MINUTES OF THE REGENTS’ COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Place & Time: Campus Center Conference, Room 220
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
3:10 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Regents
Nunokawa (presiding)
Bender
Haynes
Kakuda
Tatibouet
Lee (ex-officio)

Other Regents Present: Regents
Kawakami
Lagareta
Tanaka
Yamasato

Others Present: Evan S. Dobelle, President, University of Hawai‘i
David McClain, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Neal J. Smatresk, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
James R. Gaines, Interim Vice President for Research
Randy A. Hitz, Dean, College of Education
David Iha, Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board
Carl H. Makino, Executive Assistant to the Board

Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes

Regent Tatibouet moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Regents’ Committee on Academic Affairs held on March 18, 2004. The motion was seconded by Regent Kakuda and unanimously carried.

Subjects:

1. Termination of the Graduate Certificate in Construction Engineering and Management, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

2. Establishment Status for the Undergraduate Certificate in Peace Studies, Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace, College of Social Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

3. Establishment of an Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate Program in Disability and Diversity Studies, College of Education, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
Termination of the Graduate Certificate in Construction Engineering and Management, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Vice Chancellor Smatresk recommended that the Committee approve the termination of the Graduate Certificate in Construction Engineering and Management in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, in the College of Engineering, on the Mānoa campus effective Fall 2005.

In accordance with Board policy, the Council on Program Reviews (COPR) reviewed the provisional Graduate Certificate in Construction Engineering and Management. The Certificate was approved by the Board of Regents in 1994 as a provisional program. The program was intended to train students interested in construction engineering and management who could not afford the time to complete a master’s degree in engineering. The program review report, submitted by the Graduate Division, noted that only fourteen certificates had been awarded since the program was initiated in 1995 and concluded “while this is a well-designed program created to meet an apparent industry need, the demand for this certificate does not justify continuing to offer it.” Based on its review of the report, COPR unanimously recommended that the program be terminated. This recommendation was discussed with both Dean Wai-Fah Chen and Department Chair H. Ronald Riggs who both concur with this recommendation.

Board of Regents Policy 5-8 and UH Executive Policy E5.205, Academic Minors and Certificate Credentials, delegates the approval (and terminations) of academic subject certificates to the Chancellors. However, as this certificate program was approved by the Board prior to the delegation, Board approval is sought to terminate the program.

This program was designed in response to a 1987 survey conducted by the General Contractors Association of Hawai‘i which indicated the need for such a certificate program. The survey projected that more than fifteen students would be enrolled in the program annually. In its initial years, the three or four students completed the certificate program annually. However, between 2000 and 2002, no students completed the program. In fact, since its initiation in 1995, only fourteen students have completed the program. Clearly the demand for the certificate program has waned. In addition, instead of training students quickly for positions in the industry as intended, eight of the program’s graduates went on to complete either a master’s or doctoral program. Only four graduates were employed in the construction industry after completion of the program. While potentially the program may provide a service to the construction industry, it has not met expectations in terms of student demand. Discussions with industry personnel suggest that the greatest demand for training of construction managers is primarily at the undergraduate, not graduate, level.

Due to extremely limited enrollment in the program and since the program does not appear to meet the need for which it was created, termination of the program is recommended effective Fall 2005. The delayed effective date will provide the sole student in the program sufficient time to complete it.

Regent Lagareta asked why this was necessary. Vice Chancellor Smatresk explained that there were no students enrolling in the program and the industry no longer felt that this program was necessary.
Regent Kakuda moved to approve the termination of the Graduate Certificate in Construction Engineering and Management in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of the College of Engineering, on the M~noa campus, effective Fall 2005 provided that those currently in the program will be allowed to complete their academic objective. The motion was seconded by Regent Haynes and unanimously carried.

Established Status for the Undergraduate Certificate in Peace Studies, Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace, College of Social Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at M~noa

Vice Chancellor Smatresk requested that the Committee grant permanent status to the Undergraduate Certificate in Peace Studies offered by the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace, College of Social Sciences, on the M~noa.

The Undergraduate Certificate in Peace Studies has completed its provisional cycle. In accordance with Board policy, it has been reviewed for established status. The program is designed to increase awareness of the necessity and means of finding alternatives to violence for resolution of conflict; to foster a planetary outlook on human affairs; to stimulate critical thinking about peace, justice, and world order; to encourage creative thinking and “imaging” about the future of humankind; and to encourage active participation in the process of peace building.

The certificate program is offered by the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace. Owing to changes in Institute leadership and a transfer for the locus of the Institute from the then Executive Vice Chancellor’s office to the College of Social Sciences, a review of the program was delayed.

In 2002, the Council of Program Reviews (COPR) conducted a review of the programs of the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace, including the Undergraduate Certificate in Peace Studies. While COPR found the other programs of the Institute to be robust, it expressed concerns regarding the continued viability of the undergraduate certificate program. COPR described the program as one of the “best-kept secrets” for students at M~noa and noted that only 12 certificates had been awarded since the program’s inception in Fall 1990.

The Academic Affairs staff worked with the College of Social Sciences since 2002 to strengthen the programs of the Institute. An interim director was hired and tasked with developing a strategic plan for the Institute. While the number of certificates awarded continues to be low (two certificates were awarded in both 2002 and 2003), there are currently nine students enrolled in the certificate program. In addition, the number of students enrolled in Peace Studies undergraduate courses has increased from 96 students in Fall 2000 to 137 students in Fall 2003. These enrollments show that while students may not be completing the certificate program, student interest in peace studies is growing.

The recent requirement that all Arts and Sciences students complete a breadth (12 credits spread over the four Arts and Sciences colleges) or a depth (completion of a minor or certificate program separate from their major) component should also serve to increase the number of students seeking to complete the certificate program.

