


UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CENTER

at Maui Community College

MEMORANDUM

April 18, 2007

To: Suzette Robinson
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

From: Karen Muraoka 
Director, University of Hawaii University Center

Subject: Liberal Arts Program Review Assessment

The liberal arts program review assessment committee consists of Dorothy Pyle, Professor of History; Colleen Shishido, Counselor; John Davis, AA graduate and community member; and myself as convener. We met on March 15, 2007, and discussed the October 2006 liberal arts program review report. This memorandum summarizes recommendations from our committee.

Some history on previous AA program assessment efforts is necessary to provide a context for our recommendations. Liberal Arts program reviews had not been conducted for years. Consequently, little historical data was available for analysis. A **conceptual or curricular framework was not in place** for this program review and is necessary for outcomes assessment. In addition, a student tracking system is not available at this time.

Given these circumstances, the report's author, Dr. Robert Wehrman, undertook a comprehensive effort to develop a foundation for future program reviews. He should be commended for setting a solid foundation and spring-board for future program review and assessment efforts.

We concur with the report's recommendations (pp. 8-10) and have some additional recommendations. They are as follows:

- Appoint a liberal arts program coordinator and define the coordinator's responsibilities.
- Closely monitor falling enrollment numbers.
- Work with Counselors to explore Banner system capabilities to determine whether pre-major classification of AA students is possible and then track transferees and graduates as an outcome measure of program success; confirm the increase in students transferring into UH Center programs as an indicator of AA program success.
- Offer more classes that actually meet the community's needs.
- Fill the following vacant tenure-track positions: geography, sociology, music, art, political science, English, math, biology, counseling, and Spanish.

The committee added an important recommendation not addressed in Bob's report. Liberal arts cannot, and should not, be assessed in the same manner as most other MCC CTE instructional programs. Its student needs are far too diverse to fit into specific student learning outcomes. Forcing liberal arts into such a model sheds little light on the actual success of the program. This implies some unconventional outcomes may need to be defined for the AA program.

c: John Davis, AA Graduate
Dorothy Pyle, Professor of History
Colleen Shishido, Counselor
Dr. Robert Wehrman, Humanities Department Chair