MEMORANDUM

September 19, 2011

TO: Virginia S. Hinshaw
    Chancellor

FROM: Robert Bley-Vroman
      Dean

SUBJECT: Possible LLL Initiatives

All LLL departments were asked to review their current activities and to propose new ideas, in three areas:

- Retention and graduation rates
- Native Hawaiian advancement
- Quality of graduate education

The following specific potential initiatives are being explored by the College. These are, in general, things that might be done through internal allocation of present resources. The one exception is the targeted hire, in Native Hawaiian advancement.

Retention and graduation rates

- The departments suggest exploring ways of making more DL courses available to freshmen, either by creating new courses, reconsidering the prerequisites on existing courses, or increasing the number of seats available.

- In general, the college will continue to work with the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education to increase the number of seats available in beginning language classes, and in English 100.

- The English Department offers a highly successful mentor/tutor program for undergraduates. Now, language departments are exploring the possibility of adopting this model. A mentor
program is not without cost, but it is possible that it could be combined with a move to higher-capped classes, and that the savings could in part pay for the mentoring program. The mentoring program also fits in with the larger LEAP initiative (Liberal Education: America's Promise) of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences. (Mentor programs are a component of several High Impact Practices of LEAP.)

- The departments will consider whether it is possible to have increased flexibility in the major requirements, permitted students are given a wider choice, so that graduation is not delayed while a particular required course comes into rotation.

- Departments are working to expand internship opportunities (another LEAP high-impact practice). Already, we have an extensive internship program as part of the Korean Flagship. We will try to spread this model to other programs.

- The College will revive an effort to develop combination degrees with professional schools, in which a student can obtain a professional degree and also a major in a language. To be sure, these programs normally require more courses toward graduation than a professional degree by itself, but we believe that the tight focus of the program can compensate for the added credits.

- The College will participate in a new undergraduate recruitment and retention initiative for Hawaiian, Filipino, Ilokano, Samoan, and Pacific Island students through IPLL, CPIS, Hawai‘inuikea‘e, and the SEED office.

Native Hawaiian advancement

- The Language Learning Center will continue its facilitation of technology-mediated language course delivery in the Center’s computer laboratories. In addition to course support, the LLC will also continue to digitize Ka Leo Hawaiian language radio broadcasts and to assist with the administration of Hawaiian language proficiency exams. The LLC stands ready to expand these functions as needed (currently estimated at about 450 hours per year of support).

- Departments wish to expand their recruitment and outreach efforts in the public schools. The departments now propose to make special efforts to target schools, both public and private, with high proportions of Native Hawaiian students.

- A working group, consisting of faculty in Linguistics, LLEA, and Religion, are exploring a targeted hire of a Native Hawaiian faculty member with expertise in computational linguistics, lexicography, and neurolinguistics.
Virginia S. Hinshaw  
September 19, 2011  
Page 3

- The Dean will prioritize a hire in Pacific Literature in the English Department. We will request permission to hire in this area, for a faculty member to begin Fall 2012.

- LLEA's popular course “Europeans in the Pacific” is currently offered with one section in the Hawaiian language. Enrollment in this course is very limited. The Dean’s office will work with the department to ensure that this course can continue to be offered, even given workload policies which would ordinarily preclude regular offering of courses of that size. In the longer term, LLL will consider offering additional courses with Hawaiian as language of instruction. This will depend on having appropriate faculty (but, see the targeted hire initiative, above).

Quality of graduate education

Our surveys of graduate students suggest that the most pressing need is financial support (graduate assistantships and fellowships).

- The Dean will consider increasing the ratio of graduate-assistant-taught courses to lecturer-taught courses, in order to provide more support for graduate students. This has already been done in English, so that the most promising Doctoral students all have this support. We will also consider using graduate assistants from other departments to teach in Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures, and other programs that do not have their own graduate programs. (Synergy across departments is an added benefit here.)

- The College will expand its efforts, in conjunction with the Foundation, to develop support for graduate fellowships. We have already had some success in this area in Linguistics and Second Language Studies.

- LLL will work with SPAS to create a better support structure for faculty obtaining extramural funding. Probably, this will involve the creation of a new shared position or the repurposing of existing personnel. Increased extramural funding translates into increased support for graduate students.