FACULTY SENATE MEETING SEPTEMBER 21, 2004
PALANAKILA 117, 12:40 PM

PRESENT: Paul Briggs, Winston Kong, Liko Hoe, Mari Nakamura, Peggy Regentine, Evelyn Sugihara, Elizabeth Ratliff (for M. Tom), Aileen Yim, Dave Ringuette, Floyd McCoy, Laurie Tomchak (recorder) Ben Moffat (presiding)

GUESTS: Linka Corbin-Mulliken
Patti Chong
Lisa Nunes (Student Representative)
Baylina L. Kahalepauole (Student Representative)

Faculty Senate convened at 12:40.

Minutes of April 27th and May 4th were accepted as submitted. The minutes of Sept. 7th were accepted as amended: the counselling position should be described as 1/2 Academic Advising and 1/2 Student Life.

Old Business

1. General Education Requirements and Articulation. Patti Chong and Linka Corbin-Mulliken
Senators were referred to a memo dated June 16th that concerned a choice the college must make between
   a. maintaining the current system of Articulation, submitting courses separately for review and maintaining the separate identity of the WCC AA and
   b. establishing a Common Foundations Program Board and embracing Manoa's hallmarks
The model for the Board would be the Writing Intensive Board (there is a campus committee composed of WCC WI teachers and a systemwide Board with one representative from WCC)

Advantages of b above:
   * courses don't have to be submitted and approved individually
   * students find transfer and articulation faster and more convenient
Disadvantages:
   * Instructional faculty, already stretched thin at a small college like WCC, would have to commit to sitting on the systemwide board
   * WCC loses its distinctive AA degree
   * WCC would have to embrace Manoa's hallmarks

The current Oral Communication Requirement would be replaced by Manoa's Focus Requirement. All of the courses fulfilling this requirement would be upper division and thus could not be satisfied at WCC.

So far, HCC and Kapiolani CC have signed an agreement to establish the Program Board.
Some ramifications of such an agreement were discussed. For example, if a class is chosen for the Global Multicultural Category, it cannot be used for Natural Science or Social Science. (It could be counted as WI however).

Senators were encouraged to decide the matter in view of what was best for the students. Some members wanted to know what percentage of students transfer to Manoa, to consider what percentage would be impacted.

Patti pointed out that some of WCC's popular and unique courses, like Voyaging, might not make it into the diversity core course, and this might hamper their viability.

Members were urged to take the matter back to the departments.

2. More on Plus/Minus--Winston Kong

Winston conveyed Sandi Matsui's concerns about plus/minus grading
The main worry was the effect the changed grading system would have on computing GPA for financial aid and Phi Theta Kappa. WCC has a large percentage of students on financial aid of various types, most of which require a 2.0 average. Also, differences in grading systems between campuses might impact transferability. Grievances by students might increase if some teachers use the system and some don't. Language Arts has voted against adopting plus/minus, while Humanities is for it. Senators were asked to discuss this with their departments for the next meeting.


Currently, Jeff's work involves assisting in compiling accreditation data for WASC. This is also the focus of the System-wide Institutional Research Cadre. 242 items or categories have been elaborated that might be used in accreditation data, and a Data Portfolio (UHCC Data Portfolio Template) was created that each campus might use. An effort is made to establish system-wide definitions of items measured, so we are sure we are all measuring the same things.

The accreditation board is involved in creating a "culture of evidence," creating dialogue and data to support assertions. The Instructional Effectiveness Committee was established to assist in creating such a culture. Some data can be acquired anecdotally, and some is increasingly available from the Banner system. Banner will be upgraded in November to "Banner 6.0" and this should provide more analytical functions, which are currently difficult to manipulate. Confidentiality agreements will be necessary from the Dean to authorize the release of data.

Currently there is a survey of WCC graduates on the IR portion of the WCC website, tracking Liberal Arts and Vocational graduates leaving with or without a degree. It is a relatively small sampling with includes information about satisfaction. IR Data has been used in the preparation of Perkins Reports for Agriculture and Business Programs.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25. The next meeting will discuss Plus/Minus and the N grade. Senators were referred to Floyd's memo on uniformity of grading, particularly the LCC ballot on the three definitions of the N grade.