

MEMO

FROM: Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic

DATE: September 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report

Ey Swáyel

September is always an exciting month for those of us in education. It's a time of renewed energy and anticipation for the academic year ahead. This fall in particular is one filled with excitement. Not only does this fall at UFV represent 50 years of providing post-secondary education opportunities for the Fraser Valley, it also marks the largest ever fall class at close to 11,300 total students! That total number includes the highest number of returning students ever during a fall term at just over 8700.

As we welcome students from all over the world to UFV this fall, I want to thank the members of Senate for the work that you do as the stewards of our academic mission. By ensuring that our academic programs, policies, and standards reflect our values of inclusion, community, integrity, and excellence ensures that we can fulfil our mission of engaging learners by: providing inclusive learning environments for everyone; transforming lives by providing opportunities for people to discover, and share their gifts while also recognizing and celebrating the gifts of others; and, building community by collaborating and partnering in pursuits that enrich the lives of all people on our campuses, in our local communities, and beyond.

I look forward to working with all members of Senate as we start the next 50 years of our journey and continue to build from the work of others who have created a solid foundation and vision for us to work from.

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.

- The School of Education has now officially moved into its new and renovated space at the Mission Campus. You can read more about the renovation at: [UFV's renovated School of Education launches in Mission – UFV Today](#)
- EFCIE and Stolo Community Futures collaborated on a workshop “Exploring Research & Training Partnerships for Economic Development in First Nations Communities” on July 26th 2024 with attendees including Elders, Knowledge Keeper, and senior representatives from UFV, SCF, Haida Gwaii Community Futures, BCCAI, and SFU present for the hybrid event at EFCIE.
- SASET Youth-In-Trades: a 4-week trades sampler for 12 Indigenous high school students to try culinary, carpentry, welding and automotives trades took place over the summer.
- Kseniya Garaschuk and Vanessa Radzimski: organized a session titled “Supporting Numeracy for Non-STEM Students” at the 2023 Winter meeting of the Canadian Mathematical Society in Montreal. Presenters of the session addressed the ways in which they support the development of numeracy skills in their students from a variety of disciplines, including students that are pre-service and in-service teachers at the elementary and secondary levels. Session participants explored strategies for supporting flexible, proficient, and contextual understandings of mathematics through numeracy.
- Nina Geerts (supervised by Luisa Giles) had an abstract accepted to the Canadian Society of Exercise Physiology Conference in Fall 2024. The project was part of an undergraduate thesis that was also presented at student research day.
- UFV Int'l efforts in Africa appear to be materializing as African nations represent 4 of the top 15 source countries of applications for winter term. These are Nigeria (#3), Ghana (#5), Kenya (#7), and Zimbabwe (#12).
- Special Collections Librarian, Brenda Philip has created the institution's 50th Anniversary Exhibit, currently displayed in the entrance of the Abbotsford Library. Titled "FVC to UFV: Started by Our Community; Shared with the World," the exhibit features a curated selection from the university's archives and special collections. Key items on display include the very first Fraser Valley College calendar, historic photographs, guest books, newsletters, various editions of the student newspaper, and a concise history outlining the development of Fraser Valley College (FVC), the University College of the Fraser Valley (UCFV), and the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV).
- The Open Education Micro Grant Program has been actively underway throughout the spring and summer terms. Funding has been awarded to seven projects, enabling the engagement of student workers in the development of Open Educational Resources to benefit UFV students with completion by August 31st, and made possible through the Provost's Strategic Initiatives Fund.

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.

