March 20, 2017

To: Members of the University Community
From: Office of Student Life
Re: Renewal of University Non-Academic Misconduct Policy

The university acknowledges and respects the Lekwungen-speaking peoples on whose traditional territories the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and the WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Background
The university Resolution of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations Policy (‘Policy AC1300’) came into effect in August, 2011. Prior to implementation, the university did not have a dedicated policy or specific office responsible for addressing student non-academic misconduct matters. The Judicial Affairs Office was created in 2011 to implement Policy AC1300 and to investigate and respond to non-academic student misconduct allegations.

Generally, Policy AC1300 applies to non-academic student conduct issues that occur on university property and off-campus conduct when the behaviour is directly connected to university operations or where students are formally representing the university (e.g., conference, field school, course-based event, etc.). The policy does not apply to issues of academic integrity (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on an exam, falsifying research, etc.) or academic appeals. Since 2011, Policy AC1300 has been used to investigate and respond to allegations such as: theft; vandalism; dangerous conduct; physical and sexualized violence, dangerous alcohol and/or drug use; threatening behavior; and other conduct issues that impact the health or safety of the campus community.

In 2016, the Judicial Affairs Office was expanded to include additional areas of responsibility and renamed the Office of Student Life (OSL). The OSL provides a range of proactive programs and services to help address key issues impacting the student experience at UVic including: student mental health; sexualized violence awareness and prevention initiatives; responding to non-academic student misconduct allegations; coordinating supports for other high-risk student issues through case management support; and specialized on-campus student leadership and personal growth opportunities.

The university Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response Policy has been under development since spring, 2016. The creation of a dedicated Sexualized Violence policy...
has resulted in the need to review and update the non-academic misconduct policy to ensure policy/procedure alignment. The new Sexualized Violence policy will clearly set out that UVic does not tolerate sexualized violence. The purpose of this policy is to cultivate institutional, collective, and individual responsibility to create and foster an environment in which consent and respect are foundational principles and practices at the university. The Sexualized Violence policy also sets out the university’s vision for an accountable and transparent system for supporting survivors and those impacted by sexualized violence, for receiving and responding to disclosures and reports, and for reporting to the university community. The new Sexualized Violence policy will supersede the non-academic misconduct policy for sexualized violence allegations involving students when it is approved and implemented in May, 2017.

Policy AC1300 has also been updated to provide process clarifications and to reflect enhanced practices related to how the university responds to non-academic misconduct issues. Major proposed updates to the draft policy include:

- enhanced confidentiality provisions
- clarification on documentation that can be released to complainants/respondents
- updated and expanded definitions
- alternative dispute resolution procedures,
- clarification on policy scope and application
- detailed descriptions of minor sanctions
- addition of clear statements on the rights of students involved in the non-academic misconduct process
- updated appeal processes
- updated information on supports available to students.

**Planned Next Steps**
Consultation on the draft non-academic misconduct policy is underway with student societies, campus partners, and a number of impacted units within the university. Several focus groups with student groups will occur over the coming weeks. A community open house is being held **March 23rd, 3:00 - 5:00 pm in the Student Union Building Upper Lounge** where community members can provide feedback and ask questions on the draft policy.

The updated draft policy is available at [www.uvic.ca/studentlife](http://www.uvic.ca/studentlife) until April 7, 2017. Feedback from community members can be submitted using the online form or emailed to studentlife@uvic.ca.