UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM-WIDE
DISTANCE EDUCATION LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

November 28, 2001
Sheraton Waikiki Hotel
3:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Participants: Over 100 faculty and administrators from across the campuses (Manoa, Hilo, West Oahu, CCs)

- Purpose: To collaboratively focus and work on the mission of Distance Education at University of Hawai'i, identify strategies and strategic issues.

- Outcomes:

    1. Remarkable consensus on how UH should move forward and what the highest priorities for action should be.

    2. Majority agreement that the workshop was time well spent.

    3. Feeling of openness, optimism and opportunity to move forward as a system.

- Areas of Agreement:

    1. UH distance learning should be characterized by multiple delivery modes including both online and video-based, asynchronous and synchronous. This will permit maximum flexibility in meeting the needs of diverse learners, the evolving capabilities of our faculty, and the unique characteristics of the disciplines and content areas.

    2. UH should integrate all aspects of our distance learning program into the core activities of the University wherever possible (for example, distance learning should be mainstreamed). This means that our campus-based students may participate in online courses, our faculty development programs for instructional technology should enhance the quality of campus-based instruction, and online support services should be provided to all learners.

    3. UH should continue to pursue a systemwide approach leveraging the resources,

capabilities and niches of faculty on all campuses to provide students with integrated access to the resources of the entire UH system.

- Participants identified the following as the highest priorities for action:

  1. Implement an integrated systemwide student information system

  2. Determine and implement the organizational approach to execute the mainstreamed and systemwide vision outlined above, while still maximizing the effectiveness of our efforts.

  3. Improve the institution's technology infrastructure and support by funding the UH Strategic Plan for Information Technology (SPIT)

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

I. Activity: Highest Hopes

- Participants were asked to answer three questions regarding their highest hopes for distance education at the University of Hawaii. The questions were as follows:

  1. What is an important element of your dream for distance education at the University of Hawai‘i?

  2. What do you expect the experience of UH students, faculty, and staff to be like in 2010 if everything goes right in the distance learning future?

  3. What would a desirable potential future for distance education at UH look like? What do you see out there?

- The answers to these questions revolved around several main themes:

  1. A seamless operation. Student information services, communication, administration, support, resources, and technology all coordinated and collaborative in nature.

  2. Inclusive access. Students from Hawaii or elsewhere would have access to quality and flexibility in their educational pursuits.

  3. Connected faculty and students. Have all faculty become familiar with innovative uses of technology, to have all classrooms wired, and to be assured that students

are given opportunities to gain the skills necessary to use the new technologies.

4. Evolution of education. Maximize use of technology, meet the needs of all learners, partnerships with educational and other institutions (corporations), highly interactive and personal quality education.

II. Strategic Plan

- Participants were asked to brainstorm parts of an overall systemwide strategic plan for distance learning. The components most often cited were:

    1. Coordination across the system.
    2. Systemwide student information system.
    3. Established leadership for system and on individual campuses.
    4. Funding and other resources.
    5. Making distance learning a priority.

III. Mission

- Participants were invited to develop a mission statement for this initiative in distance learning. The groups were asked to develop the mission by addressing TO (what should be done), FOR (for whom should we do this), and BY (what do we have to do to get this done).

  TO (what should be done):

    1. Expand mission of the University of Hawaii system through distributive learning.
    2. Ensure flexible access.
    3. Work collaboratively across the system.
    4. Use all delivery systems available.
    5. Provide universal access.
    6. Identify needs and opportunities
    7. Develop unified vision.

  FOR (for whom should we do this):

    1. Broadest spectrum of learners.
    2. People seeking higher education opportunities regardless of location or circumstance.
    3. All learners from Hawaii and the global market, especially Asia and the Pacific.

BY (what do we have to do to get this done):

1. Maximizing delivery and support.
2. Multiple modes of delivery.
3. Seamless integration for all students.
4. Creation of a coordinated effort.
5. Finding a niche for innovation and development.

IV. Common Threads

- Consistent themes that evolved from the break-out groups:

1. To develop a seamless process.
2. To embrace a multiple delivery system.
3. Systemwide coordination.
4. Expand access and quality.
5. Focus on both local and global markets.
6. Mainstream distance learning into the business of the University.
7. Creation of partnerships.

V. Differences

- Differences of opinion:

1. Centralization vs. decentralization
2. Local vs. global needs
3. Market driven vs. student focus
4. Definition of distance learning
5. Synchronous vs. Asynchronous learning modalities
6. Partnership vs. do it yourself model
7. Niche focus vs. an everything focus

VI. Activity: Naming the Distance Learning Initiative

As a final activity at the workshop, participants brainstormed on naming the system-wide distance learning initiative. Some of the suggestions were as follows:

1. UH: A degree above all others.
2. Tsunami U: Catch the Wave
3. IMUA: Instructional Media to Universal Access
4. SPEED: Strategic Plan for Educational Excellence at a Distance
5. AHEAD: Accessing Higher Education through Alternative Delivery

6. University of Hawai‘i Connected
7. UH WAVE: World Wide Access to Vast Education
8. TRIPLE A: Hawai‘i anywhere, anytime, anyway
9. UH Anywhere
10. UH Everywhere

CONCLUSION

The overall consensus among participants was that the workshop was well worth the time spent. People were delighted to find that they were indeed “on the same page” with each other no matter what campus was home. Everyone understood the need for and articulated the desire for collaboration and coordination across the system. There was remarkable consensus on how UH should move forward and what the highest priorities for action should be.

The Distance Education Leadership Workshop engendered a feeling of openness, optimism and opportunity to move forward as a system. People left the workshop feeling enriched, renewed, and hopeful that such leadership would indeed be in place and that resources would soon follow to boost a collaborative system-wide effort to further the distance learning opportunities at University of Hawai‘i.

This report has been prepared by Audrey S. Furukawa, Executive Director, University Task Force.