

Manoa Faculty Senate

Committee on Student Affairs (CSA)

January 9, 2013

Campus Center Room 309

Present: Kimberley Binstead, Tom Conway (SEC liaison), Saori Doi, Wei Huang, Patricia Masters (chair), Kelly Roberts, H. Ronald Riggs, Pavel Zinin

Absent: James Caron, Cynthia Hew

Guest: Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Linda Johnsrud, Associate President for Academic Affairs Joanne Itano

MINUTES

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 by Saori Doi, committee member. This meeting was intended as a follow up on 15 to Finish and Do it in Four Campaigns.
- II. We had invited guests from the Systems Office to discuss their campaign 15 to Finish, to clarify the intention of those campaigns and to share any preliminary findings since its inception.
- III. Special Guests: Dr. Linda Johnsrud, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Joanne Itano, Associate vice President for Academic Affairs gave the committee the details about the campaign and gave some initial results:
 - A. In Fall 2012, 55.5% of all UH Manoa Freshman attempted 15 or more credits as compared to Fall 2009 – Fall 2011 where the percentages were between 39.1% and 39.9%.
 - B. It was found that students who took 15 or more credits had higher academic success (GPA/course completion ratio).
 - C. There were also anecdotal findings from the Academic Advisors that students were generally impressed with the campaign and were willing to try to increase their course load.
- IV. The committee asked questions about the rationale for the campaigns since data show that UH Manoa students work and have other obligations that have traditionally exempted them from the possibility of taking 15 credits. Johnsrud stated that the reasons for initiating the campaign included:
 - A. It would increase the likelihood of graduation
 - B. It would lower the cost for students because they would pay less tuition overall for a college degree

- C. It would allow students to graduate faster and to enter the job market faster. Therefore, they would earn income sooner.
- D. It would lower the cost for UH is support services and therefore lower the cost to the state and to taxpayers.

Both speakers also noted a lot of efforts on the Manoa campus under their own campaign such as the summer head start program (i.e., incoming freshmen take 3 or 6 credits in summer), and the waitlist system. The committee members shared that some UHM programs such as Civil Engineering had sort of 4-year checklist to keep students on track for graduation, but some did not. It was also pointed out that it seemed to be hard for students to get themselves back on track once they fail a course, but suggested that they could re-take it during summer, or possibly through Outreach College.

- V. Questions were raised about what strategies the UH has for eliminating some of the barriers for students to comply with this campaign. Itano stated that the System was looking at the following:
 - A. "Institutionalizing" taking 15 credits as the norm
 - B. Revising the policy and eligibility for institutional aid, which could be worded as "work study" so that students could get jobs on campus and get paid, which would help them to be fully immersed in the academic setting
 - C. Work on barriers identified by students taking 12-14 credits

Also, a committee member asked to see if the system office would consider changing the definition of "full-time" from 12 credits to 15. They seemed to have looked into it, but found it difficult to do so due to several related issues (i.e., "12 credits = full-time" is commonly used for parents' insurance, financial aids, and so on.)

The committee was very impressed with Drs. Johnsrud and Itano and asked if they would be willing to come back to the committee or present this data to Faculty Senate and they agreed to do so.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:09.