MEMORANDUM

TO: Donald Straney
Vice President for Academic Planning & Policy

VIA: David Lassner
Interim Chancellor

FROM: Michael Bruno
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Vice Chancellor for Research

SUBJECT: Authorization to Plan for Professional Master’s in Asian International Affairs

August 8, 2018

Attached please find an Authorization to Plan (ATP1) for a Professional Master’s in Asian International Affairs from the UHM School of Pacific & Asian Studies. I believe that you will find that this proposal is responsive to state need and addresses several strategic goals of the Mānoa Campus and the UH System. Per the review procedures:

The ATP1 is submitted by the Campus Chancellor to the System Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy for review by the UH Officers. The Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy will notify the campus of the results of the review.

I recommend review by the UH Officers. Should you have any questions, please let me know.

Attachment

C: Assistant Vice Chancellor Sutton
Asian Studies Chair Clayton
Program Officer Pearson
Authorization to Plan a New Academic Program

1. Campus, school/college and department/division proposing the new program
   UH Mānoa, School of Pacific and Asian Studies (SPAS), Asian Studies Program (ASAN)

2. Degree Proposed
   Master’s in Asian International Affairs (PMAIA), 30 credits, 18-24 months, comparative focus on contemporary Asian international relations.

Program Objectives
a. To provide a rigorous course of advanced study of the geopolitical, economic, regional relationships of contemporary Asian nations, with a grounding in Asian cultures and perspectives, that is designed for professionals who may have little background in Asian Studies but whose work requires them to engage with Asia or Asian issues.

b. To meet the demonstrated workforce needs—in the military, government service, education and tourism—for mid-career professionals with a solid understanding of the multifaceted (cultural, historical, political and social) determinants and impacts of Asian nations’ engagements with their neighbors and the world.

Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of the program, students will be able to demonstrate:

a. An advanced understanding of the key sources and modes of conflict and cooperation in contemporary Asia;

b. An advanced interdisciplinary understanding of Asian perspectives on issues of regional and global significance;

c. The ability to understand, accurately interpret, and critically assess Asia research in various disciplines;

d. The ability to reflect critically on the ethical consequences of different paths of international engagement.

3. Alignment with Campus and UH System Mission and Plans
a. The new Master’s program would align with the System-Wide Guiding Principles and Priorities, one of which is to “increase and diversify enrollment.”

b. It would also align with the Integrated Academic and Facilities Plan, which states that establishing “new professional master’s programs for non-traditional students [that] can serve community needs while generating revenue and building important new relationships.” (Integrated Academic and Facilities Plan, p. 6).

c. It would align with the Strategic Plan for Recruitment, which suggests that active duty military and veteran enrollment is a priority over the next six years.

d. It would embody the core values of UH-Mānoa: academic rigor and excellence (expected of faculty in teaching and students in coursework); integrity and service (the program is designed to help mid-career professionals increase their ability to deliver the services they provide through furthering their knowledge of Asia); and aloha and respect (a core expectation of all cross-cultural study and interaction).
4. Justification of need.

Why Asian International Affairs? The significance of Asia to the contemporary global situation can hardly be overstated. In the fields of security, trade, humanitarian assistance, international law, climate change and a host of other issues, Asian nations are playing an increasingly important role. In addition, Asian regional conflicts and rivalries, as well as cooperations, have the potential to reshape economic ties and political alliances in ways that have repercussions not just in Asia, but throughout the world. An advanced degree program that focuses on Asian International Affairs will provide future leaders in government, the military, business and education with the depth of understanding they need to work successfully with Asian partners or on Asian issues.

Why a Professional Masters? There is a demonstrated need for greater in-depth knowledge of Asia among professionals in Hawaii and beyond: in the military (see 5c below), education, government and business. Geared toward students with at least two years of professional experience, the MAIA will be structured to accommodate the work schedules of these students, allow them to gain expertise in theoretical approaches and their real-world applications, and provide networking opportunities.

