Although current goals of the division align to support our campus wide priorities, there exist no current learning objectives connected to these goals. This will change very soon however, as the division will welcome in a new VCSA by the conclusion of the Fall 2014 semester.

Recent History

In December of 2009, a Strategic Plan Implementation Team (SPIT) was convened by the VCSA to formulate goals and strategies related to the Vision, Mission, and Operating Principles of the Division. The Chancellor’s cabinet endorsed these findings in January of 2009. In July of 2010, Dr. Donald Straney assumed his role as UH Hilo’s new Chancellor. One of the first priorities of his tenure was to launch a campus-wide strategic planning process leading to the creation of a new plan by May of 2011. Given so, the VCSA at the time, along with the SPIT, created an interim Strategic Plan for the Division of Student Affairs. The document was created to guide the current priorities of the division while the campus-wide strategic plan was being developed and finalized. As the campus weathered through the economic crisis of the time, institutional and divisional challenges slowed efforts to continue or finalize an updated strategic plan. Since that time, there has been no renewed effort to move the SPIT agenda forward. A final blow to the process came with the departure of the VCSA in April of 2014. An interim VCSA has been appointed and a current national search is underway to name a new VCSA by the conclusion of the Fall 2014 semester.

Moving Forward

Significant changes will come to the division in AY 14-15, most notably in the naming of a new VCSA. Assessment of divisional priorities will continue as we usher in a new era of leadership. A reconvening of the SPIT may be part of this new era, or not, as the new VCSA may prefer to pursue different avenues for divisional planning and evaluation. Rather than remaining in a holding pattern however, directives have been formulated under the leadership of the interim VSCA to move the divisional assessment agenda forward, including a plan for program review of individual units. Furthermore, there is evidence to indicate a unified culture of assessment emerging in the division – including a division-wide adoption of standards proscribed by The Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS). A pathway has been laid for the incoming VCSA to proceed with divisional vision and planning. A sure priority will be for he/she to establish a clear set of Student Affairs Learning Objectives. It is hopeful that this can be completed by the conclusion of AY 15-16.