LISTENING TOUR 2010: MEETING FOR RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS, STUDENT EMPLOYEES AND STUDENT ATHLETES
OCTOBER 28TH 2010

This note represents a summary of the meeting held for residential students, student employees and student athletes October 28th 2010 as part of the 2010 Listening Tour to prepare for development of the next UH Hilo Strategic Plan. The summary reflects the collection of individual comments made, not necessarily the consensus view of the entire group or the official view of UH Hilo. The order of the note may not necessarily reflect the order of the discussion.

Strengths of UH Hilo
The group identified the following as key strengths of UH Hilo:

- Campus layout
  - The layout of the campus is good as most areas are accessible quickly and easily

- Good atmosphere during the weekdays

- Classes
  - Classes run smoothly and on the whole are well organized
  - Class sizes are small meaning that students can easily consult with faculty

- University administrators are accessible to students

- Facilities
  - Good gym and pool

- Student-life activities
  - Events, concerts

Weaknesses of UH Hilo
The group identified the following as key weaknesses of UH Hilo:

- No skateboarding allowed
  - There appear to be many restrictions against skateboarding in/around campus that are enforced by security.
    - The policy on skateboarding is unclear and security are enforcing restrictions that may not be appropriate e.g. against skateboarding on public roads, in car parks
Whilst skateboarders appreciate that skateboarding on campus property during the day in the campus is not appropriate given potential to cause injury to others (as for riding bicycles around campus), it was suggested that university administrators meet with skateboarders to determine where it might be safe for them to practice their sport. For example, the road by 'Imiloa is closed from 10pm to 6am each night – could skateboarders be allowed to practice there once the road is closed? Could skateboarders, like other sports where risk or injury to self/others is involved, sign a waiver form to release the university from any liability, and carry some sort of identification with them to prove they are signed such a form?

- Little school spirit
  - This could perhaps be improved by having a stronger athletics department and forming a UH Hilo football team

- Dormitories
  - Dry halls (no alcohol rule) policy
  - The dorms could be cleaner

- Infrastructure
  - Lack of covered walkways for the entire campus
  - The campus itself is not aesthetically pleasing
    - The grounds should be as well kept as those at 'Imiloa
  - Building improvements have primarily been made to the top-end of the campus leaving the bottom-end less well improved

- No obvious main entrance to the university – the lower corner of the university by Lanikaula St. does not have a clear sign to indicate that beyond that point lies that campus.

- Poor library opening hours
  - Library opening hours should be extended or another study area identified for students to utilize

- Technology
  - More power points (plug sockets) are required
  - Many shared computers are outdated and slow

**Challenges for UH Hilo**
The group identified the following as challenges for UH Hilo:

- How to increase capacity – i.e. grow the student body – whilst ensuring that such growth can be accommodated and support (e.g. student housing)

- How to improve recognition of the university
Marketing needs to improve to better promote UH Hilo to the local community. Such marketing efforts need to begin internally so that faculty, staff and students know what great things go on here and what they can be proud of.

**Priorities for UH Hilo**
The group suggested that UH Hilo should focus on the following priorities over the coming years:

- **Growth** – and ensuring support for growth
- **Improve the university’s visibility within the community** (i.e. improve marketing, communication and university-community partnerships)
- **Improve school spirit**
  - Develop a stronger athletics program
  - Stop charging students to attend UH Hilo athletics events. Even though it is only $2 for student tickets the fact that is a charge at all is off putting to some students

**Appropriateness of the Current UHH Strategic Goals**
The group discussed the current UHH strategic goals and made the following comments:

**General points:**
- The goals generally look good and seem to have everything necessary
- Implementation of the goals is the main challenge
- There is nothing in the current goals about working to prepare students for the workforce