Additionally, across campus, enrollments in conventional Master’s degree programs have been falling due to a combination of a strong economy and high tuition. A professional MA program that targets early- to mid-career professionals can help reverse this trend by attracting students who are already employed and have identified a need for additional training in the field of Asian Studies.

Why Asian Studies? One of the features that will distinguish this program from standard “International Relations” programs nationwide is that it will ground the study of international affairs in a robust understanding of the cultures and societies of Asia. Asian actors’ perceptions of what constitutes, for example, “sovereignty,” “cooperation,” or “security” often differ in fact from their North American counterparts, and understanding this difference in perception is as important as understanding standard international relations theory.

In addition, while many IR programs at universities throughout North America offer regional specializations in East Asia or South Asia or Southeast Asia, a more holistic approach is better suited to the realities of the international situation in the 21st century. The rise of China as an international actor and the proliferation of regional cooperative agreements among Asian nations, for example, call for a broader understanding of the interactions among nations throughout Asia.

The UH-Mānoa Asian Studies Program is uniquely qualified to administer such a program. It is internationally recognized as one of the top programs of its kind in the world, especially since the Federal Government recognizes the SPAS Area Studies Centers as National Resource Centers. Four Asian Studies faculty members are political scientists or economists who already teach courses on Asian security, Asian conflict and cooperation, and political economies of East Asia. Asian Studies can also draw on a large number of cooperating graduate faculty with expertise about Asia across the disciplines, who can provide unparalleled range and depth of knowledge about the region.

5. Demand for the program.

a. Student demand.

While enrollments in our conventional MA program have been declining, there is significant demand for Master’s-level training among non-conventional students. These are students who do
not have significant prior academic training in the study of Asia, but who have found that their career requires them to engage with Asia or Asian issues. This demand is particularly voracious in the US military (see 5c for details), but we also regularly receive inquiries from potential students in business and government. The Masters in Asian International Affairs will be designed to fulfill this unmet demand.

b. Demand for services or the intellectual property that would be produced by students and faculty of the program and the degree to which this demand is not being adequately met by existing programs.

Demand for professionals who are knowledgeable about Asian international affairs include:

- Members of the US Military who work in Asian countries and/or alongside Asian counterparts, or who are required to brief their superiors on decisions related to Asia policy.
- Lawyers and finance professionals working with clients from Asian countries who wish to deepen their knowledge of the legal and business frameworks in their clients’ countries in an interdisciplinary context attuned to cultural and political economic issues;
- K-12 Social Studies teachers who teach about Asia or global current events and wish to deepen their knowledge about the subjects they are teaching;
- Community college or four-year college instructors in mainland US who have attended the East-West Center’s Infusing Asia into the Curriculum summer program, or who have otherwise become interested in Asian geopolitics, and wish to enhance their teaching portfolio.

Our existing MA program, which received high marks from an external review team in 2015, cannot meet this demand in part because admission into the program requires undergraduate training in the study of Asia or a related social science or humanities field, and in part because graduation from the program requires proficiency in an Asian language. The target population for the MAIA degree has neither the time to devote to language acquisition nor the professional need for it. The admissions and graduation criteria for the MA in Asian Studies cannot simply be changed, since they are standard criteria for MA programs in Asian Studies nationwide and internationally.

c. Employer demand.

In summer 2017, the US Army Pacific Command contacted the Asian Studies Program to inform us about their new Regional Leadership Development Program (RLDP) and to ask about how this program might create a pathway into an executive-type Master’s degree in Asian Studies.

