Windward Community College
Minutes for Social Science Department Meeting
February 11, 2005, 3:00 pm

Members Present:  Roy Fujimoto (Chair), Paul Briggs, Kathleen French, Margaret Coberly, Toshi Ikagawa,

Absent:  Frank Palacat

I.  Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 Course Schedules
a.  New time slots are available for the MW sequence of classes: 8:00-9:15 am, and 1:30-2:45 pm.  Roy asked that we re-do our Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 schedules, as the originals are currently out of reach.  He asked that we submit the schedules by Wednesday the 16th.

II.  Personnel
a.  The Anthropology position is now advertised, next will be the full-time Psychology position, and then the .5 utility position—ie., the Social Science research/staff faculty member.

III.  Programs
a.  What do we want?  Technically, the only parameter is having a FTE of 2,000 students, each carrying a minimum of 12 credits.
   i.  Roy began the discussion with our Social Science Building ideas.  It’s possible that we may have to wait three cycles—6 years—but if we show a need for it, in terms of our ideas related to department/college growth, making a strong case to our Deans may speed up the process.  Kathleen mentioned that we may want a temporary home, but Roy made a good pint in that if we get a temporary home, why would they bother to give us a more permanent home if we are able to complete our objectives in that current space?  Also, if we wait for a new building, we could design exactly what we want and not be limited by an existing structure.
   ii.  Margi said we could offer interdisciplinary courses geared towards senior honors students, courses which would include a little Psychology, Sociology, Economics, and Political Science, for example.  Margi also talked about the Substance Abuse Certificate.  Being that substance abuse is both a community concern as well as a national epidemic, there are possibilities of creating a national template.  Roy suggested that we could get a grant from NIH for this.
   iii.  Paul’s idea is to teach some undergrad economics classes here, like those 200-level economics classes that Manoa has, yet with smaller class sizes.  Paul also talked about a Center for teaching Social Sciences.  Everyone seemed to agree that there are a lot of great possibilities for this new teaching center.
iv. Kathleen said she would like to begin stronger collaborations with colleges other than Manoa, as only 5% of our graduates transfer to that school. Here, since such a small number of our students actually transfer to Manoa, why should that school dictate what specific courses we offer here at Windward? Kathleen also said that she would like to offer more diverse courses in Sociology. As a full-time faculty member, for example, she could focus on more specialized courses, and have the half-time person and the lecturers teach the introductory-level classes.

v. Toshi talked about the importance of having international connections, like with colleges in Japan—a lot of potential to increase our enrollment by attracting foreign students to our college. Toshi also talked about GIS, computerized mappings. Beyond academia, many community groups have a need for this type of technology. We could target real estate people because they already use some form of GIS technology. We could also target attorneys...again, a lot of potential here.

vi. Margi and Roy suggested that we could set up a database for student feedback concerning the quality of education they feel they received. Margi—as a true social scientist—understands that in order to increase the sample size we need to offer ‘incentives’ for people to fill out surveys, and so she suggested that before the students get to view their grades, that they be taken to the survey. As soon as it’s completed, they could access their grades...just a suggestion.

vii. Roy also talked about the structure of the department, and reminded us that it has never changed, in that it has always included the specific areas of focus—ie, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, etc. Is this something that we may want to change?

viii. The theme of the meeting seemed to be this: What we are able to attain for our Department is based on our own creative forces. What can we imagine? What exactly do we want our new building to look like, for example? What do we want it to include? What do we want to do? There are no boundaries here, so we need to get used to that and tap into our imaginations and academic desires. The next step will be to become more formalized with these wants and needs and compose a formal document for the Deans. The plan is to invite them to one of our meetings and share with them our ideas. By that time, we will be even more focused and our ideas will be so solid that it will be impossible to turn us down.

IV. Think about these ideas for next meeting

a. Next meeting is on February 25th at 3:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm
Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen M. French