



**Hawaii Graduation Initiative  
March 14, 2014  
Meeting Notes**

**I. Use of ACT/SAT Scores**

Eun informed the group that VCSA and the Chancellor wanted to know if when we can implement using ACT/SAT scores for placement into MATH 103.

All juniors in the public schools in the state are now taking the ACT. Jim reported that it costs about \$10,000 per year for placement testing here. In the catalog, we currently have the following cutoff scores using ACT/SAT:

Placement into MATH 241: SAT score of 700 or higher; ACT score of 31 or higher.

Amy suggested we take into consideration all the upcoming changes to the SAT exam. Hye Jung said P-20 is looking at this issue state-wide. Mike said he is not confident we can rely on these exams because of lack of content breadth (e.g. SAT I only covers Algebra and Geometry). Amy suggested and the Team agreed that we should wait until the new Director of Educational Effectiveness arrives in June before seriously pursuing this matter. Stephanie suggested the HGI Team and the Student Affairs Committee read up on national and regional articles or studies in the meantime. Terri agreed to research the most recent policies by UHCC on use of SAT/ACT for placement into math and English.

**II. Retention Subcommittee Update**

Jim said the subcommittee is working on updating the recently developed Retention Committee Report will be surveying all enrolled students regarding academic and co-curricular issues to get a baseline of information. Then, in the future, only plan on surveying incoming freshmen and transfer students.

**III. Sample Academic Plans Update**

Leslie was not present but Ross said they met a couple weeks ago and the Humanities Plans look close to ready. Expected launch for all academic maps is the summer term.

**IV. Hiring FT English Instructor Update**

Amy said the committee hopes to complete the search process by the end of this month.

## **V. IPEDS Peer Institutions List**

Jim suggested and the Team agreed that all the maritime schools should be omitted from the list. Eun will ask Linda R to forward this feedback to Pearl at System.

## **VI. GradesFirst Update**

Margy was off-island and unable to attend, but sent the following report:

GradesFirst “E Ala Pono” (back on the right path) Campaign #3:

- Identify students at risk of failing on 2/24/14-
- 16 out of 22 pilot faculty responded
- 104 students identified and all were contacted by 3/12
- An advisor will call or email them and remind them of deadline date (3/14) to withdraw with a “W.”
- Due to resource constraints, these campaigns may be limited to only first-time, first-year freshmen in the future.
- There may be a debriefing meeting with participants to evaluate the use of Grades First.

Currently, there are some issues with freshmen block scheduling. Margy believes the biggest concern is that some faculty do not support block scheduling. A discussion followed; faculty still do not feel that they are getting communication about the process early enough. The following recommendations were made:

- For Fall 2014: Open up some slots in ENG 100 courses for non-freshmen instead of offering an online ENG 100 course for non-freshmen. Not all the sections held for the freshmen blocks were filled; this may spread the enrollment to more sections.
- Communicate with faculty early about block scheduling (ideally, before faculty plan schedules for the following semester). It was suggested that a meeting early in the semester, either the week prior to the semester, or first week in September, be held with faculty who would be most affected by block scheduling in Fall 2015. The plan should be available to these faculty at that time, with time to share their concerns. Faculty that should be included are: division chairs, writing coordinator, math/science coordinator. It was also suggested that the areas that handle a lot of the freshmen, might be able to do planning for a year, so in the Fall, would be planning for both Spring 2015 and Fall 2015.

**OTHER:**

It was noted that some of the committee participants who were on the agenda were not present, nor was there a representative or any update forwarded. It was suggested that if someone is on the agenda, that an update be forwarded prior to the meeting to Eun, or have a representative give the report. If someone is not able to attend, it would also be good if they could send someone in their place.

**Next meeting: April 11<sup>th</sup> @ 8am in room E109**