

## Vancouver Island University Hwulmuxw Mustimuxw Siiem Terms of Reference

### ***Background:***

The First Nations Advisory Committee (FNAC) has operated as a valuable advisory body to VIU since its inception. Past membership have provided invaluable contributions and made possible a wide range of initiatives and programs related to Aboriginal 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.

### ***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.

### ***Role:***

The Vancouver Island University Hwulmuxw Mustimuxw Siiem (HMS) representing the interests and concerns of the Aboriginal community serves as an official and formal decision-making body to and channel for communications between Aboriginal peoples and Vancouver Island University, respecting issues which affect Aboriginal post-secondary education. Furthermore, HMS seeks the promotion, enhancement, pursuit, availability and accessibility of Aboriginal post-secondary education, which is defined as:

- programs/courses which relate to Aboriginal Mustimuxw/Peoples
- programs/courses and services designed for Aboriginal students
- research relating to Aboriginal peoples and issues

**Activities:**

- Oversee / review Aboriginal Service Plan Funding
- Develop the protocol for cultural safety and intellectual property rights
- Encourage professional development to support Aboriginal students support and success
- Acknowledge / address value of Traditional Knowledge
- Support Aboriginal Student Services
- Provide input into hiring of senior management positions and other positions directly related to Aboriginal education within the institution
- Develop Chair and Vice-Chair role description
- Assist in recruitment of Aboriginal scholars
- Maintain relationship with former Aboriginal students
- Facilitate dialogue within and amongst communities (FN and others)
- Direct process for reciprocal relationships and delivery with community partners

The activities above will be reviewed yearly and the HMS will provide an annual report to the Senate, Chief and Councils and all stakeholders.

**Membership:**

Members of the HMS will largely be constituted by community representatives to ensure a strong voice within the institution. Each community having a seat will be recognized by a formal learning partnership agreement with VIU.

Membership from the Aboriginal community to include:

- Coast Salish Employment and Training
  - Halalt First Nation
  - Lake Cowichan First Nation
  - Lyackson First Nation
  - Malahat First Nation
  - Penelakut Tribe

- Qu'wutsun Tribes
- Snaw-Naw-As First Nation
- Snuneymuxw First Nation
- Stz'uminus First Nation
- Tillicum Lelum Friendship Centre
- Chemainus Native College
- Cowichan Valley Metis Association
- Hiiye'yu Lelum House of Friendship
- Inter-Tribal Health Authority
- Kwakiutl District Council
- Mid-Island Metis Nation
- Nuw Chah-Nulth Tribal Council
- Powell River Metis Association
- Qualicum First Nation
- School District # 47 Powell River
- School District # 68 Nanaimo/Ladysmith
- School District # 69 Qualicum
- School District # 79 Cowichan Valley
- Tla'Amin First Nation

Members from the VIU Community:

- VP Academic Provost
- Elder (appointed by Elder Council)
- Representative from Provost Council
- Faculty from First Nations Studies
- Director of Aboriginal Education
- Services for Aboriginal Students
- Aboriginal Student Union Representative
- Cowichan Campus Representative

Other VIU Administrators, Faculty and Staff will be invited on a regular basis to provide updates and for networking opportunities. Each member on the HMS shall appoint a primary member and in the absence of the primary member, an alternative is encouraged.

***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:***

HMS will meet in the following months:

August  
September  
October  
November  
January  
February  
March  
May (Annual retreat)

An annual schedule of meetings with a consistent meeting time will be developed in the spring of each year. Locations of meetings will fluctuate to accommodate the wide geographical span of community members travelling to meetings.

***Role of the Chair:***

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

***Decision-Making:***

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

***Communication and Minutes:***

The Office of Aboriginal Education will be responsible for administrating the communication support for HMS and its members. Minutes of meetings and annual schedule will be emailed directly to HMS members as well as made available at [www.viu.ca/aboriginal](http://www.viu.ca/aboriginal).