Fwd: SB 374 SD-2, Early College and Dual Credit
1 message

Ron Bontekoe <bontekoe@hawaii.edu>  Fri, Apr 17, 2015 at 12:31 PM
To: SEC <uhm-mfs-sec@lists.hawaii.edu>, John Kinder <jkinder@hawaii.edu>

Hi folks,

There was some cursory discussion of this legislative proposal (which is well on its way to being passed) at this morning’s ACC meeting. I think it might well be something we should discuss at Monday’s SEC meeting as well. James Cromwell’s suggestion that high schools are hoping to have their students complete 30 or more UH credits by the time they finish high school is alarming. The leg seems to be driven by nothing more on this issue than a desire to increase the number of people who can wave degrees around. The timing could hardly be worse for us, but it may be something we need to look at closely and act on urgently. (I’ll be forwarding another message from James Crowell, containing the original documentation to which he was responding. You may also recall that I asked the Chancellor about this at Wednesday’s Senate meeting.)

Ron

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: James Cromwell <cromwell@hawaii.edu>
Date: Fri, Apr 17, 2015 at 10:00 AM
Subject: SB 374 SD-2, Early College and Dual Credit
To: Ron Bontekoe <bontekoe@hawaii.edu>, Kimberly Furumo <furumo@hawaii.edu>, Stanley Orr <sorr@hawaii.edu>

My initial concern appears to be addressed, so I will turn my attention to my own campus policies and operations. But it is important to understand that what is done at one campus can affect the entire system, and the academic reputation of the University of Hawaii as a whole.

You can decide if your respective faculty body wishes to take a position on this initiative or not. If anything, your colleagues should be aware that large numbers of UH courses will be offered in high school classrooms throughout the state for 9th through 12th grade students by the community colleges. Even though this is being offered by the community colleges, the courses are UH courses, and these students will eventually be in our classrooms.

The eligibility to take a UH course in high school is based on the student meeting the course pre-requisite. There are no other admission requirements since they are not applying for admission to a UH campus. English and Mathematics courses are based on Compass placement scores, but most 100 level courses don’t have pre-requisites, so there isn’t much to restrict access to them. Tuition is free for the students since the high school only pays for the cost of the instructor.

The new Early College initiative expands eligibility to 9th grade, with some high schools planning to have their students complete 30 or more college credits by the time they graduate in four years. How rigorous is the coursework at UH if large numbers of 9th graders are completing our general education curriculum? And how does this effect our academic reputation?
I don't know how the faculty senates at the community colleges feel about this initiative either. They may be supportive of it, or simply caught up in the momentum of it all, or they may think its a done deal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

James L. Cromwell  
Director of Enrollment Management  
University of Hawaii - West Oahu  
91-1001 Farrington Hwy  
Kapolei, HI 96707  
(808) 689-2909

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