



August 2, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Shannon Johnson, Chair, General Education Committee

FROM: Michael Bruno, Provost

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Bruno".

SUBJECT: Response to General Education Progress Report

Thank you for submitting the one-year progress report for the inaugural program review of General Education. As I mentioned in my response to the report, I was interested in gaining a deeper understanding of your implementation plans to address the recommendations of the external review team. As you committed to in your response to the report, you have indeed developed a more detailed plan of action through the hard work and dedication of the GEC and GEO and the three working groups tasked with responding to the areas of assessment, curriculum and governance. I am pleased to see that you have already made progress on all three of these fronts.

The Assessment Working Group produced an impressive assessment plan within a rather compressed timeframe. Given the dynamic nature of the GEC, it makes good sense to ensure that all relevant parties support the plan and timeline, as you suggested in your response. As the review team noted, it is critical that the roles and responsibilities of each constituent group is clearly defined and understood, and the approach you have noted is an excellent step in the right direction. Furthermore, the efforts on the part of the Governance Working Group to create a new MOU focused on clarifying procedures, deadlines and roles will likewise help address this issue.

I appreciated the expeditious approach of the Curriculum Working Group in addressing a variety of the concerns noted by the external review team, in particular the issue of course approvals. I understand that the motion to resolve this matter was tabled by MFS, but you have put forth great effort to address their concerns and I hope this work can move forward once MFS is back in session. Finally, I look forward to learning more about the Thematic Pathways in General Education and the increased focus on scaffolded and reinforced learning over the course of students' academic careers (as opposed to the "one and done" approach). Also critical to this discussion is creating a coherent and well-articulated approach regarding the ways in which General Education is effectively imparting essential soft skills including critical thinking, ethical decision-making, multicultural understanding and communication, the ability to work independently and in teams, etc. It sounds as though the Curriculum Working Group is poised to lead these important discussions when the faculty return in the fall.

2500 Campus Road, Hawai'i Hall
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Telephone: (808) 956-8447

I look forward to hearing about your progress in all of these areas in your next progress report which will be due to OVCAA by July 10, 2021.

C: Brian Powell, Chair UHM Faculty Senate Executive Committee
 Laura Lyons, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
 April Goodwin, Program Officer