Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome

2. Approval of minutes from February 20 meeting
   Unanimously approved

3. Report from CCCFSC
   CCCFSC hasn’t met since our last monthly meeting, but the Community College senate chairs met as part of the UH Community Colleges Strategic Planning Council. That council has made progress but its work is not yet done. The community college planning priorities are mostly aligned with the UH system objectives, but there are some metrics and targets still under discussion.

4. Report from Board of Regents meeting on 3/19 and meeting with President Lassner

   WITCHE President Longanecker’s visit at the invitation of the Board of Regents to discuss the proposal to collapse the Mānoa Chancellor and UH system President’s offices was recently completed. Dr. Longanecker met with top administrators, the Mānoa Faculty Senate SEC, Regents, etc. All but one or two Regents were sure that the two positions should remain separate. The UH system is much bigger than it was in the 1990s when the two positions were last joined. That said, redundancies between UH Mānoa and the system’s highest level of administration were discussed at length. His report should be ready in April but he won’t be able to come present it to BOR until sometime in May.

   The UH Sustainability initiative is a good thing, and going forward as planned.

   Faculty workload issues have come up again, pushed largely by the Board of Regents and concerning UH Mānoa, not the Community Colleges. The regents don’t understand the nature of work at a Research I institution despite repeated presentations by Mānoa’s Chancellor, but they want specific workload policies implemented.
Board of Regents meeting: UH West Oahu had a WASC notice of concern from a year ago removed. It was mentioned that JABSOM moved into the top 20 med schools according to US News and World Report. Longanecker’s visit was reported. The UH Cancer Center’s NCI designation is partly dependent on having viable clinical trials program in an associated hospital, but ours does not have teaching hospital; this leaves the Cancer Center scrambling to establish affiliations with clinical trials in local hospitals. The tobacco tax funds are about to dry up so they are looking for other funding sources. The report on funding for UH is not good. The State House approved the continuation of the same funding level but rejected the requested increase. But the UH budget still has to go through the Senate. A civil rights group complained in 2006 about offering Resident tuition rates to Native Hawaiians living on mainland, and this complaint was finally settled in favor of university by rejecting the complaint. During the Kapiolani Community College Chancellor’s report, we learned that 26-28% of KCC courses are offered online, and about 500 out of 8500 students per year transfer to one of the 4-year colleges. We also learned that ASUH has about $8 million in their portfolio, but no one can touch it. Vice Chancellor for Research Brian Taylor asked for some funds to extend warranty on an expensive piece of lab equipment, and Regents’ questions and comments made it clear how little they understand what research faculty do. The ACCFSC expressed concern about a noticeable strengthening of the Board of Regents’ chastisement of President Lassner speaking on behalf of UH in front of the Higher Education Committee (we can write a letter, but it may blow back on Lassner who is on annual contracts).

5. Online labs committee

We now have 12 faculty nominations, named by Dave—we are closing the nomination process, and will work on convening the committee within next few weeks.

6. UH course evaluation system revisions

Momi Kamahele shared with us that Leeward Community College is wrapping up its revision of the course evaluation process, and was told that the UH system is looking at a universal approach to student course evaluations too. The Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at Leeward CC gave us a draft concept paper dated January 2015 listing the reasons for a universal course evaluation system. We will seek more information about any parallel efforts at the system level.

7. QR proposed requirement

There are 2 proposals from the Quantitative Reasoning Working Group set up by Mānoa VCAA Reed Dasenbrook sent to the General Education Committee, who rejected the second course immediately (replacing one Writing Intensive course with a QR class. So the first proposal (changing the Symbolic Reasoning to a Quantitative Reasoning foundations course) will go forward in the fall 2016 semester. It was noted that UH Hilo already has 6 credits of QR required (following their revised General Education requirements in 2011).

8. Single transcript evaluation
Erica Babag-Gerard shared students’ concerns about why courses transfer differently on different campuses. It is not a fixed system of specific course equivalencies being proposed, but rather a transcript evaluation system. But ACCFSC members had many unanswered questions. What is the single database shared among campuses being proposed? Does this proposed system facilitate the sharing of information, or does it effectively limit individual campuses’ abilities to decide what counts for what? Who exactly is making the one “definitive review” of external courses and deciding what counts for what? This single transcript evaluation system is being proposed as a goal for 2015—it is on the CCCFSC agenda too.

9. Administrative review process

John Morton asked us via the CCCFSC about how to get feedback from various groups, including faculty. Every three years or so a 360 review of a group of individual administrators is done, but these include little faculty input at Mānoa. At Winward Community College, everyone under an administrator is invited to fill out a 360 evaluation as well as some members outside that administrator’s responsibility (e.g. at Dean level). But upper-level administrators are different; the size of the campus is relevant, but requests for evaluations are also sent via email, which can be ignored. One requested change mentioned is the desire for drop-down windows to include detailed positive input too. At present one only has the ability to include detailed reasoning for choosing a number on the 1-5 scale if you rate the administrator negatively (choosing 1 or 2 on a scale of 1 to 5).

10. Adjourned at 10:21 am

Note: Christine Beaule also mentioned the upcoming transition—as faculty senates elect new Chairs, Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs, she asked that outgoing members please notify the ACCFSC of the new leaders’ names, and mention the August retreat to them. Old and new chairs are both invited to our annual retreat, where the transition from the 2014-2015 ACCFSC and the 2015-2016 council officially happens.