TO: Leon Richards  
Chancellor, Kapiʻolani Community College

VIA: Dennis Vanairsdale  
Chairperson, Faculty Senate

FROM: Susan Jaworowski  
Legal Education

SUBJECT: Modifications to the Associate in Science degree in Paralegal

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Approval of the modifications to the Paralegal program SLOs.
2. Approval of the updates to the Paralegal program description.
3. Approval of the addition of LAW 141 as a program elective. There will be no change to the number of credits required for the A.S. degree in Paralegal.
4. Inclusion of a catalog heading for the Paralegal program approval (external).
5. Inclusion of a catalog heading for the Paralegal program mission.

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:  
Fall 2012

REASON/OVERVIEW:

The former Legal Education Department (now part of Business, Legal, and Technology) reviewed its program learning outcomes in summer 2009, as part of a campus-wide plan to review and apply all program learning outcomes. During this review, the department found that certain of the outcomes were not as thoroughly described as they should be, and that there was a redundant outcome that could be more appropriately combined with another learning outcome. For example, some of the examples were too limited, such as “performs investigative functions,” under critical thinking, which should have been a higher level skill, and others were under the wrong outcome, such as the inclusion of “exercises interpersonal skills” under written and oral communication. The department prepared a draft revision based on this work.

The Paralegal Program offered an experimental course, LAW 198C, Intellectual Property, in Spring 2009. Concurrently with this offering, the Program submitted a proposal to make this course permanent. It was approved by the Chancellor as LAW
141. The Program did not submit a PAR to amend the curriculum to include the new LAW 141 as an elective in the program, which was the intention in adding the course, as all LAW courses are part of the Paralegal Program. This PAR and ARM make that amendment. The only change in the Paralegal Program Curriculum “proposed” grid listed in the comparison document is the addition of LAW 141 under “Legal Specialty LAW Courses.”

The program description is being updated, with the information about the program mission and the external program approval being given bold catalog headings.

BACKGROUND AND CONSEQUENCES:

The draft program learning outcome revisions were presented to the faculty at the spring paralegal program faculty meeting on February 26, 2010 and approved with some revisions, and the revised version was presented to the Paralegal Program Advisory Committee at the spring meeting on April 23, 2010, and approved with minor revisions.

The first three outcomes on ethics, communication, and critical thinking are very similar to the prior version, with modifications made to the examples of that outcome. The fourth outcome on professionalism was expanded to better encompass the skills required in the workplace. The fifth outcome on professionalism was changed by modifications to its example, and the sixth and seventh outcomes were blended into a new outcome on technology and information literacy. This changed deleted some inconsistent references to skills the program does not teach, such as developing new contacts in the legal community. The paralegal program, now placed within the Business, Legal, and Technology Education Department, submitted these changes to the new department for approval.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

Approval of the modifications to the Paralegal program description, program mission, program approval information, and program SLOs, effective fall 2012. Approval of the addition of LAW 141 as a program elective, effective fall 2012.