

LAPS Dean Report to College Council – December 2014 meeting

The LBRTs DCs continue to discuss how to better assess the efficacy of our Liberal Arts “Program” per se. One of the criticisms of past efforts has been its piecemeal approach to addressing PLOs primarily and almost exclusively through CLO alignment. The DCs have agreed to act as a unit in assessing the Communications PLO this year using artifacts from multiple disciplines, while we consider major changes to the PLOs and the assessment process in a more formal, multi-faceted and yet cohesive manner. Discussion of the use of the March 6th non-instructional day may take a different turn than planned based on recently announced funding for neighbor island attendance at the planned Hawaii Strategy Institute that weekend tied to the Student Success agenda.

The STEMEI (STEM Enhancement Initiative) group will have met for the second time on November 26th and heard from James Schumaker, Joyce Hamasaki and I about our trip to the League for Innovation in the Community Colleges’ STEMTech Conference in Denver. One of the fundamental challenges we face, along with all CCs with open admissions policies, is the rampant underpreparedness of many students for college level math, a particular barrier to math-rich and math-dependent STEM opportunities. A new offering from NROC (National Repository for Online Courses) called EdReady offers great promise for an alternative to the unpopular potential of semesters of developmental education courses to remedy that situation. We heard several presentations about it, and have subsequently hosted a webinar on its use this past week. That webinar and another featuring Leeward’s partnership last spring with Manoa to pilot EdReady in Hawaii may be found here: <https://vimeo.com/thenrocproject/review/112426957/3c9506f670> and <https://vimeo.com/107855249>

The Student Success Committee will have met for the second time by the time this report is received, and I have volunteered to work on the STEM goals outlined for that effort since the STEMEI group is part of my assumed special duties. We anticipate tying some of our college efforts to the system’s planned Student Success Committee under Peter Quigley’s direction. This system effort may also help drive our interest in sending a large and impactful contingent to the Hawaii Strategy Institute.

Gary Rodwell, of STAR fame, has approached the college about participating in a grant-funded Program Acceleration Project in which analysts from his office would work with faculty leadership in specific programs to assess what impediments exist that may be keeping students from applying 100% of their coursework toward degree completion. Liberal Arts, as the largest single program at the college, will be one of the selected programs.

I continue meeting with various programs and departments in an effort to get to know my “new” college better and look forward to continuing to meet with people involved in the programs assigned to LAPS. Most recently I met with Humanities during their November department meeting time.

Christine Quintana, Mari Giel and I continue to work with system personnel newly hired and representatives from other UHCCs to refine and maximize the use of Starfish (aka MySuccess) on our campuses. Bob Duley has asked me to meet with Counseling at their December 3rd meeting to discuss how Leeward used the tool the past couple of years in developing a case management approach to offering improvement plans for students. Plans continue to use MySuccess for at least three surveys during the spring 2015 term.

The Strategic Enrollment Management group met again in November and heard from Dave Loeding about numbers and percentages of fall enrolled students who had not yet registered for spring. The group continues to explore expanding the pipeline and removing barriers to enrollment and persistence.

If this report is uncharacteristically brief, it may be in part because of the mere 16 work days between the College Council meetings of November and December, I was off-island for three of them plus two non-work days associated with conference travel.