MEMORANDUM

TO: Howard H. Karr
   Chairperson, Board of Regents

VIA: M.R.C. Greenwood
    President

VIA: Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
    University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

FROM: Reed Dasenbrock
     Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
     University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

SUBJECT: Approval of Established Status for the Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Disability and Diversity Studies, College of Education, Mānoa Campus

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:
It is requested that the Board of Regents grant established status to the Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Disability and Diversity Studies in the College of Education at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

ADDITIONAL COST:
No additional costs are associated with this request.

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:
To be effective upon Board of Regents’ approval.

PURPOSE:
The Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Disability and Diversity Studies completed its provisional cycle, and in accordance with Board of Regents policy, was reviewed by the Graduate Council and recommended for established status.

The Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Disability and Diversity Studies offers training and scholarship opportunities guided by a social model that views disability as deriving from a complex interplay of social, cultural, educational, political, economic, and biological determinants. In disability studies, the primary focus is not on the individual’s physical, mental, or emotional impairment or the prevention or treatment of impairment. The primary focus on disability studies is to analyze disability phenomena in the context of social practices and cultural values about human difference. Given the multicultural context of the Pacific, the interdisciplinary certificate combines disability studies and diversity studies to provide both a cultural and historical context for
understanding contemporary disability issues, disability research, and effective practices.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
Board of Regents Policy Section 5-1a(3) confers upon the Board of Regents the authority to grant established status to provisional programs. The Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Disability and Diversity Studies was granted provisional status by the Board of Regents on June 3, 2004, and was reviewed and recommended for established status by the Graduate Council.

The Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Disability and Diversity Studies is a 15-credit graduate level program that attracts students across disciplines such as education, social work, psychology, public health, law, nursing, sociology and political science. The program enables graduate students to learn in an environment that provides interdisciplinary educational experiences while acquiring the skills needed to collaborate through joint planning, decision-making, and goal-setting. Students also gain the perspective of mutual understanding and respect for the contribution of other disciplines working with individuals with disabilities. The educational objectives of the certificate program focuses on providing students with knowledge and skills needed to promote effective, efficient, and culturally sensitive services for persons with disabilities across the lifespan.

Since June 3, 2004, 54 graduate students have successfully completed the requirements for and received the Certificate, and over 300 graduate students have participated in Certificate courses.

The program is administered and supported by the Center on Disability Studies/University Center for Excellence (CDS/UCE) in the College of Education at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa. The Center was established in July 1988 with a federal Americans with Developmental Disabilities grant and state funds. The CDS/UCE and 66 other Centers of Excellence across the country are a direct result of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 1987 and Public Law 100-146. The CDS/UCE distinguishes itself as the premier Interdisciplinary Center on Disability in the Pacific Basin. The CDS/UCE has one director and 15 interdisciplinary affiliated faculty members. The national and international reputation of the faculty is exemplified through the 58 research, training and service grants for 2008-2009, totaling approximately $23,000,000. Mānoa researchers bring in $1M a day to the university. Of this amount, CDS brings in $63,000, or 6% of the daily total.

The Graduate Council reviewed the program and recommends that it be granted established status. The Council of Chief Academic Officers has also reviewed this request. Executive Policy E5.201 requires that requests for changes from provisional to established respond to seven questions in Appendix D the policy. The response is presented in the attached.
ACTION RECOMMENDED:
It is recommended that the Board of Regents grant established status to the Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Disability and Diversity Studies in the College of Education, at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, to be effective upon Board approval.

Attachments

c:  Vice President Johnsrud
    Vice Chancellor Ostrander
    Dean Sorensen
    Director Stodden