

UBC Okanagan

VISION, MISSION AND PRINCIPLES

November 22, 2004

The University of British Columbia Okanagan will be an academic and economic cornerstone in the Okanagan Valley. As an autonomous campus, UBC O will honour and maintain the best traditions of its predecessor institution, Okanagan University College. As a member of the **University of British Columbia** system, it will uphold and promote the global Vision and the Mission set out in the UBC strategic plan **Trek 2010**:

The VISION

The University of British Columbia, aspiring to be one of the world's best universities, will prepare students to become exceptional global citizens, promote the values of a civil and sustainable society, and conduct outstanding research to serve the people of British Columbia, Canada, and the world.

The MISSION

The University of British Columbia will provide its students, faculty, and staff with the best possible resources and conditions for learning and research, and create a working environment dedicated to excellence, equity, and mutual respect. It will cooperate with government, business, industry, and the professions, as well as with other educational institutions and the general community, to create new knowledge, prepare its students for fulfilling careers, and improve the quality of life through leading-edge research. The graduates of UBC will have developed strong analytical, problem-solving and critical thinking abilities; they will have excellent research and communication skills; they will be knowledgeable, flexible, and innovative. As responsible members of society, the graduates of UBC will value diversity, work with and for their communities, and be agents for positive change. They will acknowledge their obligations as global citizens, and strive to secure a sustainable and equitable future for all.

UBC Okanagan will manifest the **UBC Vision** and **Mission** in a distinctive way. UBC O is unique in its small scale, contributing to an intimate learning environment in a sanctuary of academic freedom and mutual respect. The scale also enables students and faculty from traditionally segregated disciplines to mix and collaborate more easily, enhancing interdisciplinary education, research and community engagement.

Taking guidance from the University Circles consultation process and from the UBC O Ideas Book, UBC Okanagan will interpret and implement the **UBC Vision** and **Mission** in an Okanagan context. UBC O will support and encourage students, faculty, staff and administrators to be active and engaged locally, regionally, nationally and globally. As an educational resource, the university will help the people of the Okanagan Valley reach their full potential. It will be a social, cultural and recreational centre, contributing to the richness of Okanagan life. And it will contribute to local and global productivity and knowledge through social, scientific and humanistic research and inquiry.

UBC Okanagan expresses the UBC Vision through four principles:

UBC O is:

1. A Community of Learners

UBC O's size is a significant advantage in providing a learner-centred culture – an interactive environment in which students, faculty, administration and staff can ponder and debate, where they can lay down the patterns and reap the rewards of life-long learning. Recognizing that different teaching methods work for varying class sizes and types of learning, UBC O will encourage experimentation and promote experiential, workplace and service learning. While recognizing the importance of disciplinary strength, UBC O will encourage academic collaborations that are multi-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and inter-professional. While developing a high-calibre graduate program, UBC O will retain a sharp focus on undergraduate education.

2. An Integrated Research Organization

UBC O will pursue a wide range of research – basic and applied, local and global – integrating this research, wherever possible, with the learning function. UBC O recognizes the power of research as a teaching tool, as well as the contribution that open-minded students can make to research. This learning and research nexus will inform everything from curriculum development to campus planning. We will pursue diverse research approaches – individual, collaborative, clustered and interdisciplinary.

3. Relevant and Responsive, Locally and Globally

A university's connection to the everyday world is essential to its educational and research functions and, especially, to promoting global citizenship. UBC O will build on traditional collaborations, especially with indigenous peoples in B.C. and around the world. Other collaborators, old and new, may include government and non-governmental agencies, local community and cultural organizations, business and industry.

4. Flexible, Adaptable, Sustainable

In its organization and processes, UBC O will strive always for agility, accountability and sustainability. Academically, that means striking a balance between the natural and social sciences and the humanities and creative and performing arts. Administratively, it means streamlining processes and minimizing bureaucracy. Individually, it means engaging the whole person—intellectual, physical and psychological. At every level, it means monitoring UBC O's ecological, cultural, social and economic footprint, both to assure our own sustainability and to act as a model for the community.

In projecting the UBC Vision through the lens of these four principles. UBC O will distinguish itself regionally, provincially, nationally and internationally. It will set an example of community engagement and global citizenship that will, indeed, serve the people of British Columbia, Canada and the world.