



**Hawaii Graduation Initiative
January 18, 2013
Meeting Notes**

Present – Eun Ahn, Jim Cromwell, Linda Furuto, Amy Nishimura, Sherry Proper

Updates

- **Pilot Stretch Courses in English and Math** – Linda and Amy continue to work on the pilot courses in these areas. They will have a rough outline of the syllabi for these courses for the January 30th meeting with the Student Success Workshop experts.
- **Block scheduling** – Sherry distributed a handout to guide discussion regarding some of the more specific aspects of a pilot honors program. The committee discussed the pilot program format, student eligibility criteria, and other details. We decided that one honors course per semester for next year is the appropriate model for us. (Two courses each semester might be too much to handle, given the short amount of time we have to plan in order to implement something by this fall). Sherry will make adjustments to the proposed program overview based on the committee's discussion, and will prepare an updated overview and specific questions for the January 30th meeting with the Student Success Workshop experts.
- **Strategic Use of Financial Aid** – Jim reported that he is looking into our scholarship funds, awarding criteria, and policies. He will add incentive eligibility criteria to some of our scholarships to better align them with institutional priorities and promote student success. Some of our scholarships are system ones that will involve discussion with the system office in order to change awarding criteria.
- **Leveraging Physical Campus Capacity** – Eun had a conversation with Terri Ota about scheduling more required courses in the summer. He will also talk to department chairs and ask them to encourage faculty to teach general education and other required courses in the summer to support the "30 to finish" initiative. Jim reminded the committee that no federal financial aid is available for summer sessions and that the cost of summer attendance is sometimes an obstacle for some students. Even though it is a financial hardship for some, the committee believes we should provide the opportunities for students and see what happens. Courses will be cancelled if minimum registrations are not met, so there shouldn't be any negative impact to at least offering more summer school course options.

Data

- **Review 12-14 vs ≥ 15 CR HRS of Study** – Eun provided UHWO data that show the descriptive statistics of GPA by educational level for our students from Fall 2008-Fall 2011. The data indicate that UHWO students of all class standings (FR, SO, JR, SR) are consistent with those of national studies. Our students perform better when taking ≥ 15 credits as opposed to 12-14 credits.



- **Profile of “Leavers” vs “Stayers”** – Eun provided UHWO data that showed descriptive statistics of COMPASS scores and GPA of freshmen student cohorts from Fall 2008-Fall 2011. While there is very little difference in the level of academic preparation of those students who continue at UHWO compared to those who transfer out, the data indicate that those who leave have a significantly lower college GPA than their counterparts who stay. We suspect that individual motivation and connectedness to the campus could be major factors in students’ level of success and decisions to leave.

Reminder – January 30th – Student Success Workshop

Next meeting: February 1st @ 9am