All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs

April 17, 2015 9:00-11:00 am

Kuykendall Hall room 204

Attended: Erica Balbag-Gerard (Honolulu CC), Christine Beaule (Mānoa Arts and Sciences), Ron Bontekoe (Mānoa Faculty Senate), Bob Cooney (Mānoa Faculty Senate), Ann Emmsley (UH Maui College), Grant Itsomito (Kapiolani CC), Dan Jenkins (Mānoa CTAHR), Momi Kamahele (Leeward CC), Dave Krupp (Winward CC), Anne McKenna (Kaua‘i CC), Stan Orr (UH West Oahu), Joel Peralto (Hawai‘i CC)

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome

2. Approval of minutes from March 20 meeting: unanimously approved, no revisions requested at this time

3. Report from CCCFSC: (3/31 meeting minutes were distributed to us by Dave Krupp via email) UH Community College strategic directions from John Morton were updated. To increase graduation rates, the administration is working on addressing number of remedial classes students have to take before 100-level courses; they are looking into strategies to accelerate that process such as concurrent enrollment. The UH system sustainability policy includes a sustainability plan developed by each campus by the end of this calendar year, so each is putting together its own strategic plans that includes sustainability considerations. The CCCFSC discussed the single transcript evaluation memo presented to the ACCFSC. John Morton explained that students transferring in currently undergo a process of establishing course equivalencies at each individual campus, and so they want to establish a single entity where this is done in one place and which holds at all campuses (this is not about a single transcript produced for all system students, or for a uniform grading system).

4. Report from Board of Regents meeting: In President Lassner’s report, it was noted that the Hawaii State House was more generous than the Senate in its budget allocation for UH, with an additional $6 million promised for performance-based funding based on the achievement of specific predefined outcomes (matrices are being developed quickly on each campus so that we can show achievements on track to get this money for 2016-2017). The bill to commercialize UH innovations (via faculty research) was not heard, but was deferred to next session. Hawaii common core includes 11th grade assessments (the Smarter Balanced assessment program) to place students in math and English, which is good for using the 12th grade year for some remedial education to help address students’ deficiencies earlier. UH West Oahu is in dire need of more parking and classroom space already, and so part of the short-term solution is to move administrators off campus into space rented from the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.
down the road in Kapolei. The draft report from the WITCHE visit has been received, and will be presented at the May BOR meeting.

The Academic Affairs committee reported on the proposal to replace the BA in Environmental Studies with a BS in Environmental Science degree program. The program’s locus in geography was questioned, along with the length of time it took to develop the proposal, the cost of the program, and ease of credit transfers; but finally approval was recommended. Regent Matayoshi objected that there was insufficient information requested in new program proposals on the cost of those degree programs to the UH system; there’s a section of the proposal that addresses this, but it asks for specific information requested by previous regents, not the current ones, and so may be revised.

The Intercollegiate Athletics committee reported the successful hire of a new Athletics Director, and continued concern over the accumulating Athletics budget deficit of at least $3.5 million and maybe as high as $5 million. The request for a separate line of funding for Athletics was denied.

Personnel Affairs reported that, in conversations with J.N. Musto, periodic faculty review may require annual biographical summaries online to make the five-year review easier. The idea is that five annual summaries could be simply put together to assess faculty productivity. This will be followed up in the July BOR meeting.

Planning and Facilities reported on bids to address desperately needed repairs and upgrades to facilities on Coconut Island, including the pier. The elevator modernization project underway at Mānoa is needed for disability access compliance. And they briefly discussed the idea of a system-wide database to manage classroom space more effectively.

5. August retreat, transition to new ACCFSC composition: Christine requested that outgoing Faculty Senate Chairs, Co-chairs, and Vice-chairs email her the names of their replacements as soon as they’re known. We discussed the August retreat, reiterating that current, outgoing and incoming Chairs, Co-chairs and Vice-chairs are all invited. A tentative date of August 21 was selected (Friday of on-duty period) and a possible location at JABSOM was mentioned. Dan Jenkins volunteered to organize the event (including the venue, date, agenda, food, speakers), and will contact Tara O’Neill as last year’s co-coordinator to ask her to help do it again.

