

LAPS Dean Report to College Council – September 2015 meeting

The LBRTs DCs held their first meeting of the new academic year on September 1 with guest Reshela DuPuis discussing progress to date in her new role with the college and changes afoot in PATH and other LBRTs assessment related projects. Of concern was making sure DCs were conversant with anticipated PATH changes and ability to support moving beyond data collection to analysis and instructional improvement based on assessment. The DCs have asked Reshela to help devise an appropriate means by which to address the LBRTs PLO on Quantitative Reasoning this year. We also discussed how best to share the interdepartmental assessment the DCs did on written Communication last May.

An All-Liberal Arts meeting has been scheduled for E Imi Pono Day from noon to 2 PM with a two-part agenda. The first portion of the meeting will address the learning that occurred from conducting the written communication assessment last May. Concerns for consistent expectations around citation of sources and the use of turnitin, as well as the construction of assignments to promote best practice in utilizing resources are high on the list. The second portion of the agenda will include an opportunity for cross-disciplinary discussion of proposed changes to the Program Learning Outcomes for Liberal Arts. Last year the LBRTs DCs drafted suggested PLOs that were fewer in number than the current ten that reflect verbatim the GELOs (General Education Learner Outcomes). The suggestion to reduce the number of PLOs for LBRTs stems from concerns for assessing each regularly and more fully. Draft language that attempts to combine existing PLOs was shared within department meetings last spring, but with the slimmed down AA proposal still in debate, a decision was made to wait until this year to move forward the idea of fewer PLOs. Feedback from DCs was that there seems to be support in each department for reducing the number of PLOs. As discussed at the Assessment Summit on August 20th, the process for altering PLOs is not necessarily well-defined. Clearly opportunity for broad discussion of any such change is in order, however, and the All –Liberal Arts meeting is one such opportunity. The DCs have also agreed to submit a Curriculum Modification Proposal to CRC to reduce the number of PLOs as well, should CRC decide their approval is appropriate as a precursor to Academic Senate involvement.

There will be a Big Island Early College Mini-Conference held jointly at Manono and Palamanui on September 15th from 2-4. P-20 has arranged for consultants from NACEP (National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships) to visit the islands to work with schools involved with the Castle Foundation grant supporting Early College and others. The Big Island has four high schools that received funding from P-20 and Castle to increase early college opportunities for college ready students still completing high school requirements. HawCC is working with multiple other schools as well. This will be an opportunity to learn from others about what works well elsewhere and about what we need to work on here to improve the process of partnering. The LBRTs DCs will be meeting with the NACEP consultants in the morning as well.

Conversations with faculty and administrators at other CCs about changes to dev ed math and English continue and representatives from our respective departments are involved, including

DCs in both areas. This comes from the UHCC system's Student Success and Strategic Action Council and reflects comments VP Morton made during recent campus visits about the need to address the rate at which the system loses students in a lengthy developmental ed sequence. It is anticipated that major changes to our models in place across the system may be made as early as fall 2016.

The STEMEI (STEM Enhancement Initiative) will be regrouping soon to continue to make plans for improving our STEM related offerings, including the STEM Center, the ASNS degree and a possible reiteration of our STEM Camp from last June as one means of improving the STEM pipeline from area schools to and through HawCC and UHH. The group is open to new members from Math, Science and CTE programs.

Both Joyce Hamasaki and I are planning regular visits to Palamanui and have invited DCs to join us in making visits. Marty Fletcher joined the LBRTs DC meeting this past week. Lacking a Lead Faculty person this year at Palamanui, these are two means by which we hope to maintain connections between our campuses.

I look forward to engaging conversations related to the items described above and other items in the month ahead.

Chris