

LAPS Dean Report to College Council – February 2015 meeting

An all-Liberal Arts faculty meeting was held on Friday January 23rd specifically to discuss concerns and issues and to answer questions about the proposed Program Modification based on the work of the AA Task Force last spring. A vote of Liberal Arts only faculty followed and that provides input into a slight revision to the Curriculum Modification Proposal subsequently submitted to CRC. Those modifications include specifying a math alpha for courses meeting the gen ed requirement in Quantitative Reasoning and adding Hawaiian specifically to the Asian/Pacific graduation requirement. The proposal from the Math/Science Departments to add a graduation requirement beyond the seven credits in the gen ed proportion of the proposal is not part of the Program Modification Proposal currently forwarded, as it did not receive the popular support of the majority of the Liberal Arts faculty in balloting. The hope is that the recommendations of the AA Task Force as amended slightly in the current proposal will receive approval of the CRC and Academic Senate by March for inclusion in the 2015-16 catalog.

Liberal Arts DCs subsequent to their February 3rd meeting have suggested that the campus explore joining the UH Foundations Board. Such an effort might promote more congruence with other CCs in defining gen ed requirements and which courses meet those requirements. We are told UHH may have some interest in doing this as well, since the Big Island campuses are the outliers in not belonging already.

The STEMEI (STEM Enhancement Initiative) group met for the third time on January 26th and toured existing and proposed lab spaces and will be meeting again on Friday February 6th to discuss observations made at that tour. The entire STEMEI group was invited to HSI on Oahu March 6th and 7th, during which time we hope to tour Kapiolani's much-touted STEM Center. The group has identified physical and faculty resources as key issues to be addressed in improving our STEM capacity. We are interested in expanding and improving lab facilities for both physical and biological sciences and may be interested in copying Kapiolani's model of a STEM Center pending our visit.

Gary Lopez, founding Director of NROC (National Repository of Online Coursework), the group that developed EdReady (see <http://www.thenrocproject.org/#/>) will be presenting at HSI. All full-time faculty who teach developmental courses at HawCC were also invited to HSI in part to share with others and in part to learn first-hand about the success EdReady is having elsewhere (including at Leeward with Waipahu High School and their Early College Program.) EdReady provides free, customized online tutoring in math (and English starting this summer) with a goal of better preparing students to test well on COMPASS.

As a substitute for Vice Chancellor Cifra, I attended on January 26th the 2nd Technical Assistance workshop for the high schools across the state who have received Castle Foundation funding to offer Early College classes on their campuses, four of which are Big Island schools. I have more than a passing familiarity with Early College from both my time as a K-12 administrator in New York and from my years at Leeward, where more than 300 students were involved in Early College offerings at multiple high schools last year alone (most at Waipahu.) Currently the legislature is holding hearings on a proposed bill that would provide state support for Early College expansion. The bill, introduced jointly by UH and the DOE, is HB 95 and SB 374. Testimony in support of (or opposed to) the bills may be submitted online through www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

Also subbing for Jason, I attended with Joni the UHCC Student Success Committee under Associate UHCCVP Peter Quigley. This group will be assuming the shepherding of the new UHCC Strategic Plan and is designed to take over where AtD leaves off. It will ostensibly guide efforts to systemically address and scale-up the student success agenda. Dr. Rob Johnstone, who will also be a featured speaker at HSI worked with the group on strategies that have been successful in other states. Rob Johnstone's material may be found at <http://inquiry2improvement.com/>.

Work continues on making the MySuccess tool (Starfish) integrate with the Lualima gradebook. In the meantime, early alert surveys are scheduled to be deployed February 9-13. An advisory group meeting is scheduled for February 19th.

I attended the February meeting of Hawaii CC's Student Success Committee on the 3rd where Shawn Flood presented data on our CCSSE results and discussion ensued about areas for improvement based on those data.

I attended Program Review Training and look forward to marshalling the effort behind the LBRTs Program Review.

We are working on a routine with Shawn Flood that would help us identify accepted students who were not born in the US in order to target them for ESL COMPASS, a strategy that could help non-native speakers do better in initial classes.

I am scheduled to attend both the CCCL (Common Core Campus Liaison) group and the Academic Administrators meetings on Oahu between the time I submit this report and when the College Council actually meets. There might be more to report based on those meetings as well.