

April 21, 2005

General Education Committee Report

AY 2004-2005

Submitted by Linda Cox, Chair

The Committee has had a productive year and made great strides in articulation and assessment over the past year. A multi-campus Foundations agreement has been approved, as have the Foundations portfolios submitted by KCC and HCC. Currently, subcommittees composed of Foundations Board members from HCC, KCC, and Mānoa are developing the policies and procedures to guide the multi-campus effort. As a result of a workshop we held in December, we are working with the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs on a pilot program to assess the effectiveness of our General Education requirements.

The biggest challenge facing the General Education Committee is finding faculty willing to serve on the various Boards. The Committee on Faculty Service is finding it particularly difficult to fill vacancies on the Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Issues (HAP) Board. The HAP Board is attempting to raise standards and faculty is not likely to be aware of nor fully understand these new standards. This has resulted in communication challenges. At the same time, the blanket approval for HAP courses from the Community Colleges expired in Spring 2005. Thus, the workload of the HAP Board is large and the Board has not found the time necessary to educate the faculty about the changes. As a consequence, we are facing a decline in the available seats for HAP courses across the UH system this Fall. The issues surrounding the approval of HAP courses will likely surface again next year, as the decline begins to affect the students.