Prioritization Update for Fall 2010

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

The work of the prioritization process involved many—indeed, hundreds—of specific recommendations involving programs and units that report to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (OVCAA). The status of those recommendations is described under the updates for individual schools and colleges. But there were also a number of cross-cutting recommendations for all of academic affairs: goals were established to support the Chancellor’s overall direction for UH Mānoa to serve as a destination of choice, and this is a progress report on those recommendations that relate to OVCAA.

*Accomplish strong enrollment management through reorganizing units, including Admissions and Records, Financial Aid, and School and College Services.*

This reorganization was completed in 2009-2010, so these units now all report to the Vice Chancellor for Students. In addition, in 2009, we formed a Committee on Enrollment Planning, co-chaired by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the Vice Chancellor for Students, with representation from the faculty as well as key administrative units in OVCAA and OVCS. Four enrollment goals were approved by the campus in Fall 2009: 1) keep more of Hawai‘i’s high school graduates here at home, attending UH Mānoa; 2) address issues of differential educational attainment among different sectors of Hawai‘i’s population; 3) encourage mobility among the 2- and 4-year sectors, so that those students who start at community colleges who wish 4-year degrees are able to pursue their goals; and 4) increase retention and graduation rates. A workgroup has been formed to develop ideas to address each of the goals, and by now we have a rich menu of ideas under consideration, some of which have moved through to implementation. The CEP website at http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ovcaa/initiatives/enrollment/ provides additional detail.

*Ensure clear straightforward articulation/transfer agreements to promote student access to UH Mānoa.*

A great deal has been done in this area. We have initiated a program called Automatic Admission in which students who earn an A.A. from one of the seven UH community colleges are automatically admitted to any of the B.A. granting campuses of their choice before their graduation from a community college so that they can move seamlessly from one campus to the other. They are notified electronically and therefore receive access to advising and can register earlier than they would otherwise.

We have also signed an MOU across the system in which students who have completed segments of the core but have not received an A.A. are treated as fulfilling that segment and do not have to transfer course by course.
Articulation is a very complex matter, and the CEP mentioned above has a number of new initiatives concerning articulation which we are taking up now.

Provide ready access to high demand core courses by eliminating low demand courses, certificates and majors.

We have been working on the issue of access to high demand courses in a number of directions. The first is to assess the actual demand more accurately than we have before, and we have used features of STAR to track the number of seats offered and the number of unsuccessful registration attempts. In some cases, this analysis has led to new sections being opened at the last minute; in other cases, to more sections being added in subsequent semesters; in some cases, to drawing alternatives to students’ attention. We have also strengthened our reporting system for small classes in order to keep underenrolled classes to a minimum. These efforts to improve access have been successful—despite budget cuts and fewer classes being offered overall, credit hour production has been increasing and unsuccessful registration attempts decreasing over the past several semesters.

Maximize opportunities for student internships to provide knowledge and experience for enhanced student success.

In Winter 2010, we started a new Washington, D.C. Congressional Internship program in which we placed Mānoa students in the offices of some of our congressional delegation as well as in congressional committees. Winter 2011 represents the second cohort of this program, and we have selected four students in both the Fall and Spring semesters to intern in the office of each of our congressional delegates.

We have also strengthened the local Legislative Internship program, increasing the stipend and connecting it to the Washington, D.C. internship program. In Winter 2011, we are also placing one student in the City Prosecutor’s Office, and we expect to extend this to the Governor’s and Lieutenant Governor’s offices in the near future.

Focus on academic initiatives that enhance a distinctive UH Mānoa undergraduate experience, involving critical thinking and leadership development.

The Honors Program has a new director, and we have invested additional resources in the Honors Program, seeking to strengthen this key undergraduate program.

The Honors Program Director, Dr. Terry Hunt, is also chairing a newly-formed Undergraduate Research Council, which is designing a comprehensive undergraduate research program we expect to roll out Fall 2011.

We have also launched a new program of Student Success Fellowships, which provide support for students on campus who help other students’ academic
performance, by advising or tutoring. This provides employment opportunities for students on campus as well as providing much needed help for campus advising and tutoring centers.