1. Overview

Attendees = 5

Attendee stakeholder groups: 3 x faculty, 1 x APT staff, 1 x student

This note is a summary of the second open town-hall session held for UH Hilo stakeholders on January 25\(^{th}\) 2011 in relation to the draft mission and vision statements. The summary reflects individual comments made and not necessarily the consensus of all present or the official view of UH Hilo.

2. Introduction

Attendees received an introduction to the strategic planning process and were then shown the draft mission and vision statements. Participants were then asked for their feedback on these draft statements by responding to two questions for each one – what, if anything, they liked about the draft mission/vision, and what, if anything, they would like to change/amend in the draft statements. The resulting summary is organized around these two questions for both the draft mission and the draft vision.


'A'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi
One learns from many sources

UH Hilo is committed to interactive learning, discovery, and creativity to benefit our increasingly intercultural communities.

3.1 What, if anything, do you like about this draft mission statement?

The Hawaiian wise-saying at the start because it speaks to our identity and sense of place.

It is inclusive and not just relevant to one particular stakeholder group.

It highlights the importance of learning being able to take place outside of the classroom.

It signals clear strategic intent with which the statement describes learning as a process.
3.2 *What, if anything, do you think should be changed/added to the draft mission?*

*benefit our increasingly intercultural communities*

The word ‘benefit’ is unclear with regards to how it relates to learning and discovery. How does learning and discovery benefit communities?

Does the word ‘increasingly’ need to be there?

It is not clear though whether ‘our increasingly intercultural communities’ refers just to the university’s internal community (faculty, staff, students) or whether it refers to external communities or both. The relationship between local and global is unclear and the term ‘community’ therefore needs to be defined some more.

‘Intercultural’ in itself may be too narrow – perhaps ‘interdependent and diverse’ as an alternative.

This entire phrase could be interpreted as UH Hilo developing a community with intercultural elements or that these ‘increasingly intercultural’ communities already exist and UH Hilo seeks to benefit them.

*Other comments*

Focus: The draft statement is a bit too generic and therefore does not seem to give a clear focus for the university. It could explicitly reference who we serve to help give that focus.

4. **Summary Comments – Draft Vision Statement**

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 Hawaii, preparing them to compete, innovate, and lead in their professional and personal lives.

4.1 *What, if anything, do you like about this draft vision statement?*

*General*

It seems to be measurable and attainable

It is aspirational in many ways and the language seems to ‘work’, but it perhaps lacks an inspiring edge

‘connected to the people and environment of Hawai’i’

The focus on the local context is good as it recognizes the importance of our own ‘home’. The phrase essentially references the Big Island as a learning laboratory.

‘preparing them to compete, innovate, and lead in their professional and personal lives’

Good focus of preparing students for their ‘professional and personal lives’
4.2 What, if anything, do you think should be changed/added to the draft vision?

‘community of scholars’

This phrase implies just professors. Alternative suggestion – ‘community of learners’

‘working together across disciplines and differences to address real world issues’

The implication is that UH Hilo does not operate as an ivory tower but is connected to the real-world through cross-disciplinary working and the application of multiple methodologies. ‘Real-world’ is however an overused, cliché term.

Alternative to ‘real-world’: ‘pressing issues’, significant issues’, ‘substantive issues’, ‘meaningful issues’

‘Every student engages in practical experiences’

No all experiences have to be ‘practical’. This term is perhaps too narrow.

‘connected to the people and environment of Hawai‘I’

‘People’ does not specifically refer to ‘culture’ – perhaps it should.

Other comments

The vision statement needs to be shorter so that it’s easier to remember.

It needs to be more inspiring