

Subject: UH-System Foundations Board Passed Resolution Expressing Strongest Disapproval

From: saviano@hcc.hawaii.edu

Date: Wed, 07 Oct 2009 14:48:20 -1000 (HST)

To: johnsrud@hawaii.edu, itano@hawaii.edu

CC: fsec-1@hcc.hawaii.edu

Dear Vice President Linda Johnsrud and Director Joanne Itano,

Yesterday, the UH-System Foundations Board passed the attached resolution expressing our strongest disapproval of Manoa's College of Arts and Sciences for its longstanding treatment of requiring "college graduation requirements" for three Symbolic Reasoning courses offered at UH Community Colleges: Math 103, Math 115, and Math 135. Our resolution also expressed our strongest disapproval of the University Council on Articulation (UCA) for allowing-despite continued pleas by Community College representatives-this practice to continue year after year and for, in effect, being "complicit" in the behavior by Manoa's College of Arts and Sciences.

The discussion was contentious. (As I understand it, Professor James Tiles of Manoa has perhaps already sent you his dissenting opinion.) In the end, the resolution passed 4 to 3 with one abstention. The UH-System Foundations Board also passed a resolution asking that formal arbitration be convened in order to resolve this issue fairly. I hope that if an arbitrator is chosen, it will be one that both Manoa and the Community Colleges will see to be impartial and fair.

As our resolution expresses, the UH-System Foundations Board has serious doubts that the UCA itself can resolve this dispute in a matter that is genuinely fair to both the CCs and Manoa's College of Arts and Sciences. Regarding the matter of the UCA's ability to genuinely arbitrate fairly, I'd like to include the following letter from an actual member currently serving on the University Council on Articulation:

"Dear Foundations Board Chairs,

I'm a current member of the University Council on Articulation (UCA). I've been serving on the University Council on Articulation since Fall 2007. I feel that I represent not only Honolulu Community College but other CCs since not every UH Community College has a member on the UCA.

This problem has been formally brought up a number of times at the UCA meetings - both those I have attended and, as I understand it, at earlier meetings during which the CCs had different representatives. During my nearly two years on the UCA, I have asked to discuss Math 103, Math 115, and Math 135 in at least three of the four meetings held since my appointment. Let me be clear that each time I asked to put this issue on the agenda, it has been put there. However, The last time I tried to have the issue of Foundations Symbolic Reasoning courses rejected by the College of Arts and Sciences, Math 103, Math 135 and Math 115, this issue constituted the only item on the agenda, and the UCA reps from Manoa's College of Arts and Sciences didn't wish to meet over individual courses. Consequently, the UCA didn't meet.

In all cases, the issue of Math 103, Math 155 and Math 135 has been dismissed. As all of you are familiar, the reasoning is that Math 103, Math 115, and Math 135 is accepted at UH Manoa as a Foundations course, but that the College of Arts and Sciences has its own graduation requirements, and that because of college autonomy, there is nothing the UCA can do about this. Furthermore, I was told that the College of Arts and Sciences defers in all its Math requirements to the Math Department.

I have made the point that requiring all College of Arts and Sciences students to take the same math course both negates any positive effect of the Systemwide Foundations Agreement, since it forces students who have

taken Math 103, Math 115 Math 135 to take a second FSR course, delaying the graduation of CC students, and that it does not make sense for all Arts and Sciences majors to have the same math requirements given the differing needs of their fields. The College of Arts and Sciences position both at formal UCA meetings, and outside when I have discussed this issue informally with UCA members, has been that these issues could be resolved through a college-college negotiation. This despite my noting that the reason the issue has come to UCA finally is because of a failure of such college-college negotiation to take place. In short, and I say this as a current member, the University Council on Articulation is either unwilling or unable to arbitrate this matter or to force the necessary negotiations to resolve this matter fairly.

