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Introduction:

The Hwulmuxw Mustimuxw Siiem (HMS) acts as an advisory group to Vancouver Island University (VIU). This document describes the vision, role, objectives and operational processes of the Group. Given the vast geographic region of Vancouver Island and the desire to engage and create relationships with all communities to better serve Indigenous learners, the HMS will follow a regional meeting structure (sound, mid-Island and North).

Vision:

Through respectful, inclusive and holistic relationship-building, the Hwulmuxw Mustimuxw Siiem will work, in culturally responsive ways, with communities, Elders, Students, VIU faculty, and other VIU governance bodies in order to foster innovation in programming, to address student needs and support their success.

Background:

HMS, previously identified as The First Nations Advisory Committee (FNAC), has operated as a valuable advisory body to VIU since its inception in 1990. Past membership have provided invaluable contributions and made possible a wide range of initiatives and programs related to Indigenous education. The relationship between FNAC and VIU has evolved and FNAC is recognized as a body with a central role to play in representing community interests to faculty, staff and administration. In 2008, VIU became a university with a new governance structure and expanded mandate. FNAC believed it had a stronger role to play within the new mandate and requested its terms of reference be strengthened to align with VIU's governing structure with University status. In 2010, the Academic Plan provided subsequent recommendation that the role of FNAC be formalized along with the Elders to recognize the knowledge these groups embody. In June 2011 members of FNAC, after much discussion and debate, voted to change the name of FNAC to Hwulmuxw Mustimuxw Siiem to embrace inclusiveness, demonstrate recognition for the traditional territories, respect for their language and traditions and complete the circle begun in 1990.

Role:

The Hwulmuxw Mustimuxw Siiem (HMS) represents the interests of Indigenous communities and organizations on Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast and surrounding areas where VIU has developing relationships. HMS will serve as an advisory body and be a channel for communications between Indigenous peoples and Vancouver Island University on matters related to indigenous education, training and employment. More specifically, the Group will pursue the following goals and objectives:

1. Assist in the continual enhancement of cultural awareness to support a sense of belonging for Indigenous students Create a culture of reciprocal learning between communities and VIU in the interest of promotion, enhancement,

Indigenous is the preferred terminology in this document as it is considered to be the most inclusive by HMS members. However, the most respectful approach is to identify specific cultural groups when possible.

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- pursuit, availability and accessibility of Indigenous post-secondary education and economic development
2. Provide ongoing support and direction to develop programs and courses that reflect and relate to Indigenous/Mustimuxw/Peoples thereby enriching all aspects of the intellectual and cultural life of the university
 3. Participate in an annual planning process, identifying opportunities and challenges impacting the educational and employment needs of Indigenous people to inform ongoing programming, services and research
 4. Oversee and set priorities for the annual Aboriginal Service Plan funding
 5. Assist in recruitment of Indigenous scholars
 6. "Assist in" developing institutional protocol for faculty who are interested in working with Indigenous communities.

Membership:

Members of the HMS will largely be constituted by community representatives to ensure a strong voice related to education and employment within the institution. The following identifies Indigenous communities and organizations within each of the three regions:

Membership from the South Island region to include:

- Halalt First Nation
- Lake Cowichan First Nation
- Lyackson First Nation
- Malahat First Nation
- Penelakut Tribe
- Quw'utsun Tribes
- Coast Salish Employment and Training
- Cowichan Valley Metis Association
- Hiiye'yu Lelum House of Friendship
- School District #79 Cowichan Valley
- Services for Aboriginal Students, Cowichan Campus
- South Region Inter-Tribal Health Authority

Members from the VIU community to include:

- Director Office of Aboriginal Education
- Cowichan Campus Academic Administrator
- Elder-in-Residence from Cowichan Campus
- Cowichan Campus Representative
- Students

Membership from the Mid-Island region to include:

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- Stz'uminus First Nation
- Snaw-Naw-As First Nation
- Snuneymuxw First Nation
- Qualicum First Nation
- Tillicum Lelum Friendship Centre
- Inter-Tribal Health Authority
- Mid-Island Metis Nation
- Mid-Island Metis Employment & Training
- Nuw Chah-Nulth Tribal Council
- School District # 68 Nanaimo/Ladysmith
- School District # 69 Qualicum
- School District #70 Port Alberni

Members from the VIU community to include:

- Director Office of Aboriginal Education
- Elder-in-Residence from Nanaimo Campus
- VP Academic Provost
- Representative from Provost Council
- Faculty from First Nations Studies
- Services for Aboriginal Students
- Aboriginal Student Union Representative

Membership from the North Island and Sunshine Coast region to include:

- Tla'Amin First Nation
- Halmaco First Nation
- Klahoose First Nation
- Kwakiutl District Council
- Wei Wai Kai
- Wei Wai Kum
- K'omox/Mamalilikulla
- Kwakiutl
- Gwasala-Nakwaxda'xw
- Quatsino/Namgis,
- Tsawataineuk
- Kwicksutaineuk
- Tlowitsis/Tlatlasikwala
- Gwaweneuk/Danax'daxw
- Miki'siw Metis Association
- Powell River Metis Association
- Wachiay Friendship Centre Society
- School District # 47 Powell River

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- School District #71
- School District #72
- School District #85
- North Island Inter-Tribal Health Authority

Members from the VIU community to include:

- Representative from Office of Aboriginal Education
- Powell River Campus Academic Administrator
- Elder-in-Residence from Powell River Campus
- Powell River Campus Representative
- Students

Individuals or representatives from other Indigenous communities and organizations as well as other VIU Administrators, Faculty and Staff may be invited or added to the list to provide updates and for networking opportunities. Requests for additional members to be added to HMS will be brought forward to the respective regional meeting for discussion and consideration.

Each member on the HMS shall appoint a primary member and in the absence of the primary member, an alternative is encouraged.

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Attendance and Participation:

If a member is absent for 3 consecutive meetings without correspondence, the Director of Aboriginal Education in collaboration with the Chair will contact member and query ongoing participation on HMS.

The Office of Aboriginal Education will ensure HMS Membership list with accurate contact information is updated annually.

Meetings:

Each HMS regional council will meet twice a year: once in the fall and again in the spring. All HMS members from the three regions will meet as a collective at an annual retreat in January. Location of regional meetings will vary between being hosted in local communities and VIU campuses.

Role of the Chair: Chair and vice-chair positions will be community members elected for a three year term.

Decision-Making:

The HMS will endeavor to follow a traditional sharing and consensus making model. There will be full discussion and participation of members on topics, issues and initiatives related to Indigenous education.

Communication and Minutes:

The Office of Aboriginal Education at VIU will be responsible for the administration duties of the HMS regional meetings and annual retreat; arranging meetings (locations, times, invitations, catering, etc.) and taking minutes. *VIU, through the Aboriginal Service Plan funding, will provide catering for all meetings and accommodation for the retreat. HMS members will be responsible for their own travel to and from meetings. HMS members will be communicated directly through email.

*If this funding is to become unavailable, this section will have to be revisited.