

Three-Year Progress Report – April 24, 2019
The School of Pacific and Asian Studies (SPAS) Program Review
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM)

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Since submitting my one-year progress report (memo to VCAA, dated July 28, 2016) in response to the comprehensive review report provided the external review team in April 2015, I have continued to work with SPAS academic programs, the 8 Area Centers, and with important individuals and institutions locally, nationally, and internationally to strengthen our responses to the recommendations in the 2015 review report and in memos from the OVCAA. I hereby submit this three-year progress report, detailing accomplishments and remaining challenges since July 2016. SPAS has continued to make progress on a number of fronts, suffered some setbacks, but overall is stronger now than it was in 2015, even as the process of reorganizing SPAS and merging it into a large, new college is well along. In this report, I organize my response under the rubrics provided in the external reviewers report, as they were also adopted in OVCAA memos to me.

I. Faculty Roles and Appointments:

Though delayed on year, SPAS was able to make an excellent hire in Asian Studies (ASP), Dr. Kristi Govella (PhD UC-Berkeley). Her expertise in East Asian political economy, fluency in Japanese, and extensive networks in Japan and elsewhere in Asia, and a year’s experience teaching at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, made her the top choice among a deluge of applications. In addition to her rapidly developing research/publications portfolio and exceptional abilities in the classroom, she is facile at online teaching and will be a key resource in the launch of our new Masters in Asian International Affairs (MAIA), just approved by the BOR on March 28, 2019 (about which, more below). Under the able chairmanship of Prof. Cathryn Clayton, and my encouragement, Asian Studies faculty have transformed their vision for the future, establishing an “Inter-Asia” track to complement the country- and region-specific tracks in Asian Studies, and approving and working collaboratively on the MAIA degree proposal.

In Pacific Islands Studies (CPIS), the non-renewal of one probationary tenure-track faculty member has resulted in an already compact academic program under special stress. Due to budgetary constraints, we were not able to hire an immediate replacement, but a search has been approved and the position will be advertised soon, for a start date of January 2020. In the interim, lecturers have been hired to fill the gap in critical course offerings.

The External Review recommended “a mechanism to encourage more effective communication about [SPAS] initiatives across campus (and also externally).” Over

the last several years, in response to our discussions at monthly meetings of SPAS chairs and directors, major strides have been made in updating and intensifying communication with counterparts in other units across the UHM campus and beyond. We continue to sponsor numerous lectures, film series, and conferences, participate prominently in the annual Mānoa International Education Week, with an Asian film series offering films and discussions daily during the week (2017) and new ASP faculty member K. Govella presenting one of the keynote talks on East Asian economies in the Trump era (2018).

II. SPAS Internal and University-Wide Articulations:

Relations among the academic programs and centers in SPAS continue to strengthen. Directors and faculty from both Asian Studies and Pacific Island Studies have collaborated on developing a new Asia-Pacific course (debuted by P. Abinales and T. Kabutaulaka in 2017-18). Center specialist faculty members, including Dr. Gay Satsuma (Japanese Studies), Dr. Cynthia Ning (Chinese Studies), Dr. Julie Walsh, and new hire Dr. James Viernes (Pacific Islands Studies, PhD in History from UH Mānoa), teach core undergraduate courses for the academic programs. The proposed separation of the centers and academic programs (reconstituted as departments) in the proposed merger of SPAS into a new, larger college, is of ongoing concern to most of the faculty and directors.

SPAS academic faculty and center staff have combined efforts to organize alumni and friends events where distinguished alumni from both academic programs have been honored. These events, held at the Center for Korean Studies and, most recently at College Hill (March 7, 2018) have firmed up a SPAS-wide commitment to harmonizing our endeavors.

In the area of publication, I worked with faculty members from Asian Studies and Pacific Islands Studies on a proposal for a new monograph series with UH Press. Approved in fall 2016, the series, "Asia Pacific Flows" launched its first book in December 2018 (*Coral and Concrete*, by Greg Dvorak). The two senior editors of this series are Prof. Patricio Abinales (Asian Studies) and Prof. Terence Wesley-Smith (Pacific islands Studies). Three additional manuscripts are under review.

As Dean I have stepped up SPAS interaction with the East-West Center, holding numerous meetings with President Richard Vuylsteke, Director of External Affairs Karen Knudsen, and Dean of Education Ann Hartman. SPAS faculty from both our CPIS (T. Kabutaulaka) and our ASP (E. Harwit and K. Govella) are research affiliates at EWC. In addition, I participated in the EWC biannual conference in Seoul (August 2018), presenting a paper on a panel on performing arts. I also serve on the Friends of the East-West Center Board of Directors and chaired the Program Committee from 2016-2018.

