

# THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



## MEMORANDUM

**Provost and Vice President Academic**  
6328 Memorial Road  
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z2  
Tel: 604-822-4948  
Fax: 604-822-3134

March 4, 2011

To: Senate, Vancouver  
c/o Lisa Collins, Associate Registrar, Senate and Curriculum Services

From: David H. Farrar  
Provost and Vice President Academic

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DHF'.

Re: **Transfer of the UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research to the Faculty of Science from the Faculty of Land and Food Systems**

### **Recommendation:**

**I recommend that Senate, Vancouver, approve the transfer of the UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research to the Faculty of Science from the Faculty of Land and Food Systems, effective April 6, 2011.**

### **Background:**

Senate approved the establishment of the Botanical Garden and Centre for Horticulture in the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences in November 2000. In September 2002, the name of the Botanical Garden and Centre for Horticulture was changed to the UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research.

In November 2004, the name of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences was changed to the Faculty of Land and Food Systems.

The transfer of the UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research to the Faculty of Science will result in substantial synergistic opportunities in education and research, community engagement, and administration.

### **Education and Research:**

Moving the UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research to the Faculty of Science provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen educational and research programs, particularly in the areas of biodiversity and botany. A number of Biology (and Land and Food Systems) undergraduate classes currently make use of the Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research and the consultation process revealed possible additional connections, for example the Garden could be used for zoological collecting exercises, which are increasingly difficult to undertake in Pacific Spirit Park

Senate, Vancouver  
March 4, 2011  
Transfer of the UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research

due to permitting requirements. The Faculty of Science is home to a world-class group of biodiversity (evolutionary biology and ecology) researchers and the move would enhance the Garden's connections with UBC's research mission.

**Community engagement:**

Strong community engagement synergies exist between the unit and the Beaty Biodiversity Museum, in the Faculty of Science. The Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research focuses on living plant biodiversity which complements the biodiversity collections housed in the Museum, especially the Herbarium Collection. Locating both in the Faculty of Science, presents an excellent opportunity to integrate biodiversity and better communicate the importance of biodiversity to internal and external communities.

**Administrative opportunities:**

The Botanical Garden has an experienced, professional staff that provides a model and expertise that can be utilized in operating the new Beaty Biodiversity Museum and increasing visibility and attendance. The move will generate significant opportunities in areas such as event planning and coordination, marketing, communications, administration and development that will benefit the Garden, the Museum and, ultimately the University. The Garden will benefit from the strong administrative and development teams that are in the Faculty of Science.

Dr. Murray Isman, Dean, Faculty of Land and Food Systems, and Dr. Simon Peacock, Dean, Faculty of Science have undertaken a detailed analysis of the transfer and conducted extensive consultation with stakeholder groups which revealed strong support for the proposal. Both Deans fully support the recommendation.