Prioritization Update from Chancellor Hinshaw: April 1, 2010

I am writing to update the campus on the status of Prioritization outcomes. Changes have occurred, but the actions to date are not really sufficient to stabilize, as well as strengthen, our academic programs in view of the resources available and the changing financial situation impacting the campus. So there is clearly work yet to do.

I sent a campus update message on December 4, 2009, indicating that a number of changes recommended during the Prioritization Process were underway, whereas others would take more time to assess and determine next steps and that those updates would be indicated in a report on progress by schools/colleges which was posted online in mid-December (see “Actions In-progress or Completed” on this website. In addition, the campus reorganization process guideline which was revised in consultation with the Faculty Senate was reviewed and posted online as well.

http://manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/m3.000organization/index.html

These actions were taken to inform the campus as to:
(a) what was happening in the units; and
(b) how potential reorganizations emerging from the prioritization process would be considered for implementation.

The budget workgroup has also provided additional ideas to generate savings that could be redirected to campus priorities
http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ovcafo/newprocess/MemoChancellor121509.pdf
and proposed a flowchart for the review process of recommendations in consultation with the Faculty Senate

I accept the recommendations made to date through the prioritization process and the budget workgroup and many of those are already moving forward. Most
will be implemented by the schools/colleges working with the vice chancellors, but all of us need a way to monitor and follow on-going changes, so I am asking the vice chancellors to provide a status report every three months, which will be posted on this website.

There is much information on what is happening across the campus, so I encourage you to read the actions of the schools/colleges to date (see http://www.manoa.hawaii.edu/ovcafo/newprocess/prioritization.html). We will continue to post updates throughout the year. In addition, another prioritization update is in regards to the status of some of the more visible restructuring recommendations provided earlier (http://manoa.hawaii.edu/chancellor/memos/budget_update_sep8_09.html) such as:

(a) Recommended reorganization of the Industrial Relations Center and Pacific Biosciences Research Center, are currently at steps 3 and 2 respectively of the campus process for consideration of reorganization (Vice Chancellor Gary Ostrander is the contact person) http://www.manoa.hawaii.edu/ovcafo/neworgCharts/index.html;

(b) Environmental Health and Safety Office has been relocated to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education to provide improved support for those activities;

(c) Information relevant to the reconsolidation of the School of Travel Industry Management and the Shidler College of Business is being prepared (Vice Chancellor Reed Dasenbrock is the contact person for the review process, assisted by Debra Ishii in the Chancellor’s Office); and

(d) The Arts & Sciences reorganization will not move forward at this time to allow the colleges to focus on strengthening the general education core programs, fostering an integrated curriculum, and economizing on administration (Vice Chancellor Reed Dasenbrock will monitor and report on the progress being made).
There is clearly much more work to do and our efforts will require continual improvement and attention, but a number of changes are saving valuable time and resources. Our major goal is to preserve academic excellence, so we must be diligent in recovering, as well as generating, resources for that purpose.

These approaches are in line with those of President Greenwood as described in her address to the State Legislative, i.e., increase the number of graduates in Hawai‘i, improve our capability for innovation and technology transfer, and build on our national reputation for excellence and our ability to build the state’s capacity. UH Mānoa clearly plays a key role in meeting those goals. Mahalo for your continued ideas, feedback and support of our university.

Virginia S. Hinshaw
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