September 26, 2013

To: David Ericson, Chair
    Mānoa Faculty Senate

From: Reed Dasenbrock
      Vice Chancellor
      for Academic Affairs

Subject: Policy of Exclusion of Non-System Junior College Credits in Excess of 60 credits

Please find the attached memos sent from Krystyna Aune, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, to the Council of Academic Advisors (CAA) for their feedback as well as the response from Denise Nakaoka, chair of the CAA. This matter of excluding credits beyond 60 from non-system junior colleges was also discussed yesterday (September 25th) at the Committee on Enrollment Planning. There was unanimous agreement that this policy should be reconsidered. If you concur, I would appreciate it if you would refer this issue to the relevant Mānoa Faculty Senate committee.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Krystyna Aune at 956-7486, or via e-mail at krystyna@hawaii.edu.

Attachments

c: Interim Associate Vice Chancellor Aune
   Assistant Vice Chancellor Cambra
   CAA Chair Nakaoka
MEMORANDUM

TO: Council of Academic Advisors (CAA)

FROM: Krystyna Aune, AVCAA

SUBJECT: Policy of Exclusion of Non-System Junior College Credits in Excess of 60 Credits

I am requesting input and recommendations from the CAA regarding the above policy regarding non-system junior college credits. Several relevant policies/requirements are listed below.

From the UHM Catalog 2013-2014: “Although all qualified courses may be transferred from two-year colleges, UH Manoa applies no more than 60 credits from non-UH community or junior colleges toward the credits required for a bachelor’s degree” (p. 10).

Residency requirements: UHM Catalog 2013-2014 (p. 18) states “Students must earn a minimum of 30 credit hours in residence (i.e., taking credit courses or their equivalent by examination) here at UH Manoa.”

Upper-division credit requirement: The 60 non-introductory course credit graduation requirement was replaced with a 45 upper division (300 and 400 level courses) credit requirement, effective Fall 2012. See VCAA memo dated July 5, 2011 to Academic Deans, Department Chairs, & Program Directors.

It appears that non-system students are unduly disadvantaged by the 60-credit maximum of credits allowed to count toward a baccalaureate degree at UHM. At least 75 credits transferred from a community college within the UH system could be applied to a Manoa degree (the difference between 120 minimum credit requirement and the minimum 45 upper-division credit requirement).

The 2-4 Year Transfer Student Workgroup (a part of the Committee on Enrollment Planning) discussed this policy during their August meeting. Concerns that were raised include the following:

1. There is no (seemingly) valid academic rationale for excluding credits that were earned from an accredited institution. Accreditation standards for junior colleges have strengthened greatly since the establishment of this policy.

2. For some students, the 60-credit maximum can mean an extra semester or more. One specific group that routinely experiences such problems with the policy includes military students and their spouses (they often have a number of Defense Language Institute...
(DLI) credits which are classified as 2-year). Moreover, out-of-state students who are already subject to higher out-of-state tuition are specifically impacted by this policy.

3. The policy is increasingly difficult to implement because it is often not readily apparent which college is a junior college and which is a 4-year college. Hence, it is highly likely that the policy is unevenly applied due to the difficulty in ascertaining whether a college is a junior college.
September 25, 2013

To: Dr. Krystyna Aune  
   Interim Associate Vice Chancellor  
   Academic Affairs

From: Denise Nakaoka  
   Council of Academic Advisors Chair  
   AY 2013-2014

Re: Policy of Exclusion of Non-System Junior College Credits in Excess of 60 credits

On Tuesday, September 17, 2013, members of the Council of Academic Advisors unanimously agreed with the concerns related to the 60 credit cap on non-UH system credits as expressed by the 2-4 Year Transfer Student Workgoup.

This policy has great potential to be applied unevenly and for non-UH system students to be unfairly disadvantaged.

A reconsideration of this policy appears necessary given these concerns and it appears counterproductive to a university culture that encourages students to complete their degrees within 4 years.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have further questions. I can be reached via email at nakaoka@hawaii.edu or by phone (956-4274).

Thank you.