MEMORANDUM

TO:               Robert V. Cooney, Chair
                  Mānoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee

FROM:            Reed Dasenbrock
                  Vice Chancellor
                  for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Attached Proposal from the Vice Chancellor for Students

Attached is a proposal from Vice Chancellor Francisco Hernandez requesting that a new course subject code be set up for the Office of Student Affairs (OSA). At first glance, this might seem to be a technical matter handled administratively, but upon further reflection, I decided that this was a matter that needed Faculty Senate consideration. At this point, there are no course subjects for units that do not offer degrees except for the two ROTC programs on campus, and these are clearly well-defined units that students join even if they do not offer degrees. So creating a course subject for Student Affairs certainly might be seen as moving towards the creation of a new academic program on campus, something we would clearly expect Senate approval of. I assume CAPP is the relevant committee in this regard.

The proposal also refers to courses taught by faculty and staff: I am not aware of staff teaching credit-bearing courses on campus, so this is an issue CPM may want to look at, and it is certainly something that we would need to consult with UHPA about if the proposal moves forward. Additionally, since the faculty in OSA referred to are S (Specialist) faculty, I think this relates to the discussion about faculty classifications that is on the Senate’s agenda this year. According to Executive Policy E5.221, Specialist faculty provide support for the instructional mission of the university, but “do not themselves teach or conduct research”; the actual practice in many units is that they do teach, despite this stated policy of UH. I am not assuming that this issue will be resolved through a consideration of this request, but the discussion of it probably needs to be informed by the discussion about the Specialist classification in general.

So I think this request requires consideration from a number of angles, and I look forward to receiving your recommendations.

Attachment

c:   Vice Chancellor Hernandez
     Program Officer Yamada
MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Reed Dasenbrock
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

FROM: Francisco Hernandez
Vice Chancellor for Students

SUBJECT: Course Subject Code for Student Affairs Initiated Courses

I am requesting that “SD” be set up as a new course subject code for courses initiated and offered by the faculty and staff members of the Office of Student Affairs (OSA). “SD” or “Student Development” is descriptive of both the philosophical underpinning and the intended outcome of the educational experiences UH-Mānoa offers.

As you are aware, undergraduate education on our campus is geared towards fostering students’ intellectual development (e.g. knowledge acquisition, critical thinking and analysis) in disciplinary content areas of a general education and specialization curriculum. Other disciplines and dimensions of student learning and development exist. Among these are career exploration and development, leadership development, interpersonal development, etc. Over the years, the faculty and staff members in the Office of Student Affairs have collaborated with faculty and staff in Academic Affairs programs, departments, units, and colleges to integrate the undergraduate students’ matriculation by offering transformative educational experiences in co-curricular contexts which enable students to actively apply concepts, knowledge, and skills from the more traditional general education curriculum.

The “SD” course subject code will centralize all courses offered by OSA for learning in the co-curricular context. Having this course subject code will enable OSA faculty and staff members, in partnership with various academic units, to continue institutional efforts in creating a comprehensive offering of transformative learning experiences which impact the development of students in the areas of career/life planning, leadership development, interpersonal development, cognitive development, etc. This comprehensive set of courses will complement the Mānoa general education curriculum by affording undergraduates the expanded opportunities to acquire in experiential ways, the knowledge, skills, abilities, and content needed to contribute to the campus and larger communities of which the undergraduates are part. It is anticipated that this diversely comprehensive set of trans-disciplinary courses will contribute to students’ satisfaction, learning, and retention at UHM.

I have designated Dr. Lori Ideta, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students, to be the person responsible for coordinating the courses offered under this alpha. Should you require additional information, feel free to contact her at 956.3290 or via email (ideta@hawaii.edu). Upon your approval, the required code request form will be submitted to the appropriate campus offices.

APPROVED:

Reed Dasenbrock, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

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