ASP Chair Clayton and I have engaged with the DKI Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, and are in discussion with Dean Carleton Cramer on a capstone offering at

the Center for students in the new MAIA degree program. We continue to advertise campus-wide for applicants for FLAS (Foreign Language and Area Studies) Scholarships (U.S. Dept. of Education, Title VI-funded), our Luce Foundation scholarships and research funding for Southeast Asian Studies, our Japan Foundation and Academy of Korean Studies Core University grant scholarship and post-docs, all with good results. SPAS actively engages in searches for faculty hires across campus that are targeting expertise on Asia and the Pacific. Two of SPAS's Pacific Islands faculty members are on the current search in the History Department for a new Pacific Islands Historian. And our Center for Korean Studies committed to 4 years of funding for the hire of Dr. C. Harrison Kim, also in the History Department.

III. Curricular Issues and Assessment:

As mentioned in my previous progress report, CPIS has a solid curriculum in place and a committee to respond to needed changes on an ongoing basis, in response to eCafe evaluations, student demand, and assessment results. As they complete the probationary period for their provisional BA program, they have participated consistently in the annual assessment process. Though no new courses have been added to the CPIS roster since summer 2016, a number of new courses have been offered under their topics course numbers. PACS 492 was used to teach "Language and Culture in the Contemporary Pacific." It was also used in fall 2017 to teach "Sustainable Development in Oceania." In fall 2016 and 2018, PACS 493 was used to teach, "Moving Images in the Pacific Islands." Apart from the topics courses, CPIS also offers PACS 399, which has been used to facilitate internships for CPIS BA majors. Furthermore, the Center offers the PACS 401 (Senior Capstone). Following the BA program review, the curriculum will be reviewed with the objective of strengthening courses in the three concentrations: 1) Public Policy and Community Development; 2) Contemporary Regional Issues; and, 3) Arts, Performance, and Culture.

At the graduate level, in spring 2016, 2017 and 2018, PACS 690 was used to teach a course titled "Natural Resources and Economic Development." It attracted CPIS students as well as MA and PhD students from other departments, including history, anthropology, geography, political science, botany, American Studies, and English, an important CPIS contribution to UHM. In addition, in fall 2017, CPIS Prof. Alexander Mawyer taught IS750 (Topics in Biocultural Diversity: Humans and Island Environments). The topics courses are open to all UHM students, thereby serving the University as a whole.

ASP has undertaken a major curriculum review, streamlining offerings, adding a new Inter-Asia track to the MA in Asian Studies, new graduate certificates, and—most importantly—proposing and preparing to implement a new Masters in Asian International Affairs, aimed at professionals in business, the military, and primary and secondary education. Many of the courses will be offered in the evenings or weekends or online—all in a concerted effort to make this new degree attractive to the professional student clientele, who work during normal weekday hours.

ASP changed degree requirements for the BA in Asian Studies, reducing the number of upper-division credits from 60 to 45, to be in line with UH standard (effective fall 2017). It changed degree requirements for the Master's in Asian Studies (effective fall 2018), reducing from 36 to 30 credits, standardizing language requirements, streamlining breadth requirements, adding a 1-credit course for Plan B students to revise/defend their portfolios, added an "Inter-Asia" requirement (students must take 600Z Inter-Asia or a second 600 alpha course in a region outside their area of concentration/expertise--China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, South Asia, or Southeast Asia).

ASP added 18 new courses plus one new alpha (600Z) since 2016. All of these but the last three are electives:

Year	Sem.	Course no.	Course Title
2016	Sum	ASAN 471	Introduction to Contemporary Asian Cinema
	Fall	ASAN 600 added (Z)	Approaches to Asia: Inter-Asia
	Fall	ASAN 494	Food, Culture and Politics in Asia
2017	Spr	ASAN 407	Peace Processes in Philippines and Hawaii
		ASAN 420	Korean Cinema
		ASAN 481	Film, Culture and Modernity in Southeast Asia
	Sum	ASAN 101	Introduction to Asian Studies
	Fall	ASAN 411	Comparative Muslim Societies in Asia
		ASAN 422	Contested Issues between Korea and Japan
		ASAN 449	Asian Cities: Evolution of Urban Space
2018	Spr	ASAN 438	Sustainable Asian Development: Impact of Globalization
		ASAN 483	Imperialism, Colonialism and Nationalism in Southeast Asia
		ASAN 650	Marriage and Family in East Asia
	Fall	ASAN 654	South Asia Now
		ASAN 693	Field Study in Asia
		ASAN 695	Asian Studies Master's Plan B Culminating Experience (1 cr)
2019	Fall	ASAN 687	Conflict and Cooperation in Asia
		ASAN 689	International Relations of Asia
		ASAN 710	MAIA Capstone

SPAS continues to perform well with regard to assessment, with nearly all course syllabi spelling out SLOs and ILOs and most students polled meeting both. Building on the momentum established after several years of assessment challenges for ASP, the assessment compliance has been exemplary, thanks to the hard work of ASP Chair Clayton and ASP student advisor Pattie Dunn. Detailed summaries from November 2018 are available on request.

