

# Senate Executive Committee

**November 14**

Hawaii Hall 208

## **Attendance**

SEC members present: Richard Chadwick, Robert Cooney (Chair), Tom Conway, Lilikala Kame'eleihiwa, Bonnyjean Manini, Ian Pagano, Carolyn Stephenson

Invited Guests: Martha Crosby (Chair, ICS), Thomas Hemscheidt (Chair, Chemistry), Lynn Higa (Dean's Office), Joseph Jarrett (Chemistry, and Chair, GEC), Pui Lam (Chair, Physics & Astronomy), Paul Patek (Chair, Microbiology), Michael Peters (Assoc. Dean, College of Natural Sciences), Tom Ramsey (Mathematics)

## **Meeting with Faculty re: 45 upper division course credit requirements (3:15 - 3:45)**

- It was noted that the new 45 upper division credit requirement will make it impossible, especially for interdisciplinary degrees, to graduate in four years because so many in the sciences have so many and complicated lower division sequenced-courses requirements. This a critical problem discouraging students from selecting Natural Science majors because it could take up to a year longer to meet the new requirement. Departments and programs likely to be affected are physics, astronomy, microbiology, chemistry, geophysics, mathematics, SOEST, and Tropical Agriculture.
- In Natural Sciences last year, it was noted that some roughly 50% of students that graduated would not have been able to graduate were these new requirements in effect, based on 24 months of data, 2009-2011. Also, most Natural Sciences students, who now require about 124-128 credits to graduate, including Gen. Ed. and other requirements, would be pushed up to about 140 credits to graduate.
- It was noted that while shifting lower division course numbers to upper division course numbers might be helpful since Natural Sciences requirements are overwhelmingly “lower division,” articulation problems would occur if this were done. Further, in many Natural Sciences fields, it is desired to keep many of the 200 level courses at that level for students to take in their second year. It was also noted that since required sequences with minimum grades are quite common in the Natural Sciences, shifting some in one department to the 300 level could result in peculiarities such as having to take a 300 level course as a prerequisite for a 200 level course.
- A question arose: does anyone think Natural Sciences curricula as a whole are broken? If not, then Natural Sciences should be exempt if this policy is enforced.
- It was also noted that at the time this resolution was passed, there were inaccurate data to evaluate the consequences. Hence it would be desirable, especially given what was subsequently found to be particularly burdensome to Natural Sciences, to have a more systematic study of the effects on students before the policy is enforced.

- The GEC Chair noted that to meet this new requirement many students would be pushed to take 300/400 courses that are intended for majors, which in turn may entail having to take various lower division prerequisites.
- The Dean's Office noted that of the students that come closest to the 124 credit standard at graduation time, very few would have had 45 credits of upper division. Most recent graduates had around 19 upper division credits.
- It was noted that the current new requirement applies only to transfer and new students. In terms of advising new and transfer students, it is already proving difficult.
- There is some urgency to reach a conclusion on this policy since November 28<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for departments to get their changes in for the UHM catalog. Some options were discussed including various motions to suspend application of the policy for a year to get adequate data for evaluation and/or limit enforcement to exclude Natural Sciences degrees.
- When the issue of increasing to 45 the number of required upper division credits came up originally, it was believed that very few students would be discommoded by the new policy; this is proving not to be the case.
- SEC members subsequently discussed an issue that was considered at the time the 45 upper division credits requirement was being discussed last year, namely the problems related to using the “non-introductory” standard vs. “upper division” as a standard. The “non-introductory” standard allowed for community colleges' credits to be a disproportional amount of students total credits at graduation whereas the “upper division” requirement at least sets a minimum for UHM credits (and upper division transfer credits), tending to create a more “UHM graduate” reputation. These considerations, as important as they may be, seem now to be insufficient to justify the burden being placed on UHM students under the new requirement.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

