



UNIVERSITY
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SYSTEM

‘Ōnaehana Kulanui o Hawai‘i

Debora J. Halbert, PhD
Vice President for Academic Strategy

September 9, 2024

Mr. Christian Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawai'i Professional Assembly
1017 Palm Dr.
Honolulu, HI 96814

Via email to fern@uhpa.org

SUBJECT: Follow-up Consultation on Proposed Changes to RP 5.213 General Education

Dear Mr. Fern:

In Spring 2024, revisions to Regents Policy 5.213 relating to General Education were brought forward for formal consultation with the Faculty Senates. Additionally, a redlined version was presented to the Board of Regents in March 2024 to update the Regents for discussion purposes in the context of an update on General Education redesign efforts.

The comments received as a result of the Spring consultation were used in the revision of RP 5.213 which is now being circulated for an additional round of formal consultation. We are mindful of the questions and concerns raised by Jamie Mow in her letter of April 24, 2024, and are carefully considering them as we work through further revisions to this policy. We will provide a written response to UHPA following this second consultation with the Faculty Senates.

Justification for Policy Changes

The existing RP has not been revised in many years and thus does not reflect the current status of UH's systemwide General Education curriculum. The proposed changes clarify the intent that UH have a systemwide set of common general education requirements approved by the Board of Regents.

The changes to RP 5.213 include:

- Commitment to a shared general education curriculum.
- Revised descriptions of the skills and topics relevant to the general education curriculum.
- Provision for a limited number of upper division graduation requirements.
- Creation of a systemwide general education governance process to review and recommend changes to policy.

Key Changes at a Glance

Removed during the revision process were clauses related to:

Bachman Hall 204
2444 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Telephone: (808) 956-6897
Fax: (808) 956-9119

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1. Prerequisites – feedback suggested that this was an area of substantial confusion.
2. Utilizing a transfer equivalency of 80% – while this number is the de facto standard recommended by transfer specialists, it was removed given concerns raised during the feedback process.
3. Specifics related to the governance structure. While a procedure for coming to agreement on changes to the GenEd Curriculum are needed, the specific structure has been removed from the RP.
4. The section on Assessment was removed based upon comments regarding the specificity of its inclusion in an RP.

The following identifies key changes *since the last revision* draft that are being proposed:

- I. Purpose: No changes
- II. Definitions – Adding definitions for the following:
 - A. General Education – this definition has been further clarified based upon feedback.
 - B. Lower Division UH general education curriculum – replaces the definition of Common Shared Requirements and is intended to be clearer.
 - C. Upper Division General Education Requirements (or graduation requirements) replaces the definition of Special Graduation Requirements to help clarify.
- III. Policy:
 - A. UH shall have a common set of lower-division requirements for the general education curriculum.
 1. Common shared requirements shall total no more than 31 credits. While many states are moving towards limited and simplified GenEd curriculum, we invite additional feedback and comments on this number.
 2. Common shared requirements shall fully transfer among all UH campuses.
 3. All campuses will use common course numbering.
 4. Four-year campuses may require special graduation requirements.
 - B. Roles and Responsibilities:

The curriculum is established to provide all UH graduates with core competencies to thrive in the workplace and as contributing citizens in a democratic, caring society.
 - C. Minimum expectations:

Item 1: Added to this version is the statement that existing breadth requirements are the minimum expected while we should strive towards interdisciplinary knowledge.

Item 4: The policy continues to include language regarding the key institutional values such as sustainability and Native Hawaiian place of learning but does not mandate any specific method of inclusion.

Item 5: Meet professional and regional accreditation standards (WASC SCUC, ACCJC).

D. Governance:

The revised version has general language regarding the need for a governance structure.

Establishment of Special Graduation Requirements for four-year campuses shall ensure significant faculty and student consultation with decision-making authority delegated to the campus Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

- IV. Delegation of Authority: Feedback recommendations suggested language regarding delegation that has been included.

Attached are a clean copy of the revised policy and a track changes version. The red text is the original redlined version, the green denotes revisions made as a result of feedback from the initial consultation, and the black text is the original policy.

The current policy is located at:

<https://www.hawaii.edu/policy/index.php?action=viewPolicy&policySection=rp&policyChapter=5&policyNumber=213&menuView=closed>

Sincerely,

Debora Halbert
Vice President for Academic Strategy

Attachments