Hawaii Graduation Initiative  
September 13, 2013  
Meeting Notes

Present – Eun Ahn, Ross Cordy, Jim Cromwell, Michael Furuto, Stephanie Kamai, Loke Kenolio, Hye Jung Kim, Elaine Lee, Amy Nishimura, Leslie Opulauoho, Stan Orr, Terri Ota, Sherry Proper, Esther Widiasih

HGI Team New Members

The group welcomed new committee members Michael Furuto, Stephanie Kamai, Hye Jung Kim, Stan Orr, Esther Widiasih. In addition to the new members, Eun has extended an invitation to the Division Chairs to attend the meetings and/or appoint a representative to the group.

The Math faculty (Furuto, Kim, Widiasih) will decide who will be part of the committee, but they all came to this meeting to see what was being discussed; Hye Jung is the one who is involved with the supplemental instruction efforts with the MATH 196A course.

Laulima HGI Site

Terri has created a new Laulima site for HGI meeting notes, scorecard data, and other HGI-related documents. We want to be as transparent and informative as possible regarding HGI activities, so this site will help improve our communication efforts. All HGI Team members have access to the site. If there is anyone else who should have access, please let Eun know.

HGI Focus for 2012-13 and 2013-14

Eun explained for the benefit of new members that our focus last year and continuing this year is on three key areas: Academic Mapping, Block Scheduling, and Retention.

Mapping Update

Leslie reported that academic mapping is progressing, and that the new Student Affairs division liaisons will help in communicating with faculty regarding the academic mapping projects. Discussion ensued about changing the name of the documents to “Sample Academic Plans” instead of “Academic Mapping” to alleviate confusion by some faculty regarding the purpose of the initiative. There was general consensus that we should do this.

Block Scheduling

Our block scheduling efforts were more successful this fall than they were last year, although we still experienced challenges with hiring (and letting go of) instructors due to enrollment/registration changes as the fall semester approached. Jim explained several changes he and others in the Student Affairs division are hoping to make to orientation and the course registration timelines, which should enable students block scheduling efforts to be more successful next fall. Jim emphasized his willingness to change the model to ensure more accurate enrollment projections as early as possible. He is suggesting having all freshmen begin registration in May and have freshmen registration completed in June.
The faculty would appreciate more accurate projections to avoid last minute layoffs of lecturers. One of the strategies discussed that might be employed is to offer a couple of sections less than what is projected.

Jim is working with Linda Randall and Lui Hokoana and others on spring enrollment projections now. No block schedule will be used for the spring semester. In general, Jim expects enrollment numbers will drop approximately 4%.

**Retention**

Preliminary figures indicate our freshmen retention has dropped from 67% to 61% compared to last fall.

One of the initiatives we established last year that is being implemented this year is the pilot English and math embedded remedial 196 experimental courses. Hye Jung explained to the group her diagnostics plan for the math 196 course to ensure we will have solid data to evaluate the success of the math 196 course.

The group discussed the benefits and challenges of the 196 course numbering, and it was decided that we will be as proactive as possible in encouraging students currently enrolled in English and math 196 courses who decide to transfer to obtain statements from faculty members teaching the courses that the courses are equivalent to English 100 and Math 103, respectively. We will not change the numbering for this semester, but may consider permanent numbering by fall semester to help students understand the equivalency to English 100 and Math 103, and to make transferring easier for those students who plan on transferring out of UHWO. Should the HGI team decide to pursue a change to make only the lab portion of the courses the 196 number, then it will need to go to curriculum committee for discussion and approval.

We also discussed the use of the Compass Test for placement, and the challenges associated with that test. We discussed changing policy to use ACT or SAT test scores to place students into English and math courses. The HGI team will continue this discussion at another meeting, and may make a suggestion to Faculty Senate to discontinue use of the Compass Test.

Jim and Sherry updated the group on the retention sub-committee’s activities (see handout).

A sample of the UH Manoa leaver’s (exit) survey was shared, and there was discussion of how to get the information from the students. Students who completely withdraw from the University during the semester have to complete paperwork, and Leslie said that they could have students complete an exit survey at that time (last day to withdraw is October 25). The question was how to contact the students who do not return after the end of the semester. Ross mentioned that when they went from in-person evaluations to online eCafe evaluations, the response rate dropped from 90% to about 30%. He felt the response rate from email would also be low. He mentioned that Margy had some information about Native Hawaiian students because she and others in student affairs had called the students, and he asked if this could be done for regular students as well. Discussion ensued, but no decision was reached.

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be Friday, October 11th, at 8:00 a.m., in Room D235.