Sustainability Initiative for UVIC: UVIC as a Garden Campus

Imagine a campus where students, staff, and faculty come to learn how to connect with the land and our community. A living laboratory where we can demonstrate innovations in integrating sustainability into teaching, learning, research, and community partnerships. A place to further advance our commitment to sustainability on the ground, in the classroom, in research and in the region. There is a history within the UVIC community around this vision, with past proposals focusing on this kind of garden campus initiative. Yet no action:

- in 1994, there was the Trilium project, a proposal for a learning center and sustainable farm on the Cedar hill corner
- in 1997, there was the Camassia center for sustainable living, another proposal for the Cedar Hill corner property to be a place dedicated to sustainability and food production
- in 2005,the Mystic Vail Farmlands and the Urban Village idea were proposed as a means to support the Uvic community and further our commitment to sustainability
- in 2008, the Common Energy food group proposed a community supported agriculture box program on a small ¼ acre farm, also proposed for the Cedar Hill corner

In light of recent events and past inactions, we seek to open dialogue. We propose that the University commit to:

- Creating a garden in the center of the campus that would be a visual hub, and a demonstration of an active commitment to food sustainability.
- Dedicating 15 acres of the Cedar hill corner lands to become an educational farm.
- Creating 10 acres of ethnobotanical gardens spread across campus managed in accordance with the First Peoples House where the community can develop the skills and knowledge to cultivate and celebrate traditional indigenous foods.
- Planting of 500 fruit and nut trees around campus over the next 5 years.
- Matching these commitments with the creation of a new Urban Agriculture School with 6 dedicated faculty.
- Building a small LEED certified building with innovations of natural building technologies on the Cedar Hill corner as a learning center to manage the various agricultural projects around campus.
- Celebrating these achievements with an annual UVIC Harvest feast which would cultivate community while shining the spotlight on UVIC's sustainability initiatives.

The creation of such a facility will enhance the public profile of UVIC as a leader in sustainability by taking concrete steps towards sustainable food systems. Students, faculty and staff from around the world will be clamoring to get into to the two year program, attracting new and vibrant faculty, students and staff to the already outstanding UVIC community. UVIC will be a world leader.

Over the next five years, our vision sees the creation of five 2 acre farms on the Cedar Hill corner with a small center to facilitate learning and support the management of sustainable food production. All the gardens will be tended by the students in the program. All new ornamental trees and shrubs will be fruit producing. The farm, gardens and trees, will supply the revitalized Grad lounge, University Club and food outlets in the Student Union Building.

We need a public commitment from UVIC to take meaningful and substantial action towards implementing these proposals over the next 3 years, starting now. Students and community support this plan, and the actions of the past week will continue to grow unless there is a commitment from the University now. We seek to cooperate with UVIC to make this happen, but we will not cease negotiations and action until these demands are met.

Please sign this letter to show your support for this vision.

Name	Student/Faculty/Staff/ Admin/ Community?	Student number	Contact email of phone number is you wish

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