

**THE INTEGRATED PLAN PROJECT
Foundation**

Draft
19 January 2010

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FOUNDATION**

The four part foundation statement is a working draft which requires review during the planning process.

Vision

- (need)* Vancouver Island University will lead the region and the students and communities we serve towards positive change.
- (action)* VIU will ensure our teaching and research, aboriginal and international programs, institutional partnerships, and the services that support these activities, are relevant and innovative.
- (result)* Through proactive programs and responsive activities VIU will lead the region towards sustainable prosperity.

Mission

Vancouver Island University is a dynamic and diverse educational organization, dedicated to excellence in teaching and learning, service and research. We foster student success, strong community connections and international collaboration by providing access to a wide range of university and college programs designed for regional, national and international students.

Approved as amended by the Vancouver Island University
Board of Governors September 28, 2006

Values

Vancouver Island University is a dynamic and creative community of faculty, staff, and students. We share a strong belief in the power of learning to change people's lives.

1. First and foremost, we value our students and are committed to their educational and personal success.
 - a. As a learner-centered institution, we engage and challenge our students.
 - b. We support our students through personal interaction, small-scale learning environments, and sensitivity to student needs.
 - c. We welcome students with different backgrounds, cultures, life experiences, and interests, and celebrate their diversity.
2. We value our collegial, respectful, and supportive working environment.
 - a. We encourage continuing opportunities for the learning and growth of our employees.
 - b. We honour the open exchange of ideas, academic freedom, and collaboration across departments and disciplines.

3. We value the quality of our programs and services, and are committed to offering a unique mix of vocational, applied, and academic programs to meet the needs of a wide range of learners.
4. We value our strong connections to the communities we serve.
 - a. We are committed to providing access and programming to meet community needs.
 - b. We value exchange and interaction with our communities – locally, nationally, and internationally.
5. We value the natural environment in which we are located.
 - a. We enjoy the beauty of our location and are committed to maintaining and enhancing the quality of our campus settings.

Core Commitments

A. Engagement with the region

1. In regional communities, maximize access to university services and programs.
2. Conduct undergraduate, graduate programs, scholarly activities, and applied research that are directly relevant to the issues confronting the region served.
3. Maintain an ongoing dialogue with regional communities concerning critical issues of social and economic development.
4. Provide ongoing interfaces with regional partner institutions.
5. Develop and maintain not only local sustainability practices, but also practices that promote the sustainability of the bioregion, and those that promote sustainability of the general global environment.
6. Develop programs that focus on issues and services with national and international relevance and programs that involve national and international educational partners.

B. Ecological, economic and social sustainability

1. Ensure that all services provided by the University reflect an intergenerational commitment to the region, its communities, and the earth.
2. Promote a culture of sustainability by encouraging members of the university community to choose life-long patterns of sustainable consumption.
3. Ensure that sustainability concepts and applications are integrated into academic, applied and community education programs.

4. Integrate sustainable business practices into all campus operations.

C. *Engagement of aboriginal communities*

1. Recognize and respect traditional aboriginal territories.
2. Establish key outreach partnerships with First Nations communities throughout the region.
3. Work collaboratively with aboriginal communities to maximize access to programs across disciplines and across the institution.
4. Advocate for the recovery and preservation of the culture of indigenous knowledge, including traditional practices, local and regional history, and cultural values.

D. *Student success*

1. Attract, bring together, and sustain a vibrant and diverse student population drawn from various age groups, cultures, nationalities, backgrounds and, lifestyles.
2. Foster student centered flexibility at VIU, including organizational structures and policies that enable, rather than obstruct, the process of education across disciplines and the consistency of recognition between programs.
3. Provide programs and policies that maximize student access and success, including programs that ladder into post secondary education and graduation.
4. Ensure an enriched learning experience resulting from a commitment to manageable class sizes, quality teaching and learning spaces, and opportunities for structured, experiential and incidental learning.
5. Foster inter-institutional program recognition and transfer policies between colleges and universities elsewhere in British Columbia, and in national and international settings.
6. Develop and maintain a social and cultural environment on university campuses that promotes tolerance, diversity, and intellectual vitality.

E. *Relevant teaching, learning and research*

1. Provide programs that meet accepted graduate and undergraduate standards for traditional liberal arts and science programs, and accepted standards for trades and vocational programs.
2. Expand undergraduate and graduate research activity.

3. Conduct peer reviewed assessment, quality assurance, and monitoring programs for all academic activities.
4. Build a culture that includes the integration of teaching, learning, experiential education, and applied research experiences.
5. Build capacity for teaching and learning through the Teaching, Learning and Technology Centre, the program of teaching scholars, and through programs in experiential and service learning.
6. Promote interdisciplinary activity between academic disciplines and interdisciplinary vocational liberalism between applied and academic programs.
7. Promote knowledge transfer and industry partnerships and collaboration.
8. Promote inter-faculty cooperation and accountability.
9. Ensure that the expertise of the faculty is relevant to the academic goals of the institution.
10. Involve the academic community in development and alumni initiatives such as fund raising for capital projects, scholarships, and faculty initiatives, as well as in the promotion of long term alumni relationships.

F. Institutional leadership

1. Develop and maintain operational policies and organizational infrastructures that reflect the institution's core vision, mission and values, and core commitments.
2. Ensure that recommendations resulting from institutional planning initiatives are mutually supporting and synergistic.
3. Design institutional services that ensure the maximum support for teaching learning and campus community activities.
4. Ensure accountability, and transparency in the delivery of all institutional services.
5. Develop human resource strategies that ensure accountability, provide access to all required forms of expertise, promote high performance levels, and enable professional development.
6. Secure a combination of public and private resources necessary for the university to achieve its potential.
7. Ensure the optimal return from resources and activities that generate alternative income for the institution.

8. Implement business practices and that ensure optimal effectiveness and efficiency of resources and services.
9. Develop campus facility and infrastructure plans; maintain safe, functional, and environmentally responsible campuses, facilities and infrastructures.
10. Develop and maintain long-term integrated, current information and communication systems and technology infrastructures designed to support the goals of the institution.