CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by the chair.

Present: Helen Baroni (chair), Richard Bigus, John Engel, Jon Goss, Susan Johnson, George Wong.
Ron Cambra (OVCAA), David Chin (SEC), Jan Heu (A&R), Tom Hilgers (GEO), Ruth Kleinfeld (emeritus), Todd Sammons.

Absent: Cristina Bacchilega, Megumi Taniguchi, Helene Sokugawa (OVCAA)

MINUTES: The minutes and liaison reports of October 2, 2006, were approved as submitted.

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:
1. WASC Draft Proposal (Baroni)
   –GEC discussed the draft (attached).
   –Chin, SEC liaison, will report today’s discussion to the SEC.
   –Background information:
     –IVCAA Kelly Aune handles UHM assessment with input from assessment advisory group.
     –Faculty Senate will consider forming a Senate Task Force on Assessment at its 10/18/06 meeting. (agenda attached)

   –Discussion focused on WASC draft section A.1.iii, Assessment of General Education (p. 3-4), in particular the statement that there is “…growing consensus that UHM should make use of the developed student learning technologies … (e.g., Collegiate Learning Assessment, Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency).”
     –The draft does not reflect faculty position: where is evidence of “growing consensus”?

     –A national exam administered to exiting seniors was cited as having the advantage of allowing for comparison with other institutions.
       –Primary purpose of gen ed assessment is not comparing UHM with other institutions.
       –Getting students to participate in such testing is a problem.
       –Has exam been reviewed in terms of meeting UHM’s assessment needs?

     –Best assessment measures are developed by faculty.
       –UHM’s gen ed has unique aspects that need to be addressed.
       –Some of UHM’s gen ed is embedded in the major; gen ed experience will be different in different majors. How will a standardized exam assess these differences?
       –How do we measure the types of growth and development fostered by the gen ed program?
       –Gathering “base-line data” as a first step would satisfied WASC at USC–e.g., asking students in class whether they learned xyz.
       –Assessment might be tied in to pre-graduation advising sessions that students attend as juniors and as seniors.
– Any faculty assessment effort would require resources and funding.
  –When GEC was asked to do assessment of gen ed a few years ago it responded that it lacked resources (manpower and funding); Aune offered to include gen ed in the assessment efforts of OVCAA.
  –Faculty participation calls for more “service” from faculty; faculty are hard pressed with current responsibilities without adding unrewarded “service.”
  –A national exam would be cheaper.

–WASC representative Ralph Wolff (during visit last week):
  –WASC requires institutions to have learning outcomes and to measure achievement in light of learning outcomes. WASC wants to see assessment methodology and how it’s used to improve student learning.

–Call for a Faculty Senate (FS) Task Force
  –FS discussion will focus on direction UH should take with assessment.
  -Possible options: a) joint committee comprised of representatives from FS and OVCAA; b) add to GEO and have several faculty members assigned to work, e.g., half-time, for 2-3 years, on assessment.

2. Focus recommendations (Hilgers)
   a. Focus Board Recommendations: Spring 2007 Proposals was distributed (attached).
      –MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve all recommended instructor + course combinations except for WS 495. The motion passed unanimously.

      –MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the recommended course-based designations for ITE 312, 313, 314, 322, 391C, 391S, and 406, subject to confirmation by Baroni that the Catalog course descriptions are satisfactory. The motion passed unanimously.
      [Baroni confirmed that the descriptions for all except 406 satisfactorily reflect the W Focus. ITE 406: conditional approval pending a copy of the UHM-2 form modifying the course description.]

      –WS 495, request for 3 designations: Baroni will consult with board chairs before making a recommendation to GEC.

   b. Conditional course-based approvals (Hilgers)
      Modified course descriptions were received for 2 courses conditionally approved last spring for F06 O Focus course-based designations: GG 410 and ITE 343 (attached).

      MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve as submitted the modified course description for GG 410; O Focus approval effective F06-Sum 09. The motion passed.

      MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve ITE 343’s modified course description with the text suggested by the O Board chair: replace “Development of oral communication skills.” with “Training, practice and evaluation of oral communication skills.” If ITE accepts, O Focus approval will be effective F06-Sum 09. The motion passed.

      GEO will notify the chairs of the decisions.
3. A&R Diversification recommendations (Heu)
   MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the following as recommended:
   – Maui CC’s ASTRO 110L, DY eff. F06–Sum 11
   – WCC’s MET 101L, DY eff. S07–F11
   The motion passed.

WRAP UP:
1. Course requesting 3 designations: Baroni will consult with board chairs before making a recommendation to the GEC.

Next meeting: Monday, 10/30/06, 12:30-2:00 p.m., Hawai‘i 208.
If you have any agenda items, please email Baroni <hbaroni@hawaii.edu>.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Submitted by Barbara Mueller-Ali, Recorder