### **Review of AAUP conference activities relevant to the SEC:**

- It seems that the UHPA and Faculty Senate model here at UHM is among “the best” practices. Important academic matters are attended to by a faculty senate and contract issues by a union, as distinct from models which merge or overlap the two.
- One suggestion for structural change is to schedule an annual or semi-annual UHPA-MFS meeting. UHPA has a long history that can be relied on, while other institutions do not fare as well in their institutional memory.
- It was also suggested to have a newsletter once a semester to provide historical continuity on issues.
- One session dealt with evaluation of administrators. One method that seemed to work well was a confidential survey to faculty that included inquiries as to how well administrators were doing, thus getting at faculty perceptions of administration.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

- Database development is progressing making SEC and MFS records searchable with cross referencing by keyword, date, and method, among other things.
- Planning for Spring 2012 – A draft calendar for the rest of this year and Spring 2012 was circulated including all SEC and Senate meetings. An SEC “retreat” did not seem particularly productive at this time. It was agreed to substitute an SEC and committee chairs “retreat.” It was agreed that invitations to meetings with each chancellor/vice-chancellor on a monthly basis was desirable to maintain contact and prepare in advance to discuss issue. This would entail a portion of each weekly SEC meeting be given over to a dialog with one of the vice-chancellors or chancellor; 4:00-4:30 was suggested as a regular time. Tentative dates for an SEC-committee chairs “retreat:” January 25<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Year-end internal Fiscal Deadlines – I-clickers will probably have to be paid for out of next year's budget since an internal deadline of November to encumber funds has passed.
- Replacement: Michiko Bigus has had to resign from the W Focus Board, effective at the end of this semester. Rayne Isaki, who also works in the Manoa Advising Center, has graciously consented to take Michiko's place, at Todd Sammon invitation. Since this was the first semester of Michiko's term, Rayne would serve on the W Focus Board until June 2014.

**MINUTES** - approval of 10/17 & 10/31 Minutes – MSP as amended. 11/7 minutes deferred to next week.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Pending SEC Issues (*for SEC action or committee referral*) – all items below deferred to next week.
- Issues charged to SEC
  - Graduation/ Dissertation Defense Timing
- Misc. Issues
  - Congress vote - CORGE & attendance amendment
  - Instant Tenure
  - PBRC Directorship
  - Guide to Senate Consultation
  - Guide to Senate Procedures

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Executive Policy on Whistleblower and Retaliation (VCRGE)
- We discussed the limitations of reporting alleged crimes or policy violations within the university. Such reporting cannot be sufficient for absolving individuals of responsibility. The SEC agreed to refer this issue to CAB.
- A broader issue emerged regarding whether the SEC was being informed of all executive policies. The SEC agreed to ask the Chancellor and Vice Chancellors to be kept informed about executive policies as they are made.
- Preparation for meeting with Chancellor Search firm. Richard Chadwick asked to be

excused since he teaches all afternoon and evening on Tuesdays, from 1:30 to 8:00 p.m.

- Mandatory switch to Google by Summer 2012
- During a recent IT Security meeting of UH Systems, Community Colleges and Manoa Unit personnel, a number of issues were discussed, among which were the:
  - Tremendous increase in Spam/Phishing mail which is being targeted specifically to hawaii.edu users and the 3-fold increase (323) in the number of compromised UH accounts from last year's 112 and a 16-fold increase from the 2008 figure of 20 incidents
  - Initiative to strengthened UH passwords
  - Move of all faculty and staff to google mail (possible phishing attempts may increase)
  - Scanning of computers (not just servers) for sensitive personal information (social security numbers, birth dates etc)
  - It is anticipated that all UH Staff will be required to move their @hawaii.edu email to Google by Spring (2012) and Faculty by Summer (2012). The time frames are tentative and may change. Another memo will be sent out as more details are known. Meanwhile, if you receive any messages about this from other sources and you are not sure that they are authentic, forward them on to us (see below).
- Committee Reports – deferred to next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT** – MSP, 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Chadwick