Endorsement Progress

Action required: SPC members are asked to:

- Note the current progress with the endorsement survey and discuss whether to extend the survey deadline.
- Note the outcome of Hanakahi Council endorsement of the plan
- Discuss how to handle feedback from the endorsement process and how to communicate to stakeholders any changes to the document from the final draft

1. Endorsement Survey

Indications so far regarding endorsement are positive. At the time of writing (Fri morning), 97 people have responded to the endorsement survey. Faculty is the majority responder (56 so far). Overall, 90.7% indicate endorsement. The remainder do not endorse.

The endorsement survey is due to close today (Friday May 13th). The committee is asked to discuss whether they wish to extend the deadline a few more days to Tuesday May 17th to give more time for people to respond.

2. Hanakahi Council vote

At their meeting on Wednesday May 11th, Hanakahi Council met to discuss endorsement of the final draft of the strategic plan. After discussion the Council decided not to endorse the plan. This was because they felt reference to UH Hilo’s unique responsibility to Native Hawaiian students was not strong enough in Goal 4. The Council said that they would endorse the plan if the current action 4.3 was split out – with the latter part about serving Native Hawaiian students separated as a separate action and elevated to the ‘priority actions’ group.

The Chancellor requested a meeting with Siân, Gail and Kainoa to discuss the outcome of the vote and to find a solution. The Chancellor agreed with Hanakahi that although reference to serving native Hawaiian students is made in the current version of the plan and stated under the ‘who we are’ section, he understood the Council’s concern that the way in which that reference is structured
in action 4.3 did not emphasize that responsibility enough. The Chancellor therefore decided to make the following changes to the plan:

- He will make specific and unambiguous reference in his introduction to the university’s commitment to serving native Hawaiian students and that this is a central tenant of the plan (as is the graduation initiative).

- That action 4.3 be amended and split into two sentences to read:
  
  ‘Implement a comprehensive plan to cultivate, sustain and reflect diversity in the academic and social activities of UH Hilo. Ensure that the university addresses its unique state responsibilities to students of Native Hawaiian ancestry.

- That the re-worded action 4.3 be elevated to the ‘priority action’ grouping as development of a clear diversity plan, that takes into account the university’s responsibilities to Native Hawaiian students, would be critical to progressing the entire goal.

Apart from the addition to the Chancellor’s introduction, these constitute structural changes rather than substantive text amendments.

Hanakahi Council voted on these proposed amendments yesterday (Thursday May 12th) and those who responded (9 of the original 14 at the meeting) unanimously supported the Chancellor’s suggested changes and endorsed the plan.

3. Feedback on the plan

As expected, some respondents are providing feedback on the plan itself as well as the process. In particular, there seems to be a push from people involved with global exchange to make explicit reference to this area in the plan. Members will recall that originally we had an action dedicated to study abroad. This action was then amalgamated within the action on multicultural fluency, and then at the meeting on Monday May 9th members agreed to remove all specific references to activities that could promote multicultural fluency to make that action broader in scope. The committee is asked to consider how they wish to respond to this feedback, and other relevant comments, if at all.