November 21, 2006

To: Faculty Senate Chair: Barbara Leonard, UH Hilo
    Mark Hanson, UH West Oahu
    Jill Savage, Hawai‘i CC
    Camela Tamme, Kaua‘i CC
    Daniel Kruse, Maui CC

From: Joel Weiner
      Chair, UHM Foundations Board

Subject: Participation in the UHM Foundations Multicampus Agreement

As you may know, there is a multicampus agreement dealing with the articulation of General Education Foundations courses. The campuses currently part of this agreement are UH Mānoa, Kapi‘olani CC and Honolulu CC (with Leeward CC and Windward CC moving in that direction). The Foundations Boards on the three member campuses are in consultation, but certify Foundations courses independently; the only common activity required is an annual joint review of each campus's Foundations program. All three campuses have the same expectations for Foundations courses, expectations that are applied when considering course proposals and renewals.

Every other campus in the UH system that wants any of its courses to articulate to UH Mānoa as a Foundations course must seek approval and renewal from the UHM Mānoa Foundations Board. If these campuses were to join the multicampus agreement, they would certify their own courses just as Kapi‘olani CC, Honolulu CC, and UH Mānoa already do.

This year the UH Mānoa Foundations Board has 20 Mānoa courses to review for five-year renewal. In addition, the Board needs to review 59 courses for renewal from Hawai‘i CC, Kaua‘i CC, Leeward CC, Maui CC, UH Hilo and Windward CC. All of these courses cannot be reviewed in one year. Consequently many of these 59 courses will not be reviewed until at the earliest next academic year.

Because of this situation, and because of the potential benefits of full system participation, the UHM Foundations Board would like to encourage every campus to become part of the multicampus agreement. Those who wish to join will need to officially establish a Foundations requirement on their campus and create their own Foundations Board to certify and assess courses that wish to have the “F” designation. This act in itself ought to lead to greater system collaboration on what is expected from General Education.

If you want more information on this process, please contact Tom Hilgers <hilgers@hawaii.edu>.

c: Tom Hilgers, Faculty Administrator, UHM General Education Office
   Faculty Senate Chair: Jim Tiles, UH Mānoa
   Rob Edmondson, Honolulu CC
   Harry Davis, Kapi‘olani CC
   Joseph Chernisky, Leeward CC
   Floyd McCoy, Windward CC