**MINUTES OF THE NINETH MEETING OF THE UH HILO STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Date: January 14th, 2011  
Time: 8-10am  
Location: Private Dining Room, Campus Center, UH Hilo

**Attendees:**  
Thora Abarca   Barry Mark  
Kainoa Ariola   Sián Millard (notes)  
Kelly Burke (chair)   Maria Haws  
Jim Cromwell   Elizabeth Stacy  
Dec Drozario   Pila Wilson (9-10am)  
Mazen Hamad   Harry Yada  
Gail Makuakane-Lundin   Errol Yudko

**Apologies:**  
Jackie Johnson  
Karen Pellegrin  
Tracey Niimi  
Marcia Sakai

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1. **Announcements/Questions from Stakeholders**

Kelly asked members to relay any feedback they had received from colleagues since the last meeting:

- The opening Hawaiian statement to the mission statement could be read as a ‘moto’ rather than part of the mission itself. The SPC acknowledged this but see the traditional Hawaiian phrase as encompassing the main mission statement.

- A different version of the mission statement had been circulating in some groups with the heading that it was developed by the committee. Gail and Elizabeth were tasked with determining how a different version of the mission statement had come to pass, and to clarify the matter with the relevant groups.

2. **Minutes of the 8th SPC meeting (09/11)**

There were no additions or amendments to the minutes of the eighth meeting. The minutes were therefore approved.

3. **Draft vision development (09/11 and 10/11)**

The committee began their discussion with a draft vision statement that the drafting subcommittee had developed:
UH Hilo will be a university of choice by providing rich opportunities and a vibrant learning community for our students to thrive, compete, innovate and lead in their professional and personal lives. We will be distinguished by:

- fostering learning and achievement through a caring and engaging environment;
- working together across differences to tackle real-world problems;
- providing students with applied experience connected to the people, culture, geography or environment of Hawaii; and
- weaving cultural knowledge and ways of knowing into the fabric of our university’s academic and social activities.

The committee organized their discussion around the good points of the statements and then what needed amendment.

**Good points**

- It reflects a lot of the discussion that occurred at the previous SPC meeting in that the statement captures the spirit of that discussion. It is comprehensive and non-controversial.
- It points to what will ‘distinguish us’ – i.e. how we will be different or recognized. What will make us stand-out
- It is easy to read and much of it is clear. A High School student could read it and make sense of it.
- It elicits good imagery through words like ‘vibrant’, ‘weaving’ and ‘fabric’
- For the most part it avoids jargon e.g. deliberate avoidance of terms like ‘integrative learning’
- It represents a good launching pad into goals/strategies
- ‘Working together’ is an important point to emphasize increased collaboration and cross-working at the university

**Areas to change**

- Differences – should this be disciplines? It was noted that ‘differences’ represents more than just academic disciplines in that differences encompasses diversity like gender, culture, ethnicity etc
- In being comprehensive, the statement is too long.
- There is some overlap in the bullets and the leading sentence.
- The leading sentence is very generic and could apply to any university. However it was noted that the bullets then position UH Hilo.
- The term ‘university of choice’ seems redundant as all students make choices on where to attend university. What is meant by this is that UH Hilo won’t be a second or third choice, but a first choice. This does not come across clearly in the statement.
- We need to look and reference broader than Hawaii.
- It misses referencing UH Hilo as a ‘community of scholars’ that was discussed at the previous meeting. This phrase is liked because of the reference to UH Hilo as a community working together and raising the bar with regards to how students are perceived and perceive themselves. It’s not clear however whether ‘scholar’s’ refers to both students and faculty/staff, or if it’s just faculty.
- ‘Applied experience’ – it’s not clear what makes experience ‘applied’. ‘Practical’ may be better to convey the concept of applying learning.
Preparing students to ‘thrive, compete, innovate and lead in their professional and personal lives’ is the outcome. Wanting to give students experiences at university that help prepare them for the complexities of the workforce and civic life by applying their learning.

Is it ‘tackle real world issues’, ‘solve real world problems’ or ‘address real world issues’?

Some alternative statements that came up during the committee’s discussions included:

- UH Hilo provides every student applied experience connected to the people, culture, geography or environment of Hawaii and creating a community of scholars for students to thrive, compete, innovate and lead in their professional and personal lives.

- UH Hilo is a community of scholars working to tackle real-world issues, providing every student with relevant experience connected to the people, culture, geography or environment of Hawaii.

- UH Hilo is a community of scholars working together to prepare students to thrive, compete, innovate and lead in their professional and personal lives by providing practical experience connected to the people, culture, geography and environment in Hawaii.

- UH Hilo is a community of scholars, providing every student with practical experience to make a positive impact on the people, culture, geography and environment of Hawaii and beyond.

The final version of the draft settled on by the committee was:

UH Hilo is a community of scholars working together across disciplines and differences to address real world issues. Every student engages in practical experiences connected to the people and environment of Hawai`i, preparing them to compete, innovate, and lead in their professional and personal lives.

Post-meeting note: Following the meeting it was noticed that sentence one was in the present tense and sentence two in the future tense. The committee had an email discussion about the ‘tense’ that the statement should be written in – future or present. In future-tense it would be clear that the statement references a desired future, but it may not ‘grow’ with the statement over time (that is, in 2019 we’d still be saying ‘UH Hilo will be’ when we should have made good head-way in reaching the vision for 2020). In the present-tense, it could be misinterpreted as a mission statement or as things we already do, but it would ‘grow’ with the university and seems more concrete. The committee decided to go with the present tense and therefore amended the statement to read:

UH Hilo is a community of scholars working together across disciplines and differences to address real world issues. Every student engages in practical experiences connected to the people and environment of Hawai`i, preparing them to compete, innovate, and lead in their professional and personal lives.

The committee therefore agreed to issue this version of the vision statement for consultation.

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<th>Mission/vision consultation (11/11)</th>
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<td>Members did not have time to discuss this paper at the meeting but were referred to it for information regarding how the consultation will be advertised.</td>
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<th>Summary of actions and close</th>
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<td>Kelly had to leave the meeting early so Siân took over as meeting lead.</td>
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<td>Siân confirmed that the resulting draft vision statement would be issued for consultation from the week commencing January 17th for consultation. She reminded members that the next SPC meeting was arranged</td>
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Sián thanked members for their time and input and closed the meeting.