MINUTES OF THE REGENTS` COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Date: Thursday, March 14, 2002

Place & Time: Campus Center Rooms 306-307
University of Hawai`i at Hilo
4:08 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Regents McElrath (presiding)
Bergin
Nunokawa
Poe
Weiner
Ikawa (ex-officio)

Other Regents Present: Regents Dowling
Kurisu
Kobayashi
Lee
Thurston

Others Present: Evan S. Dobelle, President, University of Hawai`i
Walter S. Kirimitsu, Senior Vice President and University General Counsel
Karl E. Kim, Interim Vice Chancellor
David Iha, Secretary of the Board
Carl H. Makino, BOR Staff

Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Regents' Committee on Academic Affairs held on February 21, 2002, were approved as circulated.

Subjects:

1. Establishment of a Master of Education in Early Childhood Education, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, College of Education, M~noa Campus
2. Grant Established Status to the Bachelor of Science in Global Environmental Science, Department of Oceanography, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, Mānoa Campus

3. Establishment of a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Geology, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo

Establishment of a Master of Education in Early Childhood Education, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, College of Education, Mānoa Campus

Interim Vice Chancellor Kim requested that the Committee approve a proposal to create a Masters of Education Degree in Early Childhood Education in the Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies in the College of Education, effective Fall 2002, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. The proposed MEd in Early Childhood Education, according to Interim Vice Chancellor Kim, would meet the advancing needs of the State of Hawai‘i by preparing leaders for programs serving a broad range of needs for children from birth to the age of five. This will include programs for children with special needs as they progress through preschool programs in preparation for full participation in their later education.

The goals of the program are to increase the number of well trained professionals in infant and toddler, preschool, early intervention, and parent education programs, as well as in agencies serving the needs of such programs. This degree will improve the quality of education and care for young children and their families by expanding the knowledge and skills of early childhood educators, particularly those who work with children with disabilities.

This MEd degree will be housed in the Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, but will involve widespread collaboration with other units at the Mānoa campus, notably the Department of Special Education and the program in Family and Consumer Resources in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Admission and degree requirements for the program are consistent with the standards of the Graduate Division. It