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April 27, 2016

Matthew Platz, Ph.D., VCAA, Susan Brown, Ph.D., Interim Dean CAS,
Thom Curtis, Ph.D., Division Chair, Jean Ippolito, Ph.D., Chair UHH Faculty Congress
University of Hawaii at Hilo
200 West Kawili Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Aloha Matt, Susan, Thom and Jean:

This afternoon, the Department of Psychology Faculty met to discuss and consider the four final conceptual models for re-organization that were presented to the UHH Faculty Congress and discussed at a recent town hall meeting by the Faculty Congress Academic Affairs Re-Organization Task Force. I am happy to report to you that the department unanimously identified their preferences for reorganization.

As you may recall, the Department of Psychology at UH Hilo has both an undergraduate B.A. in Psychology degree program and an M.A. degree program in Counseling Psychology. Now celebrating its 45th year, the Psychology Department is one of the original undergraduate degree programs at UH Hilo. Since its inaugural year in 1970, the department has maintained one of the highest graduation rates at UH Hilo, and currently it has the largest undergraduate major count of any single department at UH Hilo. In addition to providing UH Hilo students with rigorous and challenging courses, faculty members maintain active research programs that involve students and over the years have attracted hundreds of thousands of dollars in extramural support. Currently, the Psychology Department faculty consists of 11 members who cover a diverse range of the major areas in the field of Psychology. The diversity of expertise of our faculty reflects the fact that Psychology itself, as a scientific discipline, is wide reaching with roots in biology, behavior, and mental health. Given this background, I believe you can appreciate the vested interest the Psychology Department has in any university restructuring plan.

Psychology Department

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After a full discussion of the four proposed conceptual models for re-organization, the Psychology Department Faculty unanimously **voted in favor of Model AA. Traditional units.** This model would house the Department of Psychology within a College of Social Sciences (without CoBE). Our decision reflects the fact that Psychology is best characterized as a social science.

Further, the department also **voted against being relocated in any group with allied health (Models B and BB)**, because, as noted above, Psychology as a discipline is a multi-faceted social science that is not dominated by issues related to mental health. Rather, mental health (clinical and counseling psychology) is just one branch of a much broader field that includes learning, cognition, biopsychology, neuroscience, developmental psychology, abnormal psychology, social psychology, personality, industrial and organizational psychology, and community psychology.

As one of the largest departments at UH Hilo, it is the Psychology Department's wish that you take into consideration its preferences for reorganization. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss this issue further and look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam A. Pack".

Adam A. Pack, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Chair

Psychology Department

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