In my response to the 2016 Program Reviewers’ report, I sketched out six areas of focus. Before discussing progress on these, I would like to address four areas raised in the program review about which there are updates.

1) The Academy for Creative Media, AH’s newest department, received approval by the BOR as a permanent academic program at Mānoa.

2) AH has moved to update and implement student fees across all departments in the arts to help defray material and equipment costs. Theatre and Dance is currently preparing its first set of fees, and if approved, all AH Arts departments will have student fees, something the 2010 and 2016 program reviews urged.

3) Issues of collegiality and the health of an area within a department or a program itself are being addressed in two departments in the college to improve faculty and student morale and the overall academic experience.

4) The Arts chairs have begun semi regular meetings among themselves to better coordinate their schedule of events and to explore more interdisciplinary partnerships. The conversations have included discussions of more robust ways to recruit majors and outreach to the city and state.

The College of AH and LLL continue to partners on a number of activities, from their shared academic advising center to grant support for faculty, and now faculty teaching across colleges. Administrators and faculty are in early conversations about further partnerships and possible academic reorganizations between the two colleges and SPAS.

Below is my update to the six priorities I singled out last year in response to the Program Review and in response too to the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affair’s reply.

1) Numbers of Majors and Student Semester Hours

In the VCAA’s reply to my executive response to the Program Review, he urged attention to enrollment in AH majors and overall SSH as the single most important priority of the College because of success in moving the dial forward would facilitate other initiatives and priorities. I cannot disagree though I must also observe that declining enrollment in the humanities and arts is a national trend in public higher education (private universities do much better). In fact, so worrisome is the trend that it has been deemed a “crisis” in higher education literature, and has been the focus of several national task forces in the humanities. An evidence-based, blue
ribbon report was conducted in 2015, for example, by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences: [http://www.humanitiesindicators.org/binaries/pdf/HI_HigherEd2015.pdf](http://www.humanitiesindicators.org/binaries/pdf/HI_HigherEd2015.pdf)

There are some structural issues at play specific to Mānoa, most notably I think in the smaller General Education set of requirements we have at UH compared to peer and benchmark institutions (31 credit units, plus university requirements). AH is disadvantaged in the lack of certain GE requirements found elsewhere, incurring those in critical thinking and history. LLL is similarly disadvantaged, with the waiving of the language requirement by many professional schools or high unit majors. What is more, some non humanities degrees permit the fulfilling of LDGE and UDGE within their majors. At most institutions, there is an Upper Division humanities distribution requirement for all majors. Therefore I have urged our department chairs to be very involved in the internal and external review undertaken this academic year into our General Education program. I have also worked with department to review and update their GE offerings and to participate more widely in the first year student learning communities.

Numbers of majors in all AH departments have declined steadily, but so too has overall Mānoa enrollment. Each AH department has been tasked with reversing declining enrollment numbers and urged to review its curriculum, attend to areas of new student interest, and increase recruitment efforts. This August, AH departments participated in the Week of Welcome, with an afternoon opportunity for newly admitted students to interact with departments and their faculty. All departments are reviewing their websites and promotion literature to update them. And AH is keen to participate in new degree programs, including the campus-wide discussion around sustainability.

There is no easy or quick fix to the challenge of enrollment numbers. It’s a complex academic ecosystem having to do with our national trends in higher education and internal dynamics at UH Mānoa, including a decrease in overall campus enrollment. For our college, reversing the downward trend is of urgent concern.

2) **Faculty Size.**

Academic year 2015-16 began some modest faculty hiring after several years of almost none. The College is smaller---127 full time faculty tenure or tenure track compared to 139 in 2012---but is more or less right-sized given its 2017 SSH and majors’ count. A few departments have seen too rapid a decline in faculty: Religion, Philosophy, Communicology, and ACM. These will be focus areas for new faculty positions in the next few years. The possibility of joint appointments across departments within AH and colleges (AH, LLL, SPAS) or participation in cluster hire initiatives also remain on the table.

3) **Development and Fundraising**

AH took in three million dollars of gifts and donations this past academic year, the highest of the four AS colleges. A single development officer for the College is still a priority, but neither
UHF nor AH has the resources to fund this yet. AH will continue for the foreseeable future to share a development officer with LLL and the Library. As dean, I am committed to working regularly on development.

4) **Facilities**

Kennedy Theatre’s CIP renovation is nearly complete and most welcome. In the Biennium legislative session of 2016, three million dollars were allocated toward a facilities to be shared between the Academy for Creative Media and the School of Communications in the College of Social Sciences. As dean, I am working with Vice President for Administration Jan Gouviea to find a permanent home for the ACM program, with a possible location in Sinclair Library.

5) **Humanities Center**

The proposed Humanities Center to improve programming and collaboration among arts and humanities faculty across the campus is on hold. AH’s Digital Humanities Initiative, however, is flourishing, and was the recipient of funded support from the OVR to develop academic projects. A list of participants and projects can be found on DAHI’s website: [http://dahi.manoa.hawaii.edu/about/](http://dahi.manoa.hawaii.edu/about/).

6) **Student Advising**

The new LLL-AH advising Center continues to improve advising services to our two Colleges’ students in over twenty majors and forty minors. An indication of the fledgling Advising Center’s early success is its Regents’ ‘oikela award, a remarkable achievement for a newly formed advising Center. The Advising Center is a crucial partner in the recruitment and retention of AH and LLL students. Director Ruth Bingham’s improved communication with undergraduate advisors in the academic departments provides an essential bridge in the effort to coordinate and improve advising both in the major and in the colleges.