SUMMARY NOTE OF TOWN HALL SESSION 3 FOR THE DRAFT MISSION AND VISION CONSULTATION

January 26th 2011

1. Overview

Attendees = 6

Attendee stakeholder groups: 5 x APT staff, 1 x faculty

This note is a summary of the third open town-hall session held for UH Hilo stakeholders on January 26th 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.

The reference to interactive learning and discovery as this is part of what the university wants to promote to attract students.

3.2 What, if anything, do you think should be changed/added to the draft mission?
‘interactive learning, discovery, and creativity’

Is creativity the right word?

‘benefit our increasingly intercultural communities’

The word ‘increasingly’ doesn’t need to be there

Other comments

Flow: The Hawaiian wise-saying and remainder of the draft mission statement does not flow well. Perhaps start and end with a Hawaiian wise-saying?

The Hawaiian wise-saying may not be the most appropriate. It sounds like a student could go to any school to learn – why choose UH Hilo? Perhaps adjust the Hawaiian wise-saying, or create a new phrase, that directly references the university.

The words are generally ‘nice’ but they do not convey enough ‘action’ or energy

The draft statement is not necessarily unique and struggles to reflect who we actually are. The Hawaiian-phrase at the start is a ‘nod’ to our unique cultural and geographic environment, but that is then lost in the remainder of the mission statement.

We should take a strong stance on being a Hawaiian place of learning and use Hawaiian words within the draft mission statement (e.g. Ā’ina – land, or kulena – responsibility) to emphasize that.


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?

‘working together across disciplines and differences’

This is a strong statement acknowledging that differences can be tough but that we prioritize working together and learning from each other to solve problems.

In terms of ‘differences’, that was interpreted as differences in backgrounds, cultures etc.

‘Every student’

This is bold

‘practical experiences’
Good in terms of referencing out-of-classroom learning

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

This phrase acknowledges the importance of place.

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

This is a sellable point in terms of telling students we will help them to become leaders in their field and prepare them for the workforce.

4.2 What, if anything, do you think should be changed/added to the draft vision?

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

‘real-world’ issues – does this include theoretical issues?

A suggested amendment was ‘collective differences’

Other comments

It needs to be more inspiring – the draft statement doesn’t currently excite

Although reference to Hawai‘i in the second sentence is good, there needs also to be reference to the ‘global’ context. UH Hilo is a global community in miniature and we want to prepare students to succeed here and globally.