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MANOA CHANCELLOR'S
OFFICE

June 16, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Reed Dasenbrock, Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

FROM: Edward J. Shultz, Dean

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. J. Shultz'.

SUBJECT: Program Review

SPAS measures up well against its peers. Each center completed a review of its reputational rankings to help give credence to the primacy of its programs. Attached to this report is a copy of the reputational rankings. In addition SPAS has been quite busy preparing for APEC and the Asian Studies Program recently played a key role hosting the Association for Asian Studies. Pacific Islands Studies remains unique in the United States for its breadth and depth of programming.

Pursuant to your memorandum of July 19, 2010, I submit this progress report focusing in particular on the points you raised in the July 2010 memo. I have had an opportunity to discuss the contents of this memo on two occasions with SPAS personnel. The directors and chairs of SPAS considered these ideas on April 8 and then at a general SPAS faculty meeting on May 11, a second discussion ensued.

Staffing Survey

SPAS has prepared a survey of all faculty at UHM who engage in Pacific and Asian Studies. This has been shared with deans and directors as well as the Mānoa International Education Committee (MIEC) for completeness. A copy is attached here. We have asked the Center Directors to review it as well and identify areas that may need attention for future growth. The Deans of various units: Social Science, Humanities, LLL, Law, and Business were also asked to comment on new hires in Pacific and Asian Studies within their units. Weaknesses remain in East Asian Languages and Literatures such as in Okinawan. American Studies has lost a Philippine specialist, and in Social Science a political scientist focusing on Korea has left. The expanding Muslim Societies in Asia and the Pacific (MSAP) program needs strengthening with possible hires in the humanities (history), political science, and language. The Asian Studies Program has three new hires one in Performing Arts focusing on South and Southeast Asia, one as noted below in Philippine studies, and one in Korean Studies.

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Finally with the commencement of the B.A. in Pacific Islands we expect growth in that area that will mandate new hires to strengthen undergraduate offerings.

Cross-regional Disciplinarity

SPAS as noted does have several cross-regional disciplinary foci. MSAP is one that we are trying to foster. Like most UH Mānoa programs it is in need of increased funding especially to enable the hiring of a coordinator. For the short term we have had to rely on the good offices of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies as well as our other Centers, but this stopgap measure does not assure long term growth. The Colleges of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, and LLL have agreed to partner in providing one of our faculty release time to assure faculty leadership in this area.

SPAS has explored introducing courses that promote cross regional programs. In addition to its general introduction and capstone courses, it is entertaining courses that focus on religion such as Buddhism, or issues of diaspora and migration, and offering certificates in those areas. A new course being planned is "Okinawa in Asia." There have also been fruitful discussions with LLL that will result in the hiring of a faculty member who can teach French as well as be involved in French Pacific Islands studies. Of course in all of these discussions there is concern that SPAS' SSH will also build. New courses to cross the regions might include "The Pacific War," "Gender Issues in Asia and the Pacific," "Globalization: An Historical Perspective."

Reconcile Center Development

This point focuses especially on the Center for Philippine Studies (CPS), the Center for Okinawan Studies (COS), and the Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS). CPS has been regenerated in the past 18 months and has an active executive committee and new by-laws. A Filipino specialist has been hired in SPAS and after negotiations with the Chancellor, funding has been provided to SPAS to assure the director of CPS will be a fully funded, full-time position. COS continues to work on building its constituency and expects to seek full BOR approval within a year. An immediate task confronting COS is assuring there are enough courses across the disciplines to build a sufficiency rich curriculum that would enable students to major in Okinawan studies. Both CPS and COS have been actively building their endowments. CSAS has seen considerable growth, however, after looking at the terms demanded of a Title VI center, CSAS would not be fully eligible at this time. It may consider a partnership with a mainland campus to achieve this status. Nevertheless there are other funding opportunities for CSAS to pursue which will help the program build both its language and culture offerings.

Technology, a means to help SPAS grow

SPAS faculty acknowledge advances in technology are one way to assist both in instruction and public relations. SPAS recently completed an upgrade of its web site making it more attractive and more informative. The web site serves as a portal to SPAS programs and centers. SPAS also has a Facebook page. In addition SPAS through Title VI programs has a Café for e learning and supports discussion forums in addition to distance learning and other interactive study. Because graduate training embraces much of SPAS' mission, considerable learning takes place in seminars and workshops.

Nevertheless, Asian studies is committed to offer at least one of its undergraduate courses online by the end of the 2011-2012 academic year. Pacific Islands studies with its recent agreement with the University of the South Pacific is exploring possible collaborations. At present the Center for Philippine Studies supports two skype and online courses with Mindanao, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies has skyped frequently with filmmakers in Indonesia, MSAP has a highly developed web site, and Samoan is being taught online through UHM's NFLRC. In part through partnering with the NFLRC, we have been able to expand electronically the reach of Asian and Pacific languages and cultures.

Strategic Marketing and Recruitment

In spring 2011 the Board of Regents approved the proposal submitted by the Center for Pacific Islands Studies to start a BA in Pacific Islands Studies. This will bring more undergraduates into the program and should bolster enrollments figures for Pacific Islands. Asian Studies continues to foster its undergraduate program as well. Faculty and staff participate in most UHM sponsored recruitment programs such as college fairs and the Manoa Experience. With the changes in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences requirements, it is expected more students in those colleges will be able to take SPAS related courses. SPAS will assess its current course offerings to assure that more can fit into UHM's General Education requirements. It is important that the SPAS student advisor be given a full-time appointment to enhance marketing and recruitment, and especially keep UHM campus advisers fully informed of SPAS myriad offerings.

Assessment

Like most schools and college SPAS has a solid record of adhering to assessment practices. Faculty are using results from assessment to determine curricular needs and designing courses that will attract students. Like most college level faculty, many are still new to understanding the ramifications and promises of assessment, but the school is making strides in implementing best practices in this area. The NRC requirements currently mandate active assessment of its funded programs. Nevertheless SPAS cannot assess an important part of its requirements, language, as that remains under the jurisdiction of language courses within LLL.

Concluding Remarks

The SPAS faculty discussion revealed frustration over the lack of resources. There are many grants that cannot be written due to a lack of faculty time. A grants writing officer would help alleviate this situation. A related problem, were SPAS to add new staff, is an acute lack of space. The current graduate lounge will have to be converted into two offices and once that is done no further expansion will be possible. Despite increased demands, there is a commitment to look at better ways to partner across the region such as using courses and publications as a way to enhance a SPAS perspective (Pacific and Asia). Also scheduling courses at alternate hours such as the evening might reach an underserved student body. Finally, part of SPAS mission is to help further internationalize the campus. The school has the relevant expertise and commitment to accomplish this.

