

**Memorandum of Understanding
2010-11 Program Review
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
College of Arts and Sciences
April 2011**

Members of the Geography and Environmental Studies (GES) faculty, the Dean and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs met on April 29, 2011 to review and discuss the GES Department's program review. The self-study by the GES Department (on file), the report by the external reviewer (on file), the Dean's summary table of the external reviewer's report (on file), and a departmental response to the recommendations of the external reviewer prepared by the Chair of GES (on file) were the basis for the discussion. The group agreed upon the summary points and action plan that follow:

Summary Points:

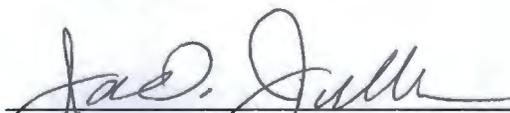
- 1) The GES Department offers three baccalaureate degrees: a BA in Geography, a BA in Environmental Studies, and a BS in Environmental Science. It also offers a minor in Geography, and participates in undergraduate certificate programs in Land-Use Planning, Environmental Studies, and Pacific Island Studies. The faculty in the Department also participate in the graduate program in Tropical Conservation Biology and Ecological Studies (TCBES), the UH EPSCoR program, and the UHH CREST grant program.
- 2) The GES Department's teaching facilities include a GIS/Cartography lab, which is essential to the success of the department's programs. The lab manager is currently on temporary soft (grant) funds. The external reviewer recommends that a permanent half-or full-time lab manager be hired.
- 3) The number of undergraduate majors in Geography has remained fairly steady over the last few years (~40 majors per year), but the number of majors in Environmental Studies and Environmental Science has increased significantly (~70 per year). The external reviewer believes that the Department should take these data into account in reevaluating the future core focus of the department.
- 4) From a teaching standpoint, the six FTE faculty members in the GES Department usually operate as 4-4.5 FTE due to course releases ("buy-outs") owing to grant and contract awards. This stresses the department's ability to offer a full complement of lower-division (L/D) and upper-division (U/D) courses to support three majors, several certificates, and maintain active involvement with the TCBES program. The external reviewer recommends using funds from course buyouts and existing lecturer funds to hire a full-time instructor or tenure-track faculty member.
- 5) The Department anticipates losing two senior faculty members to retirement. The external reviewer recommends that the faculty work on a hiring plan to replace these two senior faculty members, taking into account the future core focus of the department.
- 6) The Department has a van that is heavily used for field-related student activities and faculty research. This vehicle is in need of replacement due to its age and operational condition.
- 7) The Department gave up lab space to accommodate the Keaholoa STEM program and the EPSCoR grant. The Department needs to recover this space, or obtain new lab space elsewhere, to offer lab sections for GEOG 101, GEOG/PHYS 120, and ENSC 100, all of which need lab reinforcement to

support student learning the fact that they are NS courses is not as relevant as that students need hands-on learning opportunity.

Action Plan:

- 1) The GES Department will engage in a data-driven re-evaluation of the future core focus of the Department and its curriculum in light of growing student interest in Environmental Studies and Environmental Science. The GES Department will hold a faculty retreat as soon as possible, and continue the reassessment and redesign process throughout the 2011-12 academic year.
- 2) The GES Department will develop a future hiring plan that takes into account (a) its reevaluated core focus, (b) the anticipated retirement of two of its senior faculty members, and (c) the needs of its GIS/Cartography Lab. In view of the positive program review of GES, and its significant contribution to the UHH mission of integrating the Big Island's "natural laboratory" in instructional offerings, the Dean of CAS, in turn, will place a high priority on the replacement of retiring faculty in GES in accordance with its hiring plan.
- 3) The Dean of CAS recognizes the importance of the GES Department's van for student field trips and research activities, and understands that the department's vehicle (which it shares with the Anthropology Department) is in need of replacement soon. CAS will seek funding to purchase a replacement vehicle for GES and Anthropology as soon as possible.
- 4) The GES Department has decided that Dr. Kathryn Besio will become Department Chair effective January 1st 2012.
- 5) The GES Department will begin (effective Spring 2012) offering large enrollment (80+ students) introductory GE courses provided suitable classroom venues (e.g., UCB 100, S&T Building auditorium) are provided for those classes.
- 6) The CAS Dean will seek appropriate space where labs sections may be offered to support GE courses (GEOG 101 and ENS 100)

Signatures


James Juvik, Chair

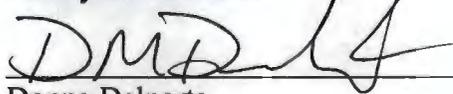
Dec 5, 2011
Date


Kathryn Besio

Dec 6, 2011
Date


Jeffrey/Sasha Davis

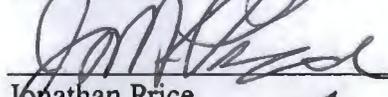
Dec. 5, 2011
Date


Donna Delparte

Dec 5, 2011
Date


Sonia Juvik

Dec 5, 2011
Date


Jonathan Price

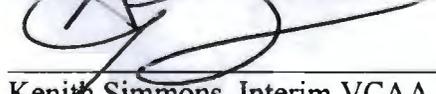
Dec. 5 2011
Date


B. Christopher Frueh

DEC 08 2011
Date


Randy Hirokawa, CAS Dean

Date ✓


Kenith Simmons, Interim VCAA

JAN 04 2012
Date