March 22, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mānoa Faculty Members
   University of Hawai`i at Mānoa

FROM: Senate Executive Committee
       Mānoa Faculty Senate

RE: Draft Institutional Learning Outcomes

Dear Mānoa faculty member:

The Mānoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee asks each faculty member to examine the attached draft Institutional Learning Objectives, along with the Report and answers to Frequently Asked Questions, and to think about and provide feedback as to whether these draft ILOs are a good articulation of the learning outcomes that define the expectations for an undergraduate degree from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, in preparation for discussion by the Mānoa Faculty Senate at our April 18 meeting.

The reaccreditation letter from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in Spring 2012, granting UH Mānoa reaccreditation for 10 years, made the formal recommendation that UHM “articulate student learning outcomes that define the expectations for a UHM undergraduate degree, showing how student learning outcomes in courses, in general education, and in majors contribute to the development of competencies, demonstrated through assessment.” UHM must document our progress in meeting this and other recommendations in the March 1, 2015 interim report to WASC. While UHM has student learning outcomes at the course and program levels, it does not yet have student learning outcomes at the institutional level.

Pursuant to a request from the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee set up the Institutional Learning Objectives Task Force to take on this task. The group was led by members of the Committee on Academic Policy and Planning, and included members of the General Education Committee and the Mānoa Assessment Committee. The group decided to invite members of the Assessment Office to participate. The working group’s report as to the process followed, the draft ILOs, and FAQs, are attached. The draft ILOs cover the five learning abilities and competencies emphasized by the WASC Commission at its November 2011 meeting. These include:
- Written communication,
- Oral communication,
- Quantitative skills,
- Information literacy, and
- Critical thinking.

The SEC and the ILO working group hope that departments and programs will convene groups of faculty members to discuss these proposed ILOs, and will provide specific feedback prior to the Senate discussion and decision in April. We also welcome feedback from individual faculty members. Please send any comments or ideas to: uhmfs@hawaii.edu