



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

David McClain
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

April 20, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trent Kakuda, Chair
Student Affairs Committee, Board of Regents

FROM: David McClain *David McClain*
Vice President for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Outcomes of Student Affairs Committee Meeting of April 16, 2004

This memorandum will serve to document the outcomes of the Student Affairs Committee meeting on April 16, 2004. At that meeting, I:

1. Committed to providing the BOR with quarterly reports on the progress of articulation and transfer. The first such report will be delivered in mid-July.
2. Committed to revisiting the articulation issue with the Student Affairs Committee in a year's time, at the April 2005 BOR meeting.
3. Noted the need for improved dissemination of articulation information, and committed to addressing this need via an improved and more focused articulation web presence, via efforts to increase the number of counselors available to students, and via intensified communication with the Student Caucus.
4. Noted the reconstitution of the membership of the University Council on Articulation to include two students (one from a baccalaureate campus and one from a community college) and one non-voting liaison from the All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs. The UCA will meet later this semester to identify outstanding articulation issues.
5. Reported my findings on the complaint of some community college faculty concerning the 2002 decision by UH Manoa to move its Ethics and Oral Communication (E&O) requirements to the junior and senior year, with effective date Fall 2004. These findings are:
 - a. The members of the BOR who approved UHM's revisions to its general education core in 2000 considered this 2002 decision to be within the scope of authority granted UHM in 2000. This conclusion is based on an interview last fall with Regent Nunokawa, currently chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, and former Regent McElrath.
 - b. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior Commission finds UHM's particular approach to insuring that its general education core extends across all four years of the curriculum to be acceptable. This conclusion is based on an interview last fall with Ralph Wolff, Executive Director of WASC.

- c. The process by which UHM sought the opinions of community college administrators, faculty and students, while not ideal, did in the end result in UHM decisionmakers' awareness of the concerns of their community college colleagues. This conclusion was based on an exhaustive review of the process extending from last fall through the middle of the spring semester.
- d. As a result of the finding concerning BOR concurrence reported above in (a), no additional BOR or Presidential action is required to approve the 2002 decision.

Testimony given at the Student Affairs Committee meeting suggested that despite the best efforts of the UH System, UH Mānoa and UH Community Colleges administrations, the process by which articulation information is disseminated remains confusing to some students, and that such information simply doesn't reach others. One UHM administrator noted that there are "14 different web sites" dealing with articulation, and called for greater focus in our efforts to communicate to students.

In view of the "hold harmless" clause in BOR policy concerning the treatment of students when articulation rules are changing, and the continuing challenges in accurately and fully disseminating articulation information, but mindful of the need to proceed with full implementation of the UHM General Education core, I stated that the implementation of the UHM decision on E&O courses would be effective with the Spring 2005 semester, instead of the Fall 2004 semester.

Finally, I stated to the BOR that I would request the UHM faculty to take another look at the E&O issue.

I made clear, however, that the Spring 2005 implementation would not be contingent on this "second look." As noted in 5., above, the UHM decision on E&O was consistent with both BOR and WASC policy, and was informed by dissenting opinions both from within the UHM campus and from other campuses in the UH System. Its implementation is being reset to Spring 2005 solely to insure that students who have had difficulty securing accurate articulation information are in fact held harmless during this change.

I asked the BOR for any feedback on the above decisions and statements that would change the course of actions outlined, and received none.

It is my intention to report to the BOR on this "second look" by UHM no later than April 2005, as part of the review promised in 2. above.

- c: Board of Regents
Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board Iha
President Dobelle
Chief of Staff Callejo
UH System Senior Management Team
Chancellors
Chief Academic Officers
All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs
Senior Student Affairs Officers
Student Caucus