College of Social Sciences
Response to the Recommendations of the Mānoa Budget Team

Submitted by: Denise Eby Konan, Dean, College of Social Sciences
Submitted to: David Lassner, President
Michael Bruno, Provost

On behalf of the College of Social Sciences, I thank the members of the Mānoa Budget Team (MBT) for their careful review and recommendations that are intended to increase undergraduate enrollment, reorganize programs, resize graduate programs and expand collaborative opportunities.

I provide an initial response to the recommendations. As we move forward, I propose exploring a number of proposed reorganizations and program redesigns. Further responses will emerge as the faculty engage in a process of shared governance. These views are my own.
I. Reorganize to create a Department of Sociology and Human Development

The MBT recommends a reorganization of CTAHR’s Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) program, including Center on the Family (COF) and faculty from Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) to create a new Department of Sociology and Human Development (SHD). MBT notes that the faculty would be a good fit and could collaborate on research and curriculum around youth, Asia and Southeast Asia, aging and family studies. The new department would house two strong BA degrees in HDFS with 158 students and Sociology with 195 students. The Department would offer a PhD in Sociology and discontinue direct admissions into the MA.

I support these recommendations:

- Reorganize HDFS and COF into the College of Social Sciences, creating a new Department.
- Offer an online BA degree completion in Sociology through Outreach College.
- Develop 2+2 articulation agreement with the UHCCs to increase transfers.
- Work with the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) to expand opportunities for undergraduate research.

I respectfully propose adjustments to these recommendations:

- Engage faculty of SOC, HDFS, Social Science Research Institute (SSRI) and Psychology (PSY) in dialog on reorganization:
  Initial discussions are promising for synergies with HDFS and SOC. The PSY area of Community, Culture and Development is relevant to this reorganization. HDFS faculty may hold joint appointments in SOC or PSY. SSRI may be ideal home for COF.

- Reorganization must include sufficient staffing and operational funds.
  SOC, HDFS, and PSY rely significantly on lecturers and GAs for popular BA programs. Even with this reorganization, faculty counts are too low given student semester hours (SSH), majors and degrees. Current advising, personnel, and fiscal administration staffing shortfalls make additional APT support essential.

I recognize that this reorganization will require faculty dialog and participation. I welcome discussion with other collaborators, including the School of Social Work and Public Health; CTAHR; and faculty from SOC, HDFS and PSY.
II. Reorganize to create a School of Communication and Information Science
I agree on the overall need for a reorganization, and your vision that UH Mānoa would benefit from a unified, synergistic School of Communication and Information Science. I support a new School emerging through a combination of the Department of Communicology (COMG) and School of Communications (COM) and faculty from Information and Computer Sciences (ICS).

This new school would house existing degrees, and create new opportunities to expand programs and curricula in data sciences for the social sciences. Curricular areas may include social informatics, computational sciences, data visualization, and other data sciences in key areas like health policy, climate change and environment, urban planning, labor economics, geography and neurology.

The Department of Communicology (COMG) have formally requested to move to the CSS, and faculty governance discussions are underway. The Library & Information Science (LIS) Program faculty and staff believe that joining the proposed School of Communication and Information (SCI) in CSS will preserve the staffing, support and autonomy that are essential to American Library Association accreditation which has been successfully maintained for over 50 years.

I support these recommendations:

- Reorganize the Department of Communicology into the School of Communications.
- Reorganize the Master of Library & Information Science program and faculty from Information and Computer Sciences (Natural Sciences) to the School of Communications (Social Sciences).
- Rename to the School of Communication & Information Science.
- Develop 2+2 articulation agreement with the UHCCs to increase transfers.
- Work with UROP to expand opportunities for undergraduate research.

I respectfully propose adjustments to these recommendations:

- Instead of stopping out the BA and MA in COMG:
  Retain BA in COMG and temporarily retain MA in COMG, with future discussions to consider combining this graduate degree with the MA in COM. COMG continues to attract a robust student population, with over 70 majors in spring 2020, and has been praised in program reviews for its well-organized and successful undergraduate program that produces graduates who are visible and sought out by employers.

- Instead of stopping out the BA in Journalism:
  Consider an applied media program with a curriculum comprising courses spanning journalism, public relations, and the media arts. The redesigned BA would provide students with the needed skills to excel in applied media fields. Society seeks and even demands strong communicators in the news industry, public health, environmental science, politics, education, nonprofits and business.
III. Reorganize to create a new School of Public Policy
I endorse your vision that UH Mānoa requires bold strategic changes to our university structure to achieve cost savings and position us to better meet Hawai‘i’s needs. The MBT initially recommended several unit closures. Alternatively, please consider a reorganization to bring together several complementary programs into a new School of Public Policy.

I support these recommendations:

- Administer the Master of Public Administration, Master of Urban and Regional Planning, and Graduate Certificate through Outreach College – if a careful review of its implications on various aspects of the two accredited programs is found to be favorable.
- Terminate the Graduate Certificate in Public Policy.
- Administer the BA in Peace Studies through Interdisciplinary Studies.

