



July 16, 2014

MEMO TO: Kimberly Furumo, Chair
Faculty Congress

FROM: Donald Straney
Chancellor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald Straney".

SUBJECT: Faculty Congress' Motion to Designate Online Lab Courses as different from In-class, Hands-on Lab Courses

Although I sympathize with the Faculty Congress' Motion to Designate Online Lab Courses as different from "In-class, Hands-on Lab Courses", I feel that I must disapprove the motion as written.

The motion does not sufficiently define the concept of "Online Lab Courses". Many physical science courses require students to use internet resources to find information, to rehearse for laboratory, and to perform calculations in conjunction with classical laboratory work. Should these hybrid classes be designated "on-line"?

I understand that there is concern that transfer students who have taken "on-line" courses are not prepared for UH Hilo laboratories. Unfortunately, this motion does not solve that problem. To deal with this concern, I direct VCAA Platz to initiate discussions at the Council of Chief Academic Officers to develop a system-wide policy.

Cc: Matthew Platz
Jan Ray
Jean Ippolito
Helen Rogers
Cathy Travis