Aloha Michael:

The delineated section below responds to your November 23 request for an update on IfA’s actions with regard to the revised recommendations, which are restated there for reference. Please let me know whether this email format is adequate for present purposes.

Your request focuses on cost savings, and none of the recommendations for IfA leads directly to quantifiable savings. The cost savings that are happening now at IfA result primarily from unfilled positions and the fact that we are not doing any travel on appropriated funds, but these are neither an outgrowth of the recommendations, nor a current element of long-range planning.

Regards,

Bob

- Reorganize the Astronomy graduate degree programs into IfA
- Continue collaboration with the Department of Physics and Astronomy on the Astronomy and Astrophysics undergraduate degrees.
- Work with the campus administration to ensure that IfA faculty receive credit (SSH attributed to IfA) for instruction where appropriate.
- Consider a professional master’s in Astronomy for neighbor island personnel in IfA facilities.
- Reduce inequities in the level of graduate student support

1. The Astronomy graduate degree programs are already fully organized and managed by IfA. If additional steps are needed to make these programs "officially housed" under IfA, we will need guidance on that.

2. We have contacted OVCAA requesting assistance in correcting databases so that IfA receives appropriate SSH credit for both the graduate and undergraduate teaching that is done by IfA faculty.

3. We continue to collaborate with the Department of Physics and Astronomy in developing and managing the Astronomy and Astrophysics undergraduate programs. Although only indirectly related to those programs, we would like to mention that IfA and P&A faculty recently collaborated on an ambitious EPSCoR pre-proposal.

4. The Graduate Chair is in discussion with IfA faculty on Hawaii Island and on Maui about a professional master’s program. There is substantial interest, especially if it would bring new research students into the neighbor island facilities. The Graduate Chair is including UH Hilo colleagues in these discussions. She has also received advice from the dean of Outreach College, who has offered to meet with interested faculty.