IV. Communications Strategy and Information Sharing:

After going for years without a media specialist, the SPAS Dean's office was able to hire a 50% GA media specialist in spring 2017 to address website issues, assist the programs and centers in better social media presence, and assist in bringing all of our websites into ADA compliance. After 3 semesters (May 2018) our first SPAS GA graduated and we replaced her with a second, equally media-savvy GA. The look of the websites has improved, the information on activities mostly kept up to date (though with some lapses), and a systematic posting of notices about events on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Moreover, we have made substantial progress on ADA compliance.

Curriculum roadmaps for both undergraduate and graduate programs have been updated and been made easier to understand and student orientations at both the undergraduate and graduate level have been regularly offered by the respective program personnel.

V. Student Support and Academic Outcomes:

The issue of enrollment (numbers of majors and SSH) remains the most challenging area for SPAS and was one of the determining factors in including SPAS in the reorganization merging SPAS into a larger college. The good news has been the increase this year in overall SSH for SPAS and marked increases in declared majors at both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs in ASP, and steady levels with modest fluctuations for enrollments in CPIS. Funding from our tuition-generated scholarship allotment, combined with strategic awarding of endowment-generated scholarships plays an important role in attracting students. FLAS awards and GAships for graduate students have been key to maintaining graduate students in both ASP and CPIS.

In the area of alumni relations, we have continued to make efforts to reach out to alumni, particularly those in the state of Hawaii. On March 7, 2018 we held our second alumni and friends gathering, this time at College Hill, honoring two distinguished alumni (Joakim "Jojo" Peter, CPIS grad, and Shawn Eichman, ASP grad) and focusing on recognizing our donors. Attendance—close to 80--was substantially better than at our first alumni event in March 2016.

Following on the creation and printing in spring 2016 of a recruiting brochure aimed specifically at attracting Indonesian graduate students to UHM, I worked with staff in OIEP to create and print comparable brochures for China, Vietnam, and S. Korea. (Additional brochures targeting the Philippines and Japan are planned but on hold as OIEP tackles other urgent programmatic matters.) These are aimed primarily at attracting international graduate students from Asia, not only Asian Studies majors. Complementing these is a flyer promoting the value of an Asian Studies degree, the highlights of our program, and specifics on degree requirements and funding opportunities. The Centers have also been directed to devote more of

their efforts to recruiting, albeit with varying results.

VI. Administrative System and Staffing:

In response to the review committee's suggestion to hold SPAS-wide meetings of secretarial and support staff, I initiated such meetings in fall 2015 under our former A.O. Joyce Morikuni (retired December 2016) and they continue under our very capable current A.O. Jonalyn Mokiao (hired March 2017). These meetings allow staff to air issues and learn from each other, as well as to gain a collegial sense of being part of the SPAS 'ohana. Anticipating the merger of SPAS into a larger college, there is apprehension over how reassignments may affect the collegiality we have been striving to build.

VII. Infrastructure and Technology:

As mentioned above (Section IV), SPAS has had a 50% GA working on many aspects of our websites and intensifying our social media presence since spring 2017. SPAS faculty and staff are well equipped with computers and peripherals, and our GAs have been assisting programs and staff with a range of technological matters.

VIII. Area Centers

The Centers continue to bring in FLAS funding, which supports Southeast Asian, East Asian, and Pacific Islands language study for students across the campus, not just SPAS. The loss of NRC status for East Asia (Ctrs. for Japanese, Korean, and Chinese Studies) and Southeast Asia (Ctr. for Southeast Asian Studies) presents challenges to some of our operations, particularly in Japanese Studies (whose associate director position has been 50% funded by the Title VI NRC awards in the past) and in Southeast Asian Studies (whose associate director is fully G-funded, but whose GAs and various projects have been funded Title VI NRC awards in the past). The application from CSEAS for major funding from the Luce Foundation, pending decision announcement in May 2019, would provide major resources for the enhancement of CSEAS programs. The successful NRC application from CPIS, on the other hand, ensures good funding for the Center for Pacific Islands Studies at least for the current cycle (through August 2022), but will face unprecedented competition next round from several rapidly advancing programs at mainland universities (Utah, UCLA, and San Francisco). Prominent American private foundations (other than Luce) are no longer a feasible source for major funding for area studies. Individual private donors have been generous to some centers (in particular Korean Studies), but not at the level that could replace the funding provided under Title VI. The Center for Philippine Studies has recently submitted two proposals for federally-funded grants, and the Center for Korean Studies is in the planning stages for a major application to the Korean government-sponsored Academy for Korean Studies. SPAS is also consulting with EWC on a \$19 million proposal for USAID funding to bring 80 graduate students from Myanmar to UHM over the next five years.