

2019–2020 Committee on Academic Policy and Planning Report

During the 2019–2020 academic year, the Committee on Academic Policy and Planning (CAPP) engaged in a number of activities related to reviewing new academic program proposals, overseeing the implementation of the Course Evaluation System, and reviewing proposed changes to academic policy. Many of these issues are ongoing and will carry over into the 2020–2021 academic year.

New Program Proposals:

This year, CAPP recommended the approval of a new Graduate Certificate in Sustainability and Resilience Education. The committee also discussed proposals for an Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability and a B.A. in Public Policy, but the committee determined that these proposals still needed significant work before being recommended for approval.

Course Evaluation System:

CAPP has been tasked by the Mānoa Faculty Senate with overseeing the implementation of the Course Evaluation System (CES). This year, CAPP made some progress in clarifying and streamlining general CES communications sent to faculty and students. After the onset of COVID-19, CAPP provided feedback to the UH administration recommending that course evaluations be made optional for Spring 2020 and that Spring 2020 evaluations not be automatically shared with department chairs.

Reviews of Proposed Policy Changes:

CAPP reviewed and made recommendations on a number of proposed academic policy changes, including: 1) participation verification policies; 2) EP 5.201 on Approval of New Academic Programs and Review of Provisional Academic Programs; 3) EP 5.209 on Student Transfer and Inter-Campus Articulation; and 4) M5.301 on Admission of Classified Students. After the onset of COVID-19, CAPP provided feedback on a number of emergency policy changes, including: 1) the proposal to waive final exam requirements for Spring 2020; 2) the proposal to extend the deadline for students to request CR/NC grades for Spring 2020; and 3) the proposal to eliminate standardized test requirements for undergraduate admission for AY 2021-2022 only, to move to a test optional alternative, and to leave to decision to send test scores up to the prospective student.

Plan for Online and Distance Credit Programs and Courses:

CAPP reviewed the proposed Plan for Online and Distance Credit Programs and Courses and identified a number of problems with this plan, as well as with its formulation process and implementation. After soliciting feedback from faculty senators on this issue and discussing it with Provost Bruno and Outreach College Dean Chismar, CAPP decided to bring a resolution to the Mānoa Faculty Senate calling for the Mānoa Provost to consult about and revise implementation of the Plan for Online and Distance Credit Programs and Courses until such consultation has occurred and the financial and programmatic impacts of the change have been adequately evaluated. The resolution was passed at the May Mānoa Faculty Senate meeting.

Ongoing Issues Carrying Over to the 2020–2021 Academic Year:

CAPP also discussed many other important issues related to academic programs and policies. A number of those matters, as well as those described on the previous page, will require CAPP's attention during the 2020–2021 academic year, including:

- Following up with consultations on and implementation of the Plan for Online and Distance Credit Programs and Courses
- Addressing issues related to implementation of the Course Evaluation System, such as excluding certain types of small courses from evaluations and pursuing ways to implement the originally agreed upon one-week evaluation time window, which will require overcoming various coordination issues across the UH Mānoa campus and across the UH system
- Implementing the grade replacement policy previously voted on by Faculty Senate, which continues to be hampered by technical barriers
- Improving coordination between CAPP and the Graduate Council on approval of new graduate programs
- Ensuring oversight over new programs created through Interdisciplinary Studies
- Reviewing policies related to prior learning assessment and awarding back credits
- Discussing concerns related to implementation of 5-week courses at UH Mānoa

Prepared by Kristi Govella, CAPP Chair (Spring 2020)