- The Bachelor of Education program received \$36,000 from the Ministry of Education and Childcare to support three teacher candidates in completing their certifying practicum in a Northern BC Community. These monies provide each teacher candidate with \$8000 to cover expenses, and \$12000 to UFV's School of Education to support the teacher candidates in either the Haida Gwaii or Central Coast school districts for twelve weeks in the Spring of 2025.
- UFV SCMS instructor and CHASI Faculty Associate Dr. Sarah Beaulieu received the tremendous honour of being one of the recipients of the 2024 Governor General's Innovation Award for her work with Indigenous Communities searching for missing children and unmarked graves.
- SASI's Director, Dr. Satwinder Bains was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal. Created in honour of the King's Coronation, the medal celebrates and recognizes 30,000 Canadians who have had a positive impact on their communities and country.
- Cherie Enns managed several multi-year international placements projects funded by Rideau Hall Foundation. Universities Canada is featuring a UFV story on QES 2017 placement related to UFV student work with Mathare Roots, a youth led organization based in an informal settlement in Nairobi.
- Video for D225 – Courtney Boisvert created a video to help faculty with the features in this Hyflex classroom, D225. This classroom is on the Abbotsford campus and features technologies that can help faculty have students online and in class at the same time. https://video.ufv.ca/media/Introduction+to+D225/0_qak4tgfq
- Fizza Haider presented as a panelist at the Disability Resource Network Conference on May 21. The panel focussed on how AI is being used by educators and students, including UDL and accessibility considerations. 45 participants from different post-secondary institutions in BC. Other panelists included Lucas Wright (UBC) and Gwen Nguyen (BCcampus).

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.

- In collaboration with UFV's Peace and Reconciliation Centre, as well as the UFV's South Asian Studies Institute, the School of Education supported two work study students this summer to create a website containing resources and interviews with teachers on how sexual orientation and gender identification (SOGI) are taught/addressed in schools. We are currently working with Stephanie Jantzen in UFV's ITS to create these web pages, housed with the School of Education. This website is designed to address the dis- and mis-information campaigns being waged against teachers and schools in BC. It is our hope that this project will help support teachers, and accurately inform parents, guardians, and families on what their children are experiencing in schools with regards to SOGI.

- CERA Series - Sept 16 to Nov 4 (Monday's 10-11:20am) - CERA will again be hosting a variety of workshop with Chilliwack ElderCollege this Fall on the CEP campus. Hosted by CERA Faculty Associates, topics will cover a wide range of themes. Sessions will be book-ended with a chat-back social.
- OCT 4 | CERA Day - CERA will once again be hosting a FREE one-day event, hosted this time at the Chilliwack campus. CERA Day 2024 will highlight UFV's 50th anniversary along with Chilliwack ElderCollege's 25th anniversary. Refreshment and lunch will be generously provided by the Chilliwack ElderCollege.
- RAC Researcher Mixer – The Research Advisory Council is hosting an event on September 17 on the K building patio. Faculty are invited for an engaging and interactive afternoon of networking and discovery.
- Carpentry level 1 students worked with UFV Sustainability to construct a pollinator garden at the Abbotsford campus.
- Welding Foundation students created plant sign holders for the Shakespeare reconciliation garden, June 2024, and used the new biochar furnace to help replenish the soil.
- Work is well underway in planning for Open House 2024, which is on October 26th, 2024. This will be a full institutional effort and will reflect elements of our 50th Anniversary. We anticipate an enthusiastic turnout from the campus community and the prospective students and local community.
- Luisa Giles met with the FVRD and Fraser Health, which in conjunction with the office of sustainability and safety security and risk management, led to UFV Abbotsford being part of a pilot project measuring indoor/ outdoor air quality.
- In collaboration with CHASI, UFV International met with community service providers to discuss collaboration with UFV International on international student supports. Group included Archway, Abbotsford Police, Housing groups, Health providers. A following meeting between CHASI and UFV determined that the greatest need for collaboration should focus on health, wellness, and housing. Key to this work was gaining an understanding of the student journey.
- Over the summer, the Abbotsford Library featured Pride Season and Summer Reads displays. For September, new displays have been created, including "Back to School Reads" and Introductory Textbooks. These displays are designed to support both the academic and leisure reading interests of our users.
- University Librarian, Camille Callison, presented with Dr. Stacy Allison-Cassin on May 23rd at the CRKN (Canadian Research Knowledge Network) Virtual Conference: Building Lasting Connections on NIKLA-ANCLA Respectful Terminologies Platform Project.

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