



UNIVERSITY
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SYSTEM

‘Ōnaehana Kulanui o Hawai‘i

March 4, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council of Chancellors
Council of Chief Academic Officers
Council of Senior Student Affairs Officers
Faculty Senates
UH Student Caucus

FROM: Debora J. Halbert
Vice President for Academic Strategy

SUBJECT: Consultation on Proposed Changes to RP 5.213 General Education

Regents Policy 5.213 relating to General Education is currently under review by administration. The Board of Regents will be briefed on the proposed policy revisions at the March 2024 meeting while formal consultation is underway. Please note that a redlined version of the policy *will not* be distributed to the Regents at that time.

Please consult with your constituents and governing bodies and provide any comments via the [online comment form](#) by April 22, 2024.

Informal Consultation

In August of 2023, a policy briefing was provided to the All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs (ACCFSC) that listed RP 5.213 as subject for review this year. The intent of the Fall briefing was to provide the faculty senates with a list of policies that would be under review during the academic year. At the October 2023 Student Success Board of Regents committee meeting, it was also noted that revisions to RP 5.213 for Board consideration would be forthcoming this academic year.

Proposed revisions to the policy were *informally* provided to the ACCFSC, including a *draft* redline version, in January of 2024. Also in January of 2024, the draft revisions were reviewed by UH Officers. On February 29, 2024 a meeting with the UH Community College general education working group was held via zoom where questions regarding the draft redlined version of the policy were discussed. Additionally, informal consultation with UH Mānoa administration had taken place.

After engaging in informal consultation, the proposed policy changes are hereby being submitted for formal consultation. Please note that **based upon conversations during the informal consultation period, especially the most recent ones with the UH Community College faculty, alterations to the redline version have already been made.** After submission of this memo and the accompanying policy document, the link on the ACCFSC policy briefing will be updated to reflect the attached policy draft.

Justification for Policy Changes

The proposed changes clarify the intent that UH has a systemwide common set of general education requirements approved by the Board of Regents.

The changes to RP 5.213 include:

- Language clarifying that the general education curriculum will be the same across the UH System.
- 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

The following identifies key changes that are being proposed:

- I. Purpose: No changes
- II. Definitions – Adding definitions for the following:
 - A. General Education
 - B. Common Shared Requirements
 - C. Special Graduation Requirements
- III. Policy – changes include:
 - 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.
 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: Introduction to interdisciplinary nature of knowledge and integration of perspectives from across numerous disciplines.
 - Item 4: Incorporate key institutional values such as sustainability and Native Hawaiian place of learning.
 - Item 5: Meet professional and regional accreditation standards (WASC SCUC, ACCJC).
 - D. Governance: New section describing systemwide implementation:
 1. Systemwide General Education Committee – describes who shall serve on this committee, how they will be selected, and what their function will be.

2. Establishment of Special Graduation Requirements for 4-year campuses shall ensure significant faculty and student consultation with decision-making authority delegated to the campus CEO.

- E. Assessment: New section requiring each campus to assess students' achievement of the learning objectives and provide a response to assessment results that can include improvements to instruction or other curricular changes.

IV. Delegation of Authority: No changes

Attached are redline and clean copies of the revised policy. The current policy is located at: <https://www.hawaii.edu/policy/index.php?action=viewPolicy&policySection=rp&policyChapter=5&policyNumber=213&menuView=closed>

Please send comments or questions via the [online comment form](#) by **April 22, 2024**. Thank you.

Attachments