



Report of Committee on Student Affairs: Spring 2013

Committee Members: Kimberly Binsted, James Caron (Secretary), Saori Doi, Cynthia Hew, Wei Huang, Patricia Masters (Chair), H Ron Riggs, Kelly Roberts, Pavel Zinin, Tom Conway (SEC Liaison)

The Committee on Student Affairs was charged with looking into the following issues for the Spring semester 2013:

#21.13: Advising Students

#15.13: Life of a Student Athlete

Under #21.13, (Advising Students), our assignment was to examine academic advising to address such things as who decides on exceptions to the rules and to look at other issues that impact the quality of academic advising on the Mānoa campus. We were also asked to address the two campaigns that have been instituted at the University of Hawai'i and their impact on academic advising. The first campaign is called 15 to Finish and the second is called Do it in Four. The 15 to Finish is a system-wide campaign and the Do it in Four is a Mānoa program. The committee set about to research this issue and decided to invite Vice President Linda Johnsrud and Assistant Vice President Joanne Itano to get more clarification of these campaigns and to understand how this impacts Academic Advisors and their ability to advise students. That meeting was held on January 9, 2013 and was very informative. We then met with Pua Anthony, the Chair of the Council of Academic Advisors, on February 12th to get her perspective on these campaigns and the role of the academic advisors in their implementation. Pua shared some very interesting data about the impact of the campaigns, even at this early date, and she felt that this is making a difference in students' decisions regarding their academic experiences. Finally, we met with Dr. Ron Cambra, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education, on March 12th to further our research on the campaigns. His information added significantly to our investigation, and we decided that we would report on our findings at the April Faculty Senate meeting.

During our discussions of the issue of academic advising and finishing in a timely manner, some tangential issues emerged: one of those issues is that, in some departments, requiring students to take 15 credits a semester could have detrimental effects on the quality of the student's education. Another was the question of what impedes the progress of graduate students in a PhD program and keeps them from finishing in a timely manner?

The committee requests that the CSA committee follow up and address the issues raised above. We also recommend that the CSA track the two campaigns to see if there is any difference in outcomes for students and for the university.

#15.13: Life of a Student Athlete – The committee declined to take up this charge and sent it back to the SEC for carry-over until next academic year.