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August 20

Vancouver Island University Nanaimo Campus Plan

Campus Plan response: draft Sustainability Policy

Draft for discussion only

Development of the Campus Plan provides an opportunity to introduce physical changes that will have long-term effects on the institution's ecological and cultural footprint.

Many physical changes will have serious implications for social and community planning, and also for long and short-term financial and operational planning.

The Campus Plan concept assumes the following:

1. Ensure that the campus is developed, operated, and maintained so as to enhance and sustain the recruitment and retention of students, faculty and staff, the support of the surrounding community, and the identity of the University as a focal point of the region.
2. The Campus Plan will be an ambitious multi-faceted demonstration project in sustainable theory and application; it should advocate the establishment of a Central Vancouver Island Sustainability Coalition, a multi-institutional think tank lead by the University, the goal of which would be to:
 - Establish central Vancouver Island as a model of sustainable urban and rural development and sustainable resource management
 - Promote leading edge dialogue
 - Raise public awareness
 - Inform dialogues dealing with public policy
 - Stimulate cultural change
 - Demonstrate environmentally innovative solutions
 - Introduce innovation
 - Seek support for sustainability projects and programs

Some, but not all appropriate members of the Coalition might be:

- City of Nanaimo
- Nanaimo Regional District
- Vancouver Island University
- The Island Corridor Foundation
- The Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve
- The Qualicum Foundation
- Ducks Unlimited
- The Nature Conservancy of Canada
- The Western Canada Wilderness Committee

CAMPUS PLAN RESPONSE TO SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

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3. Establish a focal point destination: optimize physical connections to the immediately adjacent environmental zones, communities and neighborhoods, the City of Nanaimo and the central Vancouver island region region.
4. Establish and promote a clear and direct connection to downtown Nanaimo
5. Plan for the land, the primary campus resource, to be used efficiently and intensively
6. Preserve existing “permanent” structures and enhance their functional suitability
7. Introduce permanent, long lasting, rather than temporary, facilities and infrastructures
8. Introduce elements of symbolic cultural value, including those that acknowledge history and indigenous culture
9. Abandon the practice of as hoc planning in favor of developing and maintaining permanent additions to a cohesive and rationale campus plan
10. Promote complementary village-type developments around an academic core on the campus and in those non-university areas immediately adjacent to the campus
11. Establish the attractiveness, accessibility, and legibility of the campus to ensure that the campus has permanent value to the community
12. Assemble a range of amenities, facilities and services that will lead to the recognition of the campus as a prominent multi-purpose regional destination
13. Preserve the views from and to the campus and the character of the hill town development
14. Introduce infrastructures and access systems that reduce the exposure of campus operations to inclement weather and optimize sustainable operations
15. Ensure vitality by avoiding the ghetto-ization of academic and research programs, administrative services, student services, residential and ancillary activities in favor of a homologous mixed use functional mix
16. Consolidate the academic campus, including the Trades faculty, in the smallest, most tightly knit, practically accessible and efficiently serviced land area
17. Maximize functional cohesion by ensuring that functions have optimal adjacency and that there is a clear and optimally efficient connective infrastructure between functions

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CAMPUS PLAN RESPONSE TO SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

18. Restore and enhance the indigenous forest on the upper slopes, the wetland, and the cat stream
19. Begin to build a permanent campus community by changing the proportion of residential and commuter populations
20. Establish a critical mass of residents sufficient to create a daily, weekly, and year round sustainable functioning community
21. Develop an income stream to fund scholarships, new facilities, the maintenance of the campus infrastructure, and sustainability initiatives (but not contribute to operating expenses)
22. Plan for future re-scheduling of operations to optimize daily and year round utilization of all facilities
23. Develop an standard profile and scale for academic and research buildings that incorporates ground level features generally useful to the campus and minimizes long term operating costs
24. Establish and equitably apply spatial and environmental standards that promote health and psycho-social well being in all campus facilities
25. Introduce sustainable building systems as a construction standards
26. Introduce sustainable landscape practices and infrastructure systems
27. Identify sites for future buildings and sustainable performance objectives for those buildings
28. Develop a series of building massing and orientation strategies and design guidelines that optimally address opportunities for passive environmental design, natural heating, ventilation, and lighting, and minimal energy consumption
29. Identify sites for future buildings and sustainable performance objectives for those buildings
30. Create guidelines for the development of permanently valuable images for edge conditions, gateways, open spaces, individual and collective campus facilities
31. Introduce sites and facilities for food production
32. Develop and implement traffic and parking plans aimed at reducing the number of private vehicles on campus, the distribution of peak parking requirements, increasing the use of public transportation, and diminishing the amount of surface parking spaces required
33. Introduce a combination of public services and amenities that serve to attract surrounding communities to a viable, meaningful, year round destination