

Date: February 29, 2008

To: The UH Manoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee

From: The UHM Faculty Senate Committee on Administration and Budget

Re: Appointment of Jenny Samaan as Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for International Programs

The Committee on Administration and Budget is strongly opposed to both the process and to the outcome of the recent appointment of Jenny Samaan as Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for International Programs. Our concerns are based on the following issues:

- The appointment was made without adequate consultation of the faculty and of the units affected. While such an appointment may be considered the prerogative of the administration, the principles of shared governance as well as past and present practice for filling high level academic leadership positions require such consultation.
- The appointment of a non-faculty qualified person to an important academic affairs position is not appropriate. The Asst. Vice Chancellor for International Programs not only leads our policy and academic program initiatives in international education, he/she represents the UHM international programs in many national and international meetings and conferences of scholars. Having a scholar of the appropriate stature and experience is essential to maintaining the prominence of UH Manoa's international programs in the academic community. Indeed, downgrading this position inhibits the effective administration of these programs, is not in step with our peer institutions, and may jeopardize our ability to maintain federal funding for our centers of excellence in Asia Pacific studies.
- The duties and responsibilities of the position have not been adequately defined, and the reorganization of international programs at the UH Manoa office was implemented without appropriate input from the UHM Faculty Senate. Until there is proper vetting and agreement on the organizational structure for international programs and the duties of the Assistant VC, the leadership of this unit should remain in the hands of an experienced scholar with knowledge of international programs at the UH Manoa and credibility with peer institutions.
- The movement of personnel from the UH System to UH Manoa should not be made merely for the convenience of the administration but rather because the individuals involved have the qualifications and skills needed to serve necessary functions and positions required for UH Manoa to fulfill its mission and achieve excellence as a major research university.

The Committee on Administration and Budget strongly recommends that Dr. Ned Shultz be reinstated as Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for International Programs. Staff personnel transferred from the UH System may, as appropriate, be assigned to support the Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor if the Assistant Vice Chancellor concurs.