



RAC Minutes
May 7, 2020 | 1:30pm-3:30pm | BlueJeans

Present: Satwinder Bains, Jerri-Lynne Cameron, Shelley Canning, Irwin Cohen, Mai Anh Doan, Garry Fehr, Sandra Gillespie, Mary Higgins, Masud Khawaja, Lucy Lee, Zina Lee, Olav Lian, James Mandigo (Guest), Amanda McCormick, Lenore Newman, Victoria Surtees, Jon Thomas (Chair), Kelly Tracey.

Recorder: Tracy Morrison.

Regrets: Keith Carlson, Danielle Mijo-Burch.

Welcome and Introductions

Jon Thomas (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

1.1 Agenda: 2020 MAY 07

MOTION: THAT the agenda from the May 7, 2020 RAC meeting be approved as(p)5.3d 0.228 etiCARRIED

Provost and Vice President Academic James Mandigo – Research at UFV

Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and Vice President, Academic presented on his views of the importance of research, and research at UFV.

As an academic, Dr. Mandigo understands the importance of research as it informs teaching, and teaching informs service. Integrated together, research contributes to faculty becoming better academics, creating better experiences for students, and providing more positive service to our communities.

UFV's focus on undergraduate students makes a positive contribution to our society by giving students extra advantages through their participation in research that most students at other universities would not receive until the graduate level.

The communities that UFV serves now expect our research that involves and supports our society.

UFV does lack recognition of our research activity from our provincial government as we are currently in a teaching intensive category.

There are internal barriers to overcome and more support needed for research before we can move to a new classification of university



- Local officials are impressed with the amount of research UFV does, and the work that directly contributes to the community.
- UFV has a great passion for research, but has yet to be fully supported at the Provincial level.

How do we gain the new label of research focused, rather than teaching intensive from the provincial government?

- Dr. Mandigo has had great discussions with local MLAs who are advocates for us. They are bringing awareness to the research being done at UFV.

Where do we start? Do we need the support of larger research universities, or will they feel threatened if UFV moves toward a research focus?

- With the support of local MLAs and others in government, it might be easier to move to a new classification.
- UFV has made great contributions to food security, which is an important focus right now, especially with COVID-19.
- Local support is critical and we already have that, and hopefully the Premier will be supportive as well.
- Do not worry about other universities; this is not a concern of theirs and they will not be involved in this process.
- It will be important however to possibly recruit some form of business support.

- The community holds UFV research in high esteem. The community is now on board with our research and they expect it from us.
- We are now primed to make this move with systems in place, we are invested, and we have shown we can already do this.

- We now have windows of opportunity through food security and our involvement in the community. It is time to communicate even more what we do as was presented in the researcher booklet that came from the Research Office.

- COVID-19 has affected us in different ways, but the main way to get out of this pandemic is research –



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- For more information on EDI at UFV, please see