



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
WEST O'AHU

April 13, 2011

TO: Howard H. Karr
Chairperson, Board of Regents

VIA: M. R. C. Greenwood
President

FROM: Gene I. Awakuni
Chancellor

SUBJECT: Request to change the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu Certificate in Applied Forensic Anthropology from Provisional to Established Status

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval for a change from provisional to established status for University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu Certificate in Applied Forensic Anthropology (CAFA) from Provisional to Established Status.

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Fall 2011

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with BOR policy governing Academic Affairs, Section 5-1a, the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu requests BOR approval for established status for the Certificate in Applied Forensic Anthropology.

The field of Forensics, including Forensic Anthropology, has been experiencing a period of tremendous growth in recent years. The Certificate in Applied Forensic Anthropology (CAFA) program offered by the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu (UHWO), jointly with Leeward Community College (LCC), is the only undergraduate program dedicated to the study of Forensic Anthropology, with a good introduction to the wider field of Forensics, within the State of Hawai'i. These two institutions typically serve a student population that is non-traditional, mature, ethnically diverse, many who are working adults who attend part-time. In addition, these campuses also draw students from nearby military bases. Access for the students is enhanced by low tuition rates at both institutions, and course offerings in the evening, weekend, and /or online or hybrid modes of delivery.

Three aspects of the CAFA program ensure that it meets its objectives: a solid curriculum, one that provides excellent academic training and workforce development; program admissions, course delivery methods, plus articulation and dual enrollment arrangements that maximize student access; and advising and counseling procedures to guide students' success.

UHWO has offered courses focused on Forensic Anthropology since 1999. The CAFA certificate is comprised of 11-12 required lower division courses from LCC and 18 upper division required courses from UHWO.

The lower division requirements through LCC provided students with the necessary background in Biology, Physical Anthropology, and Human Skeletal Biology; these courses also provide hands-on learning in a laboratory setting. The upper division requirements consist of more advanced, theoretical course work; those that trained advanced "field and bench skills"; and those in related fields. A senior level practicum at a Forensic-related institution enhances students' knowledge and employment and advanced education prospects.

As originally anticipated, most students who have enrolled in the CAFA program have been primarily local residents of O'ahu, including some with military backgrounds. Most complete an Associates' degree at LCC and a BA in Social Sciences with a concentration in Anthropology at UHWO. Several students have already earned their bachelors degree in Anthropology or even graduate degrees. Still others were already working in the field for contract Archaeology firms or the Medical Examiner's office, etc.

Current resources for the program delivery are adequate, in terms of faculty expertise, equipment and facilities.

Enrollment in the classes has been very good; many of the courses in the CAFA program also meet General Education requirements for students pursuing an associates or bachelors degree. The CAFA program only required the development of the Human Skeletal Biology and the Advanced Techniques in Forensic Anthropology.

The program has received positive recognition from within the State and community. Students who have earned the CAFA have been successful in being employed within the field and in getting into graduate programs both locally and on the mainland.

Evidence for continuing need for the CAFA program comes from data on student demand. Enrollments exceeded the original projections and they continue on a steady growth. There is also need in the community as evidenced by the internships granted to our students and employment of our graduates in a wide variety of related fields.

Program details are included in the attached document.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

Approval of the change from provisional to established status for the Certificate in Applied Forensic Anthropology, effective Fall 2011.