

Response to Previous Reviews

Per the Final Report of the WASC Visiting Team (October 14-15, 2009), the following recommendations were made. Each recommendation is followed by specific efforts to address them.

1. That the University move forward with implementation of the curricular planning and policy review and approval process developed by the Task Force on Shared Governance.
 - a. The Task Force on Shared Governance met and created precursors to what are now the Faculty Congress' flow charts for Academic Policy and Curriculum/Program Review:
 - <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/policies/documents/PolicyProposalflowchartNotesFINAL10-6-09.pdf>
 - <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/policies/documents/CurriculumReviewFlowDiagramNotes10-6-09-FINAL.pdf>
 - b. The Congress' Academic Policy Committee is currently considering minor changes to these flowcharts.
2. That the university administration allocate resources to provide for oversight of curriculum planning and development.
 - a. The entire UH System now has in place Curriculum Central to provide tracking and transparency in course and program creation and modifications. Information on Curriculum Central can be found at:
<http://hilo.hawaii.edu/curriculumcentral/>
 - b. UH Hilo has appointed two faculty to help facilitate Curriculum Central:
Curriculum Central Campus Administrator: Jon Awaya
Academic Affairs Liaison to Curriculum Central: Jean Ippolito
3. That the University develop appropriate administrative oversight of graduate education.
 - a. UH Hilo hosts a Graduate Council that is "charged with the authority to certify graduate training personnel who are not full time UH Hilo faculty, determine eligibility of UH Hilo faculty to serve as graduate committee chairs and/or primary academic advisors, and to grant exceptions to graduate admissions standards upon petitions by graduate programs."
 - b. For more information, please see: <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/academics/graduate/council/>
4. That university administration provide leadership for further development of programmatic student outcomes assessment. Special attention should be paid to this recommendation in preparation for the next WASC reaccreditation review.
 - a. The Faculty Congress and the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs have just approved new Program Review Guidelines that meet the standards set forth in the 2013 Handbook of Accreditation. The new guidelines will be uploaded to the WASC dropbox along with the Institutional Report.

- b. Congress recently established the Program Review Advisory Committee to provide peer-guidance on the new processes outlined in the 2013 guidelines.
- 5. That the Enrollment Management Implementation Team continue to work with Institutional Research in the implementation of the newly developed enrollment planning and management processes.
 - a. UH Hilo's Enrollment Management Implementation Team (EMIT) was established in Fall 2008 in response to an unprecedented number of entering new freshmen that semester. Co-chaired by the Vice Chancellors for Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, EMIT is comprised of the deans and division chairs of the academic colleges as well as various administrative affairs and student affairs personnel whose roles/responsibilities have an impact on student recruitment and retention. During the initial 2-3 years of its existence, EMIT focused its work primarily on academic course scheduling models, projecting seat/section/course demand, and addressing a wide array of academic policy barriers to student throughput, e.g., priority registration order. It also tackled such issues as the non-resident enrollment cap, the role of financial aid and scholarships in student success, and a campus brand to inform new student recruitment. Beginning in Fall 2011, EMIT led efforts to pilot Freshmen Guaranteed Academic Schedules following extensive study and consultation; UH Hilo just completed the third of year of implementation for this initiative.
 - b. Since Fall 2011, EMIT has also shifted its focus more explicitly to a strategic enrollment management; this is commensurate with a decline in state funding support, rendering UH Hilo for the first time in its institutional history substantially tuition-revenue dependent in order to advance its strategic priorities and institutional goals. Further, it has made efforts to be more data-driven and evidence based in its decision-making efforts, relying on technical assistance and expertise from the Education Delivery Institute, Complete College America, Education Trust, and other similar organizations. As a result, EMIT has coordinated efforts to expand the Freshmen Guaranteed Academic Schedules to include four-year academic maps (including identification of major milestones), examined strategies for early warning/early intervention with students in academic distress, and initiated movement towards an intrusive advising/coaching model, as well as commenced planning for a Freshmen Village, slated to be piloted in Fall 2014. Grounded in the national literature and scholarship on best practices, all of these initiatives are intended to improve student retention and reduce time to degree. Some aspects of EMIT's work are addressed in greater detail in Essay 3. Note that all efforts also support one of the three strategic priorities for the UH System: the Hawaii Graduation Initiative.

6. That the faculty of the College of Hawaiian Language, including the Ph.D. faculty in HILCR, continue to implement its assessment plan and be prepared to show data, analysis and results in the next WASC reaccreditation review.”
7. That the HILCR doctoral program work with administration to secure the resources needed to develop a viable doctoral culture at UH Hilo.
8. That WASC carefully review the HILCR doctoral program in its next scheduled visit since many of their plans cannot be implemented until the program begins accepting doctoral students again.

A separate report, submitted by Pila Wilson of KH'UOK, constitutes a detailed response to items six through eight. That report will be directly uploaded to the WASC dropbox.

Additional Items:

9. Update on Psychology (DL)

Essay One addresses Psychology's assessment work (pp. 33-35). A separate report, prepared by previous chair, Cheryl Ramos, and submitted by Dawna Coutant of Psychology, on behalf of the department, responds to the WASC substantive change recommendation that "The psychology department program should report on progress made in developing and utilizing learning outcomes assessment for the next WASC accreditation visit" (Item 6, p. 2)

http://hilo.hawaii.edu/uhh/accreditation/documents/SCActionReport_120608.UHH.BAinPsychology.IA.pdf

Please note that Psychology has since received Commission Approval (June 27, 2012)

10. Continuing Momentum of Assessment and Program Review

- a. Essay One narrates the changing climate of assessment at UH Hilo through developing faculty expertise/leadership (pp. 23-29) and the development of new Program Review Guidelines (pp. 29-30).
- b. Essay Two narrates the ongoing efforts at benchmarking freshman writing via direct assessment (pp. 47-55 as well as the rolling out of graduation proficiency assessment in AY 2013-2014 (pp. 53-54). Both efforts are based on WASC requirements that institutions move towards assessing core competencies (CFR 2.2a) and gathering evidence of "performance expected at graduation" (2013 *Handbook of Accreditation*, p. 28)

11. Financial Review

Comments by the Financial Committee were not received in time for this report.

12. Retention/Graduation review

Per the R&G Committee Report (May 24, 2013), the following recommendations were made to UH Hilo: (1) Work more closely with peer institutions to secure more data for comparisons, and (2) increase attention on the importance of adequate institutional research staffing.

- a. UH Hilo is beginning to work more closely with the UH System Institutional Research Office, which is providing increased levels of support for UH Hilo data analysis;
- b. Tentative talks have begun on the legal procedures necessary for data sharing.
- c. The current Institutional Researcher, Kelli Okamura, is a recent (August 1, 2013) casual hire and is thus receiving additional mentoring from the former IR (Mason Kuo) and from faculty who have expertise in gathering institutional data (Susan Brown and Marta DeMaintenon)