6. Proposed meeting dates for next year: Because polycom rooms are difficult to book on short notice, Jan Hasegawa (The VP for Academic Affairs’ Secretary who has been working with Christine) noted that our meetings have been on the third Friday of the month. She suggested we book a room in advance, so next year’s meeting schedule has been set from 9:00-11:00 am in IT building room 105A except where noted (9/18, 10/16 [in Kuykendall ITV classroom], 11/20, 1/16, 2/20, 3/19, 4/16). A motion to adopt this meeting schedule was approved; Christine will email the list of dates so that chairs or their possible replacements can plan to attend.
7. Online labs committee: The committee had its first meeting this past Wednesday via the Halawai system. The committee came to some consensus that if not an online lab course designation, there should at least be a UH system policy to ensure online lab courses followed specific guidelines. Some members made a compelling case that it’s possible to have high quality online labs that are as good as what’s offered in person, but agreed that the possibility of doing so is not good enough if there’s no oversight and quality assessment. The committee chair noted that these special attentions are not meant to spread to online lecture/discussion courses, and that the committee is only concerned with the hands-on quality of lab courses in certain fields (pre-med, pre-pharmacy, pre-nursing) like Anatomy and Physiology and Microbiology. The item is one requiring continued discussion in the fall, and maybe at our retreat too. It was noted that WASC is starting to pay more attention to the parity of online and in-person courses. We were reminded that UH Hilo’s original proposal was just for a different course designation on transcript, even though that could be abused as basis for blanket discrimination. Maybe the simplest fix is to identify which specific courses are problematic, and to specify that some online versions of classes are not acceptable as prerequisites for more advanced lab coursework. The question of which specific classes prompted the proposal by UH Hilo faculty is one to pursue. The question of how faculty are going to enforce this short of looking up enrolled students’ transcripts was brought up. Why is this not just handled at the curriculum level? Departments are overseeing their faculties too, and online labs are presumably meeting student objectives. In further discussions, faculty from the College of Natural Sciences and SOEST also need to be consulted about the issue.

8. Academic renewal/forgiveness policy: This is a policy in place at Hawaii CC and it is working well. It is under review at Maui College, but keeps getting hung up on the question of how this impacts financial aid. It is also under consideration at UH West Oahu. UH Mānoa does not have this policy in place right now, but they do allow for up to 3 classes to be repeated with grade replacement so that the higher course grade gets figured into the GPA. Students’ transcripts show courses that are taken and forgiven, but lower grades are not included in GPA calculations. Can we legally expunge those credits? Yes, at Hawaii CC cases of academic renewal have been usually implemented where students got all Fs in a semester, so they didn’t earn any credits anyway. This policy doesn’t apply to students trying to retake a class to get a better grade when they earned a C or something similar. There is strong support on this council for the policy, as long as limited to such catastrophic failures (e.g., one time deal, which it is at Hawaii CC).

9. BOR criticism of President Lassner: The Mānoa Faculty SEC discussed this with Mānoa Chancellor Robert Bley-Vroman who was present at the BOR meeting in question, and with Regents Randy Moore and Ben Kudo who visited their SEC meeting. Robert Bley-Vroman indicated that the issue was that President Lassner had spoken to the House Higher Education Committee about the committee who deals with BOR nominees and who has been known to publicly humiliate candidates, while BOR Regents (who’d successfully passed through this process) thought this was inappropriate. It was noted that the rancor was not universally held by Regents, and that while Lassner is in a better position to speak of the impact of BOR policies on the university;
seasoned regents understand separation of authority better than some of new regents who see themselves as his boss, rest of Board only agreeing to record of what was said in the minutes, not the gist of it.

10. Double-counting high school and university level courses: There is a legislative proposal to extend this down to students in grades 9 and 10. It is called the Early College Program, and enables high school students to take a college course, use it to meet DOE requirement plus 3 credits of English 100 for example. Such courses are taught by UH faculty on high school campuses; typically there may be 3-4 classes offered before or after the regular school day. Running Start is another program that brings high school students to our Community College campuses to earn college credits.

11. Report on meeting of University Council on Articulation: The UCA discussed the new Quantitative Reasoning requirement. The Mānoa Faculty SEC approved it with a projected rollout date of fall 2018, but not the QR hallmarks in the Quantitative Reasoning Working Group’s proposal. Those hallmarks will be revised. It was also noted that students are granted automatic admission to a four year campus if they complete an AA degree on another UH system campus. These students are being tracked in terms of their graduation rates and time to completion of degree programs.

12. Administrative review process: The evaluation of Mānoa Chancellor Robert Bley-Vroman by the entire Mānoa Faculty SEC was discussed as an example. We’d been asked for feedback on the 360 review process by John Morton, but other than the note that we’d like a drop-down box to explain our rating if it’s positive, and not just if we choose a negative number, we have nothing else to offer at this time. The ACCFSC may continue this discussion in the fall. We noted that Vice Chancellors at Mānoa do annual self-reviews, with a 360 review every 5 years or so; in contrast, administrators are reviewed annually at the Community Colleges via the 360 process, which invites much broader and representative feedback.

13. Adjourned at 11:00 am