MEMORANDUM

TO: Howard Karr  
   Chairperson, Board of Regents

VIA: M.R.C. Greenwood  
     President

FROM: Donald O. Straney  
       Chancellor, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo

SUBJECT: Authorization to Establish the Provisional Bachelor of Arts in Pharmacy Studies (BAPS) at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Board of Regents approve establishment of a provisional new degree program, the Bachelor of Arts in Pharmacy Studies (BAPS), to be administered by the College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo (UH Hilo).

ADDITIONAL COST:

No additional cost. The BAPS is a degree offering that is designed for students enrolled in the PharmD curriculum at UH Hilo College of Pharmacy. The degree provides added value since it will be offered through existing UH Hilo courses and programs (i.e., pre-pharmacy and PharmD curricula). No additional resources are requested or required. Current personnel, facilities, equipment and library resources are completely sufficient for the program. Some students may take a limited number of courses outside the College of Pharmacy in response to General Education and other non-major requirements, but these will be dispersed across the curriculum and will not significantly impact any single unit. In any case, full-time PharmD students are eligible to take such courses, irrespective of their intent to receive the BAPS. In sum, this degree offering will significantly augment our academic mission with no additional cost.

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Fall 2011
PURPOSE:

This degree program appropriately recognizes academic achievements and provides a rigorous academic degree for students who have successfully completed a minimum of two years of pre-pharmacy requirements and the first two years of a very demanding PharmD curriculum.

The BAPS is not designed as a terminal degree. Only students enrolled in the PharmD program are eligible for award of the BAPS, but the PharmD is required for professional licensure as a pharmacist. However, in rare cases wherein students complete all of the requirements for the BAPS but not the PharmD, they will receive appropriate recognition for their academic achievements.

Possessing both the BAPS and PharmD degrees should increase our students’ competitiveness for entering advanced graduate programs if they are so inclined. By offering the BAPS degree, the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy will have an additional advantage over programs that do not offer such a degree, and this will likely make the UH Hilo PharmD program even more attractive to applicants.

The BAPS degree program supports the Graduation Initiative of the UH System, which aims to increase the number of UH graduates by 25 percent by 2015. In addition, the program will increase the number of UH Hilo graduates who continue on for a terminal degree (PharmD), thus supporting the positive development of the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo.

The BAPS degree will improve UH Hilo retention rates as these undergraduates will, once accepted to the PharmD program, continue on to receive an undergraduate terminal degree from UH Hilo.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Pursuant to Board of Regents Policy 5-1, the Board of Regents has the authority to approve new degree programs upon recommendation by the President.

Students who enter the PharmD program at UH Hilo are required to have met pre-pharmacy requirements, but they are not required to have earned a bachelor’s degree. The pre-pharmacy curriculum is rigorous and requires a minimum of 66 credit hours. The PharmD curriculum is rigorous and requires
four years of studies. It is apparent that along the way of earning the PharmD degree, every student will have surpassed the bachelor's level, but some may still graduate without appropriate recognition. By providing the BAPS degree option, all of our students will have the opportunity to have their academic achievements properly recognized.

Planning for this degree has been ongoing for approximately three years. The current proposal meets all requirements established for the award of a bachelor's degree from UH Hilo. The proposal has received unanimous approval at all of the appropriate levels of curricular review.

It should be clear that receiving this academic degree will not lead to licensure as a pharmacist; the PharmD is required for licensure. Nonetheless, the degree will provide greater opportunities for more advanced graduate studies (e.g., Ph.D). Further, in very rare cases when a student does not complete the PharmD curriculum, their existing accomplishments will still be recognized in a tangible way. It should be emphasized, however, this is intended to serve as a terminal degree. Only students admitted to the PharmD curriculum, with the objective of completing the requirements for the PharmD, will be eligible.

In addition to providing significant added value for our students, this degree option if fully consistent with a goal of the current UH Hilo strategic plan: to continue to refine and strengthen efforts to fulfill the primary mission of offering high quality undergraduate and professional programs. Offering the BAPS degree directly contributes to this strategic goal in a budget-neutral way. In addition, the degree offering will increase UH Hilo retention rates as students who participate in the pre-pharmacy program will earn a bachelor's degree.

Finally, a primary external motivation for this program is the importance of continuously redefining and strengthening the PharmD program to ensure it remains competitive in the future. Several pharmacy programs in the United States currently offer degrees similar to the proposed BAPS (including Purdue, Mississippi, and Connecticut). By offering the BAPS degree, the UHH College of Pharmacy has an additional advantage over programs that do not offer such a degree, which would likely make the UHH PharmD program attractive to applicants who are looking for the best value for their tuition.
ACTION RECOMMENDED:

It is recommend that the Board of Regents approve establishment of a provisional new degree program, the Bachelor of Arts in Pharmacy Studies, to be administered by the College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, effective Fall 2011.

Attachment - Bachelor of Arts in Pharmacy Studies program proposal

c: Keith Amemiya, Interim Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents