MEMORANDUM

September 29, 2010

To: Community College Council of Faculty Senate Chairs

From: John Morton, Vice President for Community Colleges

Re: Developing System Academic Policies

Thank you for agreeing to take the lead in reviewing and recommending possible system academic policies.

The first priority is to finalize the academic policy on academic residency. The proposed policy provides for the following:

To graduate with a degree from a University of Hawai‘i Community College, a/the student must have earned a minimum of 12 credits of program courses in the degree major from that college.

The purpose of this policy is to recognize that with the current cross-registration among campuses and student use of distance education that the former policy of the final 12 (or 15) credits being in residency does not work.

The second priority is to examine the grading practices across the campuses and determine whether or not a more consistent grading policy can be adopted. To assist you with this task, attached are the results of the grading survey conducted by the UHCC Academic Affairs Office. You will see that there are similarities and differences between and among the campuses on grading issues.

Other academic policies that merit your consideration are

1. possible development of an academic forgiveness policy for students who are returning to the community colleges after some absence;
2. consideration of whether academic suspension policies should apply across campuses;
3. adoption of formal policies on course numbering that results in common numbering for courses with common student learning outcomes;
4. adoption of common pre-requisites for courses with common student learning outcomes;
5. adoption of common core student learning outcomes for common courses;
6. review and reaffirmation of the definition of degrees and certificates awarded by the community colleges;
7. common adoption of the core general education requirements for the AA, AS, AAS, and CA degrees with campuses having the flexibility to add to the core requirements;
8. adoption of common policies on acceptance of credits earned through various forms of credit equivalency;
9. any other academic policy that you feel merits consideration for a common system policy.

The intent is that agreement is reached that the policies would be endorsed and adopted by the various Faculty Senates and then codified into Community College Policies.

You are free to form task forces or working groups for one or more of the policies outlined above. I would ask you to work with your Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs in creating the work groups and in drafting the recommendations on the policies. We will also keep the progress on developing these policies as a regular item on our Council of Community College Faculty Senate Chairs agenda.

Attachments: Grading Policy Survey Results

c: Chancellors
   Vice-Chancellors for Academic Affairs
   Peter Quigley, Associate Vice President for Community Colleges
   Suzette Robinson, Director of Academic Programs
   Cheryl Chappell-Long, Director for Academic Planning, Assessment & Policy