

## LAPS Dean Report to College Council – August 2015 meeting

The new “slimmed down” AA in Liberal Arts degree requirements went into effect for this fall. Students pursuing the AA in LBRTS now have more flexibility in the number of electives that may be counted toward the degree and fewer required courses, while total credits required remains the same. The new requirements more closely resemble those of our UHCC campuses. As with any change, there are some loose ends to be tied up in catalog language, and the DCs will be working with their respective faculty members to address any concerns that have emerged to date.

In STEM related news, The STEMEI (STEM Enhancement Initiative) promoted a summer STEM Camp for area middle school students through the leadership of Michelle Phillips, Denise D’Haenens -Luker, Lisa Kaluna and Tiana Hirota from OCET. This two week, P-20 sponsored camp was meant to address an opportunity to increase our outreach to the community, spur interest in STEM studies for local students, and to help develop more partnership opportunities with the DOE, one of the goals for the new system Strategic Directions.

Also related to STEM, the Manono campus has a new “STEM Center” in what had been the Nursing Lab in 396A and B. Thanks to the hard work of many, the STEM Center opened for classes on Monday with two classrooms fully operational and another space for student use awaiting furnishings. Laura Brezinsky, Denise D’Haenens-Luker, Lisa Kaluna and our new casual hire lab coordinator have office space in the building already. A grant-funded laptop cart and printer are being installed, and conversations are underway with TLC about hosting STEM tutoring at the site. The STEM Center is modeled after Kapiolani’s which was funded by an NSF grant. The STEMEI group will continue to define the use of the STEM Center and to make other plans for improving our math and science offerings this year.

This year the ASNS is due to be proposed for permanent status, along with the Hawaiian Studies AA. Both are currently provisionally approved. This will involve presentations to the Board of Regents and work with other campuses with parallel provisional programs.

A major new system-level initiative, discussed by Vice President Morton at the All-College Breakfast last week, has several faculty and staff members involved in reforming our approach to developmental education to reduce time in classes below college level. Significant changes to existing developmental sequences are anticipated to result from these discussions as early as fall 2016. Deseree Salvador, Caroline Naguwa, and Billie Jones are working with an ad hoc English group, and James Schumaker and Toni Cravens are working with an ad hoc Math group, along with our campus representatives to the recently formed Student Success and Strategic Action Council, Joni Onishi, Jason Cifra and Grace Funai. Bobby Yamane and Joel Tanabe were also involved in ad hoc group work this summer, as was Dorinna Manuel-Cortez. The SSSAC is being led by UHCC Academic Affairs Associate Vice President Peter Quigley with a goal of bringing demonstrated successes to scale across the system. Major initiatives include co-requisite developmental education and articulated pathways to completion.

Early College classes are underway at multiple area high schools and charters. A P-20 sponsored workshop bringing mainland consultants to our campus is planned for September 15.

DCs will continue to promote a plan to “slim down” the number of PLOs in Liberal Arts to five. We are currently looking to define the most appropriate mechanism for demonstrating support from the faculty for such a proposed change and seeking official approval.

DCs in Liberal Arts conducted a cross-disciplinary assessment of the Written Communication PLO using artifacts from classes with CLOs related to communication last May 26 and 27. We are looking for the most opportune way to share the results of that assessment with LBRTs faculty so that we might plan improvements based on what we learned.

I look forward to beginning my second year with the college and to working with faculty, staff and students in promoting best practices and in sustaining and improving the college’s offerings in Liberal Arts and Public Services.

Chris