Further, the Undergraduate Certificate in Peace Studies utilizes existing courses from the
BA program in Interdisciplinary Studies, the College of Social Sciences, and other Arts and Sciences colleges. Termination of the program will result in no cost savings to the University.

The increased enrollment in Peace Studies courses and the new graduation requirements for students in Arts and Sciences indicate increased interest in the program. Since the events of September 11, teaching and learning about peace are more important than ever. The Undergraduate Certificate in Peace Studies provides one vital pathway for students to explore and understand the multiple facets of peace.

Regent Kakuda moved to grant permanent status to the Undergraduate Certificate in Peace Studies offered by the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace, College of Social Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, subject to the Regents’ policy on established academic programs. The motion was seconded by Regent Bender and unanimously carried.

Establishment of an Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate Program in Disability and Diversity Studies, College of Education, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Dean Hitz requested that the Committee approve the establishment of an interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate Program in Disability and Diversity Studies in the College of Education, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa to be effective Fall 2004.

The proposed certificate program will provide professionals with skills grounded in the interdisciplinary process that are needed to promote effective, efficient, and culturally sensitive services for persons with disabilities of all ages. It is intended to complement existing graduate programs in education, health, human services, and related disciplines with career goals in or interacting with the disability field. The proposed certificate will provide students with interdisciplinary experiences where they will acquire skills for joint planning, decision making, and goal setting, and learn to respect the contributions of other disciplines. There are many departments at UHM that provide some professional training related to disabilities. This will be the only program that provides leadership and training across disciplines.

The foundation for the program is a set of interdisciplinary competencies that students use, with the help of core faculty, to develop and design an individualized program plan. The program will be jointly administered by two units within the College of Education—the Department of Educational Foundations and the Center on Disability Studies (CDS). In addition, cooperating faculty for the program are drawn from numerous fields including special education, psychology, public health, political science, educational psychology, nursing, and social work.

The proposed program is designed to meet personnel needs in the fields of health, education, and human service both in Hawai‘i and nationally. Changes in social policy, systems of care, and laws, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Felix Consent Decree, have increased the complexity of providing services and care for persons with disabilities of all ages and their families. Service providers and leaders with skills grounded in the interdisciplinary process are needed to promote and provide effective, efficient, and quality services for persons with disabilities.
Substantial interest is projected for the program. The State Department of Education has hired 300 Student Service Coordinators (SSC) to provide interdisciplinary leadership in implementing comprehensive school-based services in every public school. The DOE has requested and partnered with CDS to offer all SSC the opportunity to earn the proposed interdisciplinary certificate. In addition to the 300 SSC, all members of the Student Support Team, including general education teachers, special education teachers, psychologists, mental health personnel, counselors, speech pathologists and audiologists, and other service providers are encouraged to participate in the interdisciplinary certificate training. The need for training will continue with SSC and Support Team turnover.

The proposed certificate has been positively reviewed by the Graduate Council. Further, it has been endorsed by the College of Education and Mānoa Faculty Senates. Board of Regents Policy 5-1 (a) provides that all new academic programs, once approved, shall have provisional status until a review is conducted. Reviews are initiated once a full cycle of graduates has been completed. As a graduate certificate program, the required review will be conducted in the 2006-2007 academic year.

The proposed program will not require any additional resources or funding from the University as a number of extramurally funded CDS projects provide funding for training personnel and student stipends. Federal funding is already in place to support this effort for the next few years. CDS will seek additional extramural funding to support the program, as required. Currently, CDS receives between $4 and $6 million annually for training, research, evaluation, technical assistance, and dissemination.

Regent Tatibouet stated that there seems to be a lack of faculty. Dean Hitz explained that the faculty would be drawn from several departments because this would be an interdisciplinary program.

Regent Kakuda moved to approve the establishment of an interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate Program in Disability and Diversity Studies in the College of Education on the Mānoa campus effective Fall 2004, subject to the Regents’ policy on provisional academic programs. The motion was seconded by Regent Bender and unanimously carried.

Report on Lyon Arboretum

Interim Vice President Gaines reported that at the Committees’ meeting in April the President appointed him to investigate the allegations and situation at the Lyon Arboretum. At the time several individuals had testified against the leadership of the Arboretum which had caused disruptions in the operations. He reported that four administrators, ten staff members, eight associate staff members, four volunteers and others were interviewed. The State Auditor will be conducting a financial and management audit of the Arboretum. He said that the Director’s attempts to become entrepreneurial in order to get revenues for the Arboretum were met with strong resistance from the staff. The Arboretum also needed a long-range master plan and Dr. Teramura was presently working on that. He indicated that a detailed written report would be sent to the Board.
Chairperson Lee stated that there had been concerns expressed at the last meeting and whether the administration had addressed those concerns. Interim Vice President Gaines said that he was addressing those concerns particularly, the risk management issues.

Regent Lagareta inquired where the resistance was primarily coming from. Interim Vice President Gaines said it was from the staff and to a certain extent from the Lyon Arboretum Association.

Testimonies were received from:

1. Liz Huppman, representing the Arboretum staff, asked for a national search for the new director and clarified that the staff was not opposed to projects proposed by the Director, but merely opposed to those that did not seem to be related to the Arboretum’s purpose.

2. Jill Nunokawa praised the Board for getting this on the agenda and bringing attention and initiative to the Arboretum. She expressed that it is unfortunate that the Board had to get involved because of the administration’s lack of leadership. She said the Board needs to take into consideration what can legally be permitted at the Arboretum.

Since there was no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Iha, Secretary

Dated: July 21, 2004

c: Chairperson Patricia Y. Lee
Members, Committee on Academic Affairs
President Evan S. Dobelle
Vice President David McClain