I respectfully propose adjustments to these recommendations:

- Consider resource optimization and synergies in the Public Administration Program (PUBA), Department of Urban & Regional Planning (DURP), and Public Policy Center (PPC) after considering respective accreditation requirements. These relatively small programs share common core elements and benefit from shared faculty and staff. Courses in budgeting, resource management, negotiations, community facilitation and quantitative methods will serve all programs.

- Instead of abolishing Matsunaga Institute of Peace & Conflict Resolution (MIPCR): Retain the MIPCR as the civic engagement and public outreach arm of the School, housing popular outreach programs including Peace Corps Prep, U.S. Institute of Peace collaborations, and extensive internships and exchange programs locally and globally.

- Instead of eliminating the PPC: Merge the faculty and staff of the PPC into the new School.

- Incubate a new Public Policy BA in Interdisciplinary Studies: Faculty have developed a new BA that is envisioned to provide an interdisciplinary degree for students seeking careers in the public and non-profit sectors.

- Instead of moving the Graduate Certificate in Conflict Resolution to Law: Consider jointly administering the program to be offered through the School of Public Policy. Faculty from DURP and MIPCR currently provide core courses for the certificate and the courses are also electives for those programs.

I recognize that this reorganization will require faculty dialog and participation. I welcome discussion with other collaborators, including the Richardson School of Law, Shidler College of Business and Department of Political Science.
IV. Interdisciplinary Studies (IS), Ethnic Studies, and Women’s Studies

I appreciate the recommendation of the MBT that the Departments of Ethnic Studies and Women’s Studies would benefit with collaborations with faculty with expertise across UHM. Currently, these collaborations have been realized through cross-listing of courses. The request is valued that these programs broaden interdisciplinary collaborations with new approaches.

I support these recommendations:

- Pursue collaborations with American Studies through cross-listing courses.
- Consider changing the name of the program and department of Women’s Studies to Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.
- Develop 2+2 articulation agreement with the UHCCs for student transfer.
- Work with UROP to expand opportunities for undergraduate research.

I respectfully propose adjustments to these recommendations:

- **Further discussion is required on partnership between IS and the BA programs in Ethnic Studies and Women’s Studies:**
  Both programs are best positioned to thrive if they remain Departments within CSS. These degree programs originated with IS and evolved to independent BOR established degrees. Recent program developments place them on a positive growth trajectory. In particular, Women’s Studies boasts among the highest student semester hour (SSH) to faculty ratios at UH Mānoa, and just launched a fully online BA degree completion. Ethnic Studies developed a BA-MA pathway with Education, and is launching a fully online certificate program.

- **Recognize the College’s broad commitment to partner with IS:**
  Multiple Departments in the College collaborated on the development of a new fully online IS BA in the Social Sciences of Oceans. Just launched, this degree completion program will provide working students with convenient 5-week sequential courses. The College envisions on a new IS degrees in Public Policy, Data Sciences, and Criminal Justice.

- **Deliver and promote BA degree completion and certificate programs online with Outreach College:**
  Women’s Studies offers all courses for the BA and undergraduate certificate online. Ethnic Studies is approved to deliver an online certificate and should be encouraged to expand to develop an online degree completion BA. These unique degrees would be attractive within the Pacific Islands and Asia Pacific region.
V. Develop 2+2 Articulation Agreements with the UHCCs to increase transfers.
I welcome your leadership to advance integrated degree pathways with the UHCCs to increase undergraduate student transfer. The College recognizes that a significant source of new students is transfers from within the University of Hawai‘i.

We have taken the following steps to advance UHCC student transfer:

- Provide Aloha Pathways student transfer website to more clearly describe how current UHCC degrees, certificates and concentrations will meet CSS degree options.

- Work with UHM Academic Development and Technology on a pilot guided star pathway program to assist UHCC students to optimally transfer to CSS degrees.

- Engage in student recruitment activities on UHCC campuses including workshops, webinars, lectures in classes, posters/flyers and other activities.

- Offer customized pre-transfer advising for UHCC students who would like to explore transfer to the CSS.

I welcome support from UH System to accomplish the following:

- Propose Memorandum of Agreement with Leeward Community College (LeeCC) to encourage online students to complete the UHM general education through LeeCC’s Associate in Arts (AA) program.

- Develop mechanism to provide online delivery of all lower division courses that are required for CSS BA programs but are not presently available at the UHCCs. For example, under a course sharing program, CSS could offer lower division required courses in Economics, Communication, Psychology, Sociology, Women’s Studies, Anthropology, Geography and so on. 2+2 programs will not be possible if the curriculum is not available at UHCC campuses.

- Joint development of an AA and BA pathway in Criminal Justice.

- Joint recruitment of international students, especially English as a Second Language students.

Thank you.