judy Larsen was invited as a guest speaker to facilitate a full day of workshops at the Central Alberta Teachers' Convention in Red Deer, AB on February 22, 2024. Her workshops were well attended with over 50 participants in each workshop and were geared towards introducing teachers to the Building Thinking Classrooms practices with a Secondary Mathematics (gr. 8-12) focus.
- Dr. Chris Campbell is working with Dr. Tim Rees of L1 Scientific (L1) on their Employment and Social Development Canada funded initiative to develop assistive technologies to empower Canadians who are visually impaired.
- Dr. Tannaz Zargarian has received a SSHRC Explore Grant entitled At the Intersection: The EDI Policies in Canadian Higher Education. Focusing on four universities, the overall purpose of this project is to critically understand how EDI policies and strategies shape the experience of multiple sets of marginalized individuals in higher education. The project objectives are to 1) investigate how EDI policies in different universities address intersectionality; and 2) analyze how implementation or omission of intersectionality perpetuates domination and marginality in higher education.

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.

- Khyati Shetty was elected to the Board of Directors for the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce in April 2024.
- APR 24 - Exploring intergenerational connections | Dr. Shelley Canning will be a guest speaker for Abbotsford Learning Plus at Abbotsford Recreation Centre (ARC) from 10:15-12:00pm. Everyone 55+ welcome.
- PARC is seeking 2024 Collaboratorium community partners to identify and direct a research project that is meaningful and important to both UFV student interns who will work under the supervision of a faculty mentor. The program begins in May and runs through August.
- On April 4, 2024, MOLA hosted an informational session luncheon to encourage French students to continue their learning journey and pursue either a Minor or Major in French. The event featured insightful talks from upper-level students who shared their learning experiences, including studying abroad, and with their peers. Overall attendance and reception were great and highlighted the enthusiasm for French language and culture within the student community.

- Deirdre DeGagné and Jonathan Ferris held the tri-annual “District Advisory Council” where teacher education faculty and school district representatives come together to share updates, challenges, and provide feedback on the work that everyone is doing.
- Semester 7 students in the BSN program attended the City of Chilliwack’s annual HUBBUB and UFV’s Centre for Experiential and Career Education department. One of the groups presented their amazing work on water sustainability with a residential focus, supervised by Jenn Van der Gulik. These students won the Mayor’s Choice Award and lunch with the mayor.
- On March 27th, Libraries hosted "Cherokee and Eastern Woodlands Traditional Tattoos" with guest lecturer, Jerrid-Lee Miller. Jerrid is a Cherokee Nation citizen, retired US Army veteran, and the Language Archivist for the Cherokee Nation Language Department. He is working in tandem with both the Cherokee Nation and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in developing a shared digital repository that will focus on language preservation and revitalization efforts for their shared digital materials in his day job. His true passion is cultural revitalization efforts to include traditional tattooing, resurrecting dormant art practices, taking care of his family as well as anything Cherokee related.
- The National Indigenous Knowledge & Language Alliance (NIKLA-ACLA) announced that its Respectful Terminology Platform Project (RTPP) was awarded a two-year, \$1.4M USD grant from the Mellon Foundation. Led by Camille Callison (Tâhtân Nation, University of the Fraser Valley) and Dr. Stacy Allison-Cassin (Métis Nation of Ontario, Dalhousie University), this funding will be dedicated to advancing the development of a dynamic, multilingual platform for Indigenous terminology that can be used in libraries, archives, museums, and data systems worldwide. Link to Press Release <https://www.nikla-ancla.com/post/the-respectful-terminology-platform-project-receives-prestigious-grant-from-the-mellon-foundation>
- Drs. Mariano Mapili, Stefania Pizzirani, Afia Raja, and Randal Arsenault from Planning, Geography, and Environmental Studies participated in the Chilliwack Rotary Climate Fair on April 13 & 14. The event was open to the public and hosted experts in sustainability and renewable energy. Dr. Stefania Pizzirani and Cameron James (Environmental Studies student) gave a presentation on sustainable fashion. As invited guests, they talked about the impacts of fast fashion, the rise of social media, and how the two affect each other.
- The Fraser Valley Regional Science Fair was hosted by the Faculty of Science at UFV on April 11. Elementary and high school students from Hope to Langley presented their Science Fair project for Divisional and Special Awards. About 115 projects were judged by 45 judges that included students, community members, Senior Administrators, as well as past and current faculty members from Science, Health Studies, Business and Computing, and Applied and Technical Studies. Over \$8,000 in prizes were given out, including an Entrance Scholarship worth \$4,000.
- Leanne Joe developed, coordinated, and hosted a panel for the April 9th Learning Exchange Webinar on Indigenous Youth and Education: Moving Forward in Good Ways with over 75 registrants and four panel members.

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