In all, I do think that this has been a smoke-and-mirrors strategy of endless delay in talking about a real issue. Of course, as UCA representative, and as a matter of personal opinion, I hold the highest regard for college autonomy, and for the quality of the faculty at all of the UH System institutions, including the College of Arts and Sciences at UH Manoa. But I think that such autonomy can only be maintained when all campuses also follow the spirit as well as the letter of multi-campus agreements. When college autonomy is used as a wall behind which to hide, the only real injury is to UH System students whose graduations are delayed and to whom promises of a simplified curriculum designed to fit better their own goals seem at best to be empty words from disingenuous faculty. I believe your resolution will be a useful tool as I and others continue to try to find a way to resolve this problem.

Patrick M. Patterson
Current Member of the University Council on Articulation
Asst. Professor of History Honolulu Community College"

Vice President Johnsrud and Director Itano, thank you for your assistance in resolving a matter that has become a genuine threat to the Multi-campus Foundations Agreement, an agreement that has eased student transfer in the UH system.

Sincerely,

Jerry Saviano
Chair, UH System Foundations Board

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**UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII**
SYSTEM

**University of Hawaii System Foundations Board
Resolution Expressing Strongest Disapproval (Passed October 6, 2009)**

WHEREAS, the original multi-campus foundations agreement signed by faculty and administration of UH-Manoa, Honolulu CC and Kapiolani CC in May 2004 and subsequently joined by every campus in the UH system—with the exception of UH-Hilo and Hawaii CC—stipulates that “Once a campus’s common foundations program is fully approved, its foundations courses can be readily transferred to other UH campuses that have an approved common foundations program” and that this agreement was intended to assist the UH System in moving “quickly towards our shared vision of articulation across the system”; AND

WHEREAS, the update of E5-209 dated August 25, 2006 “reaffirms that completing the AA from a UHCC fulfills admission and lower division general education core requirements at all UH baccalaureate degree-granting institutions”; AND

WHEREAS, UH-Manoa’s College of Arts and Sciences—a “college” encompassing such vastly diverse departments, programs, and majors such as speech, theatre and dance, mathematics, physics and astronomy—has been effectively violating the spirit, if not the letter, of the multi-campus agreement and the 2006 update of E5-209 by “accepting” certain math courses from the CCs such as Math 103, Math 105, and Math 135 as supposedly “satisfying” Foundations Symbolic Reasoning (FSR) requirements, but then Manoa’s College of Arts and Sciences subsequently forces ALL CC transfers who took either Math 103, Math 115, and Math 135 at a CC to take another Manoa FSR course; thus, a UHCC student who’s passed Math 103, Math 115(which is awarded A&S “depth” credit), or Math 135 at a CC and decides to major in an Arts and Sciences major such as English, speech or theater and dance MUST take another Manoa FSR class as part of a “college graduation requirement”; AND

WHEREAS, given the diversity of departments and programs contained in UH-Manoa’s College of Arts and Sciences, this particular “college graduation requirement” is of questionable academic merit, to say the least; AND

WHEREAS, at the spring 2008 Multi-Campus Foundations meeting, UH-Manoa’s Foundations Chair at the time, Stephen Canham, admitted publicly that members of Manoa’s math department told him that Honolulu CC’s Math 135 was “the same old course” regardless of how Honolulu CC’s FSR application demonstrates that Math 135 meets the Manoa-generated FSR hallmarks, i.e., the System Hallmarks, thus making it unequivocal that the practice of forcing CC students to take additional math requirements as “college graduation requirements” stems from reasons other than a sincere discussion of the System Symbolic Reasoning hallmarks; AND

WHEREAS, the Honolulu Community College Foundations Board recently declined to approve a Foundations Symbolic Reasoning Proposal for a Hon CC Math 112, HCC's Foundations Board finding that the proposal didn't sufficiently meet the System Symbolic Reasoning Hallmarks, and while rejecting a Math 112 from our own campus, Honolulu Community College continues accepting WITHOUT QUESTION the FSR credit of students transferring from other campuses where Math 112 currently receives an FSR designation such as UH-Manoa; AND

