

AATN Transfer Advising Summit

Friday, May 26, 2023

9:00am-3:00pm

Windward Community College

‘Ākoakoa 101-105

Attendance: Rhonda Liu (UC KauaiCC), Precious Atendido (UC HawCC), Jeanne Batallones (Hawai'iCC), Nicole Mitani (HonoluluCC), Kristy Yoshikawa (Kapi'olaniCC), Jean StavRue-Pe'ahi (LeewardCC), Sarah Akina (WindwardCC), Ha'aheo Pagan (WindwardCC), Patti Chong (WindwardCC), Comfort Sumida (UH Hilo), Kainoa Ariola-Sukisaki (UH Hilo), Marsha Jokura (UH Manoa), Lauren Prepose-Forsen (UH Manoa), Joe Mareko (UH West O'ahu), Carrie Larger (UH West O'ahu), Alan Rosenfeld (AVP Academic Programs and Policy, UH System)

Objectives:

To provide Advising and Transfer Network (AATN) representatives from all 10 University of Hawai'i campuses and the University Centers an opportunity...

- To discuss, strategize, and improve intra-system transfer, most importantly, the student transfer experience;
- To foster necessary working relationships and networking between advising professionals on all campuses to bolster student transition;
- To identify systemic challenges related to transfer;
- To recognize successes within the system that appear to have an impact on transfer;
- To identify opportunities that might improve current transfer initiatives and guide new initiatives that support students' holistic transition.

Deliverable:

Begin a guiding document specific to improving transfer for the Advising and Transfer Network (AATN).

AATN representatives from University of Hawai'i campuses, except UH Maui College, and the University Centers, convened at Windward Community College to discuss challenges associated with transfer between UH campuses and to find solutions to make transfer easier and more intuitive for our students.

After hearing updates on system initiatives, the representatives discussed the following initiatives:

Transfer Days

During and after the pandemic, Transfer Days events were not well attended and the return on investment did not appear to be worth the expense. Although Transfer Days moved to Zoom and programs were present at these events, online sessions were also not widely attended.

Campuses have moved in different directions to encourage transfer, but the group expressed the need to have a more centrally coordinated effort. If there is a return of Transfer Days, the advisors and counselors requested a session be held for students on the application process.

- **Windward Community College** is running its own Transfer Day in October. The event is in-person and coordination will include having entire academic programs brought to the event.
- According to the 2023 AATN transfer student panel, students mentioned a preference to have both in-person and online options (online for those who are geographically distant)

Transfer Initiatives at Different Campuses

- **Hawai'i Community College** offers Transfer 101 workshops and also sends out a transfer newsletter to students in the transfer pipeline. They also coordinate a Transfer Student Orientation with UH Hilo to help students in their transition to their new campus.
- **Honolulu Community College**, in collaboration with Ka'ie'ie, offers a semester-long, 1 credit transfer course (IS 100) that is open to all students at the CC's and includes guest speakers, including advisors from specific programs and representatives from campus resources.
- **UH Manoa** is seeking to expand their reach via Ka'ie'ie, though they already have a presence at all system community colleges.
- **UH West O'ahu** is collaborating with O'ahu CC's to do classroom visits and share programs and events, including IS courses taught at the community colleges.
- **UH Hilo** has an O'ahu-based admissions counselor, housed at Kapi'olani CC.

AATN Generated Ideas to Promote Transfer

- Deliberate coordination and leadership at the system level regarding transfer. Expecting individual campuses to prioritize transfer positions and resources over other campus needs will not move the collective needle on transfer within the system.
- Reevaluate performance-based funding for transfer to incentivize transfer for campuses.
- A tuition scholarship to allow system transfer students to take the IS 100 Transfer course for free.
 - According to the 2023 AATN transfer student panel, "having a seminar would help with connecting with UH 4 year campuses and other transfer peers", and "IS 100 should be offered for all students and campuses"
- Rename the "What If Journey" tab or create a new tab that's labeled, "Transfer".
- Establish a transfer scholarship
- A system generalist advisor on transfer who is knowledgeable about all programs and can make referrals as needed. One suggestion was to create a UH Transfer Center with a coordinator that can advise for all three of the 4-year campuses.
 - According to the 2023 AATN transfer student panel, one student quoted, "there should be one department that specializes in transfer with students"

- A comprehensive and cohesive messaging campaign about transfer to all students and articulate all the possible transfer initiatives that fall under transfer.
- Consider exit surveys at the CC's
- Implement mandatory transfer advising at the CC's, which would help catch students who are navigating the process on their own, as long as it's not a barrier to registration
- Encourage common course alpha numbers across the system, along with designation so students are held unharmed in the transfer of classes.
- Consider pathways for distance education CC programs that align to distance programs at the 4-year campuses.
- Offer transfer workshops and other initiatives to build transfer student/faculty connections
- 4-year campus visits to learn the transfer process, programs, so they align with the auto-admit process beginning in Spring.
- System funded in-person AATN meetings twice a year to support AATN's ongoing commitment to refine intra-system transfer.

[EP 5.209](#) and [BoR Policy 5.214](#) provide the foundation for our work with transfer and advisors realize we cannot do everything in one day, so we are looking for leadership and collaboration. What do we prioritize and how do we create a timeline for implementation?

Student Voice

Listed below are the evaluation responses from attendees at the 2023 AATN Annual Conference, about the student panels held on both days. Thursday, March 23 featured UH community college students getting ready to transfer to a 4-year campus, while our community college students who successfully transferred and are currently enrolled at one of our 4-year campuses were showcased on Friday, March 24.

Overall the student panels provided valuable insights on how to better serve students. Average score 4.61 on 5 point scale (5 points = Strongly Agreed, 4 points = Agreed).

The following are select short responses from attendees about the student panels.:

- The students provided a lot of valuable insight into what we as staff and faculty can help to provide for a smoother transition to a 4yr University.
- It was great to hear what the most frequent challenges were so that we can gear resources to address this.
- I think we must always get the student perspective on what works best for them. Without them, we are just guessing what we think they need.
- The student voice is often disregarded in how colleges and universities function. I'm glad our academic counselors and advisors are at the forefront of creating a meaningful space to learn from our students.
- Knowing the students story will help me assisting other students
- Time and money are absolutely critical to students

- This was very insightful in that our students were able to give us a very general view from various perspectives.
- Honest suggestions about ways they could have been better supported and what interventions helped the most
- Always appreciate hearing directly from students about their experiences, both the positives and negatives can provide us insights on how to better serve students (what can we continue doing and also what can we change/improve to do better!).

Ultimately, the members in attendance agreed that any future initiatives related to transfer must be designed using the student lens. Do we know what our students want, what they want to do, and where they want to go? Administrators must hear the student voices and experiences to better learn of existing challenges and barriers to transfer, but also to truly understand why transfer is essential for our students and their communities. Above all, advisors and the humanity they bring to the transfer process is invaluable. Validating our most valuable human resource in the transfer process goes beyond any other automated process.