External Review of Human Dimensions of Climate Change

July 7
-9, 2021

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The Human Dimensions of Climate Change (HDCC) program is a highly innovative program that
 was well
ahead of its time when first developed. The insight of the founders to recognize the need to
complement scientific understanding of climate change (CC) with the social and governance capacity to
make necessary behavioural and structural changes within and across societies should be recognized
and celebrated. The time for this program is now, with increased attention on CC adaptation and
mitigation and an intense interest from youth who are no longer satisfied with scientific understanding
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• Priority #5, to Promote Sustainable Futures, specifically strategy 5.4 “Ensure that students have
opportunities to engage with issues, principles and practices that support social and environmental
sustainability, and to develop the knowledge and ethical orientation to contribute to a just, socially
responsible and sustainable future.”
• Priority #3, to Intensify Dynamic Learning, specifically strategy 3.1, “Extend UVic’s expertise and
leadership in experiential learning so that every student has the opportunity to engage in, and be
recognized for, research, work-integrated, community-engaged or other forms of experiential learning.”
• Priority #6: to Engage Locally and Globally, specifically strategy 6.2, “Develop and support
initiatives, including student mobility and research partnerships in priority countries and regions;
experiential and community-based learning and research; intercultural curricula; and other programs to
enhance local and global awareness and connections.”

We would also like to highlight the interdisciplinary leanings of Priority 1, Cultivate an Extraordinary
Academic Environment, which speaks to the importance of collaboration in pursuit of a shared
enterprise. Each of these priorities and strategies are made more attainable and richer with the
successful operation of the HDCC program. It is also clear that the HDCC program contributes to realizing
the goals of SOSC, concerning a focus on experiential learning, reconciliation, and global citizenship.

Finally, the HDCC program has tremendous potential to be a networking agent and contributor to the
rich ecosystem of climate change expertise and programming at UVic. The university has a long and
well-established reputation for climate change research, which is matched by institutional structures
and programming, such as the new BSc in Climate Science, the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, and
a number of research Chair positions that will ensure the dynamic production of climate change
education, research and engagement at the university for years to come.

Following a period of administrative change, including the restructuring of interdisciplinary programs,
administrative leadership turn-over, and the pandemic, it is a suitable time to invest in the program to
see that its potential can be realized for the next phase of its operation. Student interest and demand is
strong. The subject matter is timely. The opportunity to network within and external to the university is
strong. And, the need for interdisciplinary understanding to tackle the complexity of climate change is
absolute. We offer the following series of recommendations to stimulate discussions within the HDCC
program and between HDCC and faculty- and university-level administration in the hopes that a
somewhat dormant institutional asset can thrive.

Our recommendations are framed by a series of review parameters and institutional realities that we
realize will shape the future direction of the program. First, we recognize that the university faces
budgetary limitations, norms, and competing institutional priorities. Second, we realize that the HDCC
program must prove itself with enrollment levels and consistency of operations to be a viable and
contributing entity within SOSC. And third, while recognizing the first two parameters, we also realize
that the individuals and groups (e)-3 (e)-3 (n).8 (p)-0.(o)-6.6 (t)-2.6 (f t)-3 (h)13.iz.3 (e)7.8 (t)-2.5 -1.2192.2 (u)2.3 (t)-Tc 0.006 Tw TC 2oe Hr (o).3 (d)Wtoest p(t)-2.9 (p)2.e 04 Tc 0.00-3 (w)-3