WHEREAS, Hon CC and other CC campuses that currently don't award Math 112 with an FSR designation do not force Manoa students with FSR credit from Manoa's Math 112 into enrolling in additional math classes in order to satisfy "college graduation requirements," thus illustrating that the CCs have decided not to respond in kind to Manoa's College of Arts and Sciences by creating specious "college graduation requirements" and thus refusing to allow cross-campus faculty disagreements that effectively punish UH students and to endanger system-wide agreements necessary in resolving long-standing articulation problems in the UH system; AND

WHEREAS, all UH campuses belonging to the multi-campus foundations agreement, and indeed EVEN many colleges at UH-Manoa, other than Arts and Sciences, accept the FSR designations of CC students WITHOUT forcing these students into taking an additional lower-division FSR course as a "graduation requirement," although recognizing that, depending on a student's MAJOR, additional lower-level math courses may be reasonably required for a student's major if genuinely necessary, these UH-Manoa colleges—again, not Arts and Sciences—as well as all campuses belonging to the multi-campus foundations agreement are thus adhering to the letter AND spirit of the May 2004 multi-campus agreement and the 2006 update of E5 209; AND

WHEREAS, the UHCC Foundations Chairs have pleaded for years with assorted representatives of UH-Manoa, the UH System, and the University Council of Articulation (UCA) to have Manoa's College of Arts and Sciences adhere properly to the multi-campus Foundations Agreement and decide additional math requirements at the major level rather than the "college," only to have our pleas ignored year after year;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the UH System Foundations Board Chairs that:

1. The UH System Foundations Board Chairs expresses our unqualified and strongest disapproval of the UH-Manoa College of Arts and Sciences for a persistent violation of the multi-campus agreement agreed to and practiced in good faith by the other members of the agreement and other colleges at UH-Manoa, and;
2. The UH-System Board of Foundations Chairs expresses our unqualified and strongest disapproval of the University Council of Articulation (UCA) for refusing its stated mission of properly overseeing and coordinating the UH System articulation process and thus being actively complicit in this continued violation of the multi-campus agreement by UH-Manoa's College of Arts and Sciences.

Subject: System Foundation Board Complaint to UCA
From: James Tiles <jtiles@hawaii.edu>
Date: Tue, 06 Oct 2009 12:49:39 -1000
To: itano@hawaii.edu

Joanne,

I would be grateful if the UCA received the following report of my "dissent" when it receives the complaint from the Foundations Board (resolution passed this morning and attached).

Thank you,
Jim Tiles

At its meeting on October 6, 2009, the System Foundations Board passed a resolution expressing its "strongest disapproval" of certain program requirements, which the Colleges of Arts and Sciences have for degrees taken by students in the Colleges. This resolution was passed over vigorous opposition from me as the representative of the Manoa Foundations Board.

I argued that the Manoa Colleges of Arts and Sciences had a valid defense against the accusation that the Colleges were in violation of any System policy or multi-campus agreement. I urged that a resolution condemning the Colleges of Arts and Sciences was premature, as no one had been asked formally for an impartial hearing of the accusation and the defense against it.

After the resolution was passed, four to three with one abstention, a further resolution was passed asking the University Council on Articulation to arbitrate. I strongly recommend that whoever mediates or arbitrates in the dispute be a person or group of persons who have the confidence of both sides and that the University Council on Articulation use its good offices to help the parties in dispute to find a mediator or arbitrator who will be agreeable to both sides.

The Colleges of Arts and Sciences categorically rejects the accusation—presumed to be proven—in the resolution passed by the System Foundations Board and I ask that no action be taken on the resolution unless and until it the dispute over its validity has been given an impartial hearing. UHM continues to abide by E5.209 III.B, "Transfer of Courses and Credits: Policies," including provisions 2.b and 4, both of which are ignored by the "resolution."

Yours sincerely,

Professor J.E. Tiles
Manoa Foundations Board and
Executive Committee of the Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate