



To: Jene Michaud, Chair of the Geology Department

From: Kris Roney, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Subject: VCAA Feedback on Languages Program Review

CC: Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor
Brian Wissman, Interim Dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences
Seri Luangphinith, Accreditation Liaison Officer

This document is intended for the department's reflection on their review and the subsequent feedback as they prepare the Academic Plan for the next 5-year cycle for review.

Based on the scope of feedback for Geology and discussions with the department, the following covers the critical areas of focus for the next 5-year plan, some of which are within the direct span of control of the faculty, and some of which are University-held.

First, the assessment planning and processes must continue to grow and improve, both in terms of the engagement with campuswide assessment practice and in the program assessments. The ALO provides excellent guidance to this end, and the faculty should include a clear assessment plan that spans five years in the scope of their coming plan. As we discussed, the 5-year plan should include consideration for pedagogical professional development for faculty, a plan for which should be developed with consultation with the Director of the Center for Community Engagement.

Second, as I discussed with the department, the new volcanologist is an excellent start to growing enrollment and modernizing the curriculum where needed (which should be grounded in assessments and reviews of current directions for the discipline and subdisciplines). Nowhere else are students provided with the sorts of fieldwork opportunities both on island and off that the UHH Geology department provide to students. The curriculum should continue to meet the opportunities, including through continued or new interdisciplinary engagements with other departments. In other staffing matters, the department should present a plan to the college for both faculty and staff needs in light of coming retirements. In those plans, the relationship with C-SAV should be supported and perpetuated.

Third would be, as is pointed out throughout the reviews, the facilities. This is beyond the span of direct control for faculty, but the University acknowledges that College Hall needs both cosmetic and more invasive attention and needs to be prioritized. The cosmetic (as one faculty put it "even a new coat of paint!") is more essential than might sometimes be imagined and needs to be included in immediate and longer-term planning.

Finally, as discussed with the faculty, this department is rich with opportunities for engagement with donors and is encouraged to work on the coming campaign on matters related to fundraising around student fieldwork off island (particularly the summer efforts) to permit students and faculty to engage without substantial funding from their own pockets. Likewise, this program is one on campus that would be an excellent place for an endowed chair or faculty member—again, it is a program that can do and engage things no other program can. Faculty should consider working within the campaign on bringing such priorities forward.

Mahalo for your work in this substantial and essential effort.

Yours,

Kris Roney

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Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs