

Minutes
Committee on Academic Policy and Planning
March 7, 2012
3:00-5:00 PM
Hawaii Hall Room 208

Attendance

Present: Chizuko Allen, Debora Halbert, Cynthia Hew, Ingrid Lin, Stacey Roberts (chair), Todd Sammons, Ekaterina Sherstyuk, Carolyn Stephenson (SEC Liaison), Annette Wong, Jane Uyehara-Lock, Pavel Zinin.

Guest: John Stanley, Institutional Analyst, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (OVCAA).

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:06 pm.
2. Review of the minutes of February 22, 2012

Minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

3. Issue # 26: Undergraduate Degree Plan Implementation: Chizuko Allen, Annette Wong.

Several options were discussed by the committee, such as the freshman orientation and mentoring program. It was recommended to make freshmen orientation free and mandatory. The committee also suggested providing a mentoring program for those who need help most in math, chemistry and written English. After the discussion, Chizuko Allen indicated that the sub-committee report will be prepared by mid-April, however, no action will be recommended. Todd Sammons suggested including sub-committee's recommendation in the report.

4. Issue #23: High DFIW course follow-up: Todd Sammons, Ingrid Lin.

Todd Sammons informed the committee that the working group has decided to discuss the issue with several department chairs. Several problems have been resolved. For instance, at the Department of Philosophy a new handbook was developed. Several options such as freshman orientation and mentoring were discussed. It was suggested that the sub-committee prepare a report for the UHM Senate with recommendations by mid-April.

5. Issue # 24: Critical Thinking Working Group: Ekaterina Sherstyuk, Pavel Zinin.

Ekaterina Sherstyuk informed the committee that the final report of the Critical Thinking Working Group has been prepared. The report contains a working definition of critical thinking that states that critical thinking focuses on its operationalization through the nationally normed, faculty driven Critical thinking Assessment Test (CAT) instrument. Twelve behaviors or skills were described in the report. They are broadly grouped into four categories, including evaluating information, creative thinking, learning and problem solving, and communication. The report also contains information on how UHM departments have included some of the twelve skills in their SLOs. The goal of the report

is twofold: (a) to gain a broad sense of how thoroughly each of the twelve skills are already being addressed across the University's arts and sciences curriculum; and (b) to provide a set of examples of program SLOs that will help faculty members in various departments to think about how to more explicitly address some of the skills they identify as being most relevant to their majors' disciplinary training. The final report will be presented at the April senate meeting with the goals of creating awareness among faculty about new WASC requirements and helping them prepare.

6. Issue # 25: Institutional Learning Outcomes for Undergraduate Students: Debora Halbert, Jane Uyehara-Lock, Kate Zhou.

Debora Halbert presented a revised version of the final report from the committee that was handed out at the CAPP meeting. The report will be presented at the next senate meeting in order to initiate a broader discussion.

Because of the importance of the report for the future of UHM, Todd suggested including all the important suggestions that emerged from the discussion among faculty members before presenting the final report at the senate meeting.

7. Issue # 51: Non-Intro Course Credit Requirement: Chizuko Allen.

During last meeting it was decided to invite John Stanley to meet with the committee and discuss the current status of how many years undergraduate students need for graduation at the UH. John Stanley informed the committee that OVCAA only has information on students who started their undergraduate courses (as freshmen) at the UH Manoa. It is difficult to control information on students who transferred from different universities, went to a community college and then came back to UH, or had a leave of absence. Available information on the undergraduate graduation rate at UH Manoa (UHM) can be found on the Mānoa Institutional Research's website: <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ovcaa/mir/>. According to John Stanley (a) the four year undergraduate graduation rate is around 17.2 % for students at UHM, while the National average number is 29.9%, and (b) the six year undergraduate graduation rate is around 50.7% for students at UH, while the National average number is 55%. In response to the question of what are the leading indicators on college degree completion, John Stanley quoted a research conducted by "Leading Indicators Workgroup" at the UHM, and published at the OVCAA website <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ovcaa/mir/pdf/li2011.pdf>.

8. Issue #27: Undergraduate Degree Proposals (a) Bachelor of Science in Psychology; (b) Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry.

It was decided to form a subcommittee to evaluate the proposal. The members of the subcommittee are Cynthia Hew, Stacey Roberts, and Jane Uyehara-Lock.

Respectfully submitted by Pavel Zinin 04/01/2012