USARPAC wishes to provide mid-career officers with advanced training in Asian Studies in order to create a shared understanding of regional actors, cultures, economics and politics, especially for security cooperation activities. The RLDP is a 7-week course that involves intensive courses at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, and the US Army Command and General Staff College, followed by three-week study tours of three Asian countries. In 2017, the RLDP program had 40 participants, and starting in 2018 the Army will run two short courses per year, totaling 80-100 participants annually. The Pacific Command is eager to cooperate specifically with the Asian Studies Program at UH-Mānoa to enable a subset of graduates of this RLDP to continue on to earn Master’s degrees in Asian Studies while they continue to discharge their duties. Additionally, the United States Pacific Command has expressed interest in an 18-month Master’s
program in Asian Studies, specifically with a focus on security and international affairs.

While we are cognizant that the long-term existence of the RLDP, specifically, may be subject to federal funding cuts or a change in leadership in the military, we believe that in the medium term (the next five to ten years), it represents a significant demand for knowledge about Asia, and that we are positioned better than any other institution to meet that demand. The structure of our current MA program cannot meet this demand, for the reasons listed in 5a and 5b above.

Currently at UHM there is no graduate degree in International Affairs. The Political Science Department offers some International Relations theory and Asian politics courses at the graduate level, but they do not add up to an advanced degree. We have already approached the Political Science department about including these courses as part of the new MAIA program.

The only other similar degree in the UH System is the MA in Asian Studies already offered by our program. This program has conferred 39 MA degrees over the past three years (2014-2017). However, the Asian Studies MA Program does not focus on international affairs; it is an interdisciplinary program in which students research topics ranging from ethnomusicology to ancient history to contemporary popular culture. It is also an academic degree, which prepares students who already have some background in Asian Studies for careers in academia, in government jobs that require knowledge of an Asian language, or in Asia. By contrast, the MAIA would prepare students with little or no background in Asian Studies to better perform in careers where an understanding of the Asian context is important but not the main focus of their work.

The Asian Studies Program also offers Graduate Certificates, which could fulfill some of this demand, but we have found that a) for some students, advanced degrees rather than certificates are necessary to advance professionally; and b) many military (and ex-military) students wish to use their GI Bill benefits, which are designed to support progress toward a degree, not a certificate (we understand that using these benefits toward a certificate is discouraged by GI Bill administrators).

7. New Resources.
We do not anticipate needing new resources for this program. Although the focus, admission requirements and structure of the MAIA will differ from those of the existing MA program, both programs are flexible enough to allow significant overlap in terms of the coursework.

The new program will feature online or hybrid courses, summer courses, evening courses, and possibly intensive short courses during the year as well. We anticipate that students in our Asian Studies MA program will be eligible to take most of these courses if they so desire.

While no new material resources will be necessary, some of our faculty may avail themselves of the training UH-Mānoa provides in best practices for online teaching.

As is already the case for the MA in Asian Studies, aside from a set of core required courses offered by Asian Studies, students will be encouraged to take courses in departments across campus that can enhance their interdisciplinary understanding of Asian international affairs. These departments and the individual faculty members whose courses may be involved will be consulted early on in the proposal process.
Signature Page:

Signature indicates that the person has reviewed the ATP1 and supports the proposed program. Signature page is to be completed upon submission to the VPAPP.

Dean/Department/Division Chair:

[Signature]  R. Anderson Sutton  6/29/18

[R. Anderson Sutton]

[Signature]  Krystyna S. Aune, Dean of Graduate Division  JUL 12 2018

[Krystyna S. Aune, Dean of Graduate Division]

Campus Chief Academic Officer:

[Signature]  Print Name  Date

[Print Name]

 Chancellor:

[Signature]
Degree Proposed
Master’s in Asian International Affairs (MAIA),

Campus, school/college and department/division proposing the new program
UH Mānoa, School of Pacific and Asian Studies (SPAS), Asian Studies Program (ASAN)

A. If a similar program exists, consult with other campus(es).
   N/A.

B. Impact on accreditation (program and regional).
   None.

C. Timeline for submission of new program proposal to:
   2. BOR Committee on Academic and Student Affairs: Summer 2019
   3. Board of Regents: Summer 2019