Date: March 7, 2012

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

From: Teresa Bill, Chair
    Office of Student Affairs Faculty Senate

Subject: Course Subject Code for Student Affairs Initiated Courses

The Office of Student Affairs Faculty Senate (OSAFS) strongly supports the establishment of a Student Development (SD) course designation and course subject code. We request that the Mānoa Faculty Senate support the establishment of the Student Development (SD) course subject code, as requested by the Vice Chancellor for Students via the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

It is our understanding that historically, such requests for course designations were considered an administrative process. But we appreciate the Mānoa Faculty Senate’s referral for comment on this request to the OSAFS. After consideration and upon administrative approval of the SD course designation, the OSAFS will of course follow appropriate academic procedures for curriculum and course development for Student Affairs initiated courses under the SD designation.

There has been and continues to be a need for a Student Development (SD) course designation which has as its theoretical foundation an interdisciplinary framework incorporating, but not limited to: Personal & Interpersonal Development, Leadership Development, Cognitive and Academic Development, Civic Engagement and Cultural Competence.

The SD designation will enable OSA faculty, in partnership with various academic units, to continue developing course offerings and learning experiences which foster the holistic development of students and contribute to the UH Mānoa Strategic Plan’s goal of developing a transformative learning environment, including experiential learning. Student Development (SD) courses will contribute to a unique undergraduate experience for students at UH-Mānoa and contribute to students’ satisfaction, learning and retention.

An SD course designation would not necessarily replace current course offerings taught by OSA faculty throughout campus, nor is it the intent to develop a degree-granting program. The SD course designation would allow OSA faculty to more readily develop course offerings without relying on an academic department to sponsor the course.
The OSAFS supports that SD courses should be taught by qualified OSA faculty and lecturers. We respectfully differ with Dr. Hernandez’ broad statement regarding teaching opportunities for all OSA staff and faculty.

We also respectfully disagree with VCAA Dasenbrock’s statement that specialist faculty do not teach. Specialist faculty across the UH Mānoa campus currently teach courses (i.e. Nursing, Math, LLL, CAS, ROTC) and bring a wide variety of experience and skills to classroom instruction in addition to their non-instructional duties. OSAFS interpretation of Executive Policy E5.221 emphasizes that such policy does not state that specialists “shall not or will not” teach and we would contest the VCAA’s narrow interpretation.

The OSA Faculty Senate appreciates the opportunity to share our enthusiasm for the development of a Student Development (SD) course designation. This proposal directly and positively impacts all of our teaching opportunities (classroom and extra-curricular) and service to students.

If our colleagues in the Mānoa Faculty Senate should require additional information, please feel free to follow up with me.

Teresa Bill
Chair, OSA Faculty Senate
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