February 20, 2014

Memorandum

To: Krystyna Aune
   Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
   University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

From: Maya Saffery
   Chair, Committee on Academic Policy and Planning (CAPP)
   Mānoa Faculty Senate

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

Aloha kāua,

As you know, in October 2013, CAPP received a request from the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affair’s office via the Senate Executive Committee to reconsider the existing policy limiting to 60 the number of transfer credits non-system/out-of-state junior college students can count toward the 120 total credits required for graduation. After meeting with you and Lisa Wong on November 13, 2013, CAPP requested two sources of data to assess the requested shift. First, we requested data on the patterns of acceptance of lower division credits from junior colleges among our peer and benchmark campuses (where such data are available). We also asked for an estimate of the number of students within the last several years that have been impacted by the current policy of exclusion of non-system junior/community college credits in excess of 60 credits.

We appreciate the data your office was able to provide us. CAPP received usable data from 7 Peer and 9 Benchmark campuses. The data reveal the following: Only one campus (Oregon State University) allows the transfer of 75 credits or more; this institution actually allows the transfer of 83 lower division credits. Half of the surveyed campuses (8 out of 16) permit only 60 credits. Roughly the same number of campuses permit the transfer of more than 60 credits; the average among these institutions is 67.

Lastly, according to other received, the number of students affected by the proposed change appears to be very small. CAPP was told that since 2000, only 1,271 students have been estimated to have been negatively impacted by the 60 credit limit, which is roughly 100 students/yr or 1% of the student body.

Given these data, CAPP is not inclined to recommend changing the current policy. UHM is well within national standards for accepting transfer credits.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at msaffery@hawaii.edu