

Committee on Academic Policy and Planning Minutes
Hawaii Hall 208
February 2, 2011
3:00-5:10 p.m.

Attendance

Present: Chizuko Allen, Edoardo Biagioni, Timothy Halliday, Cynthia Hew, Ken Kipnis, Hamid Pourjalali, Sarita Rai, Stacey Roberts, Pavel Zinin

Excused: James Cartwright, Jonathan Matsuda, Katrina-Ann Oliverira, Cindy Ward, Rosanne Harrigan, SEC Liason

Visitors: Ruth Bingham, Reed Dasenbrock, Lisa Fujikawa, Mike Kirk-Kuwaye

1. Repeated Course Grading Options: Sarita Rai explained to the visitors that SEC gave CAPP the charge to review the current UHM course repeat policy, consider a grade replacement rule, and make necessary suggestions. Ruth Bingham handed out the Council of Academic Advisors' (CAA) "Response to CAPP's Proposal to Change UHM's Repeat Policy" (5 pages) and discussed the following:

Current policy

- A. The current policy as described in the UHM catalog only allows students to repeat courses in which they have received grades of C- or lower. In practice, students who received C or higher may repeat courses with instructors' approval.
- B. Students receive credit for the same course only once regardless of the number of passing grades.
- C. All grades are recorded on transcripts and impact GPAs, EXCEPT when students repeat courses in which they received a C or higher for the first time. In such cases, only the first grade impacts the GPA; the second grade (usually the better grade) is recorded but does not impact the GPA.

CAA's position

- A. The UHM catalog description of the current policy must be clarified and updated.
- B. The clarification of the course repeat policy and the discussion of grade replacement opportunities are two different issues and must be separated.
- C. Students drop/stop out of UHM for various reasons but not for the absence of course repeat or grade replacement opportunities. CAPP's new proposal is not compelling.

Bingham encouraged CAPP to survey students and identify target student population. Mike Kirk-Kuwaye added that the CAPP proposal, if approved, may require manual adjustments, hurt some students, and increase grade inflation.

The 3 visitors left at 3:35 pm

2. Discussion:

- A. Some students go through a semester or two of academic meltdown and end up carrying the burden of low cumulative GPA for the rest of their academic career at UH. The CAPP proposal will benefit such students.

- B. Grade replacement is done in 17 out of 18 institutions we surveyed and is a common practice in U.S. higher education. Some schools have “Academic Fresh Start” policies as well.
- C. Student learning and success should be our primary concern in this discussion.

3. Guest: 4:00 PM Reed Dasenbrock: Regarding this topic, VCAA Reed Dasenbrock expressed his concern for graduation rates and encouraged CAPP to work with CAA and list Banner-related questions for the Banner Committee.

4. Academic Distinction: UHM currently recognizes graduates with a 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA with “distinction.” Dasenbrock explained his proposal to give them additional recognition with three categories: cum laude (3.5-3.74), magna cum laude (3.75-3.9), and mamma cum laude (above 3.9).

5. Waitlisting in Course Registration: Dasenbrock explained that he hoped to begin electronic waitlisting in the MyUH student course registration system, taking advantage of Banner capabilities. The size of waitlists can correspond to the size of classes (e.g., 25% of the class size), and electronic waitlisting will not interfere with instructors’ power to override. Details must be addressed soon if we decide to implement it for Fall 2011 registration.

6. Midterm Grades: Dasenbrock reported that midterm grades could be made available to students on Banner/MyUH as early as Fall 2011, IF a good portion of Manoa faculty members want to use this option.

7. GE Course Numbering Articulation: According to Dasenbrock, the current focus of the course articulation discussions is on GE/core courses (100-299) and not other courses unique to Manoa.

8. Shortened Calendar: CAPP will re-send its questions addressed to Dasenbrock’s committee’s proposal from a year ago.
Reed Dasenbrock left the meeting.

9. Freshmen Colloquium: Ken Kipnis encouraged CAPP members to read the “White Paper” and also reported that GEC and CSA would give their input on this matter soon.

10. Old issues: CAPP motions on Course Alpha Articulation, Classroom Use Policy, and Excess Credit Notice/Graduation issues will be forwarded to SEC.

11. The minutes from January 12 meeting were approved with corrections.

Respectfully submitted,
Chizuko Allen