

# Bassford to stay extra year as UCFV president

**U**CFV president Skip Bassford isn't going anywhere until the institution is well settled into its new status as a university. In April, the UCFV Board of Governors voted to extend Bassford's 10-year appointment by an extra year, until June 30, 2009.

Board chair Rob Nicklom praised Bassford's efforts in guiding the institution successfully through nearly a decade of significant growth and evolution. "UCFV has surpassed its performance targets for 10 years running," said Nicklom. "This is in large part due to Skip's commitment to working closely with all the communities of the Fraser Valley to ensure that students in our region have access to an excellent education, without having to leave home or break the bank. My fellow board members and I are pleased that he has accepted to stay on for an additional year to see our shared vision of university status come to fruition."

The Campus 2020 report on the future of post-secondary education in BC was

released last month and recommended university status for UCFV. Administrators at the institution hope that the status change will be legislated by the Province sometime in the coming year and implemented shortly thereafter.

Bassford joined UCFV in July 1998, coming from the role of dean of Atkinson College at York University in Toronto. "I'm pleased to have been asked to stay one extra year," he said. "UCFV is a wonderful institution in which to work, with an amazing level of dedication among the faculty and staff to provide the very best learning environment for our students. I'm looking forward to completing the many projects currently underway and to helping complete UCFV's transition from a university college to a regional university."

UCFV is actively preparing a succession plan for the presidency, with a search for Bassford's eventual replacement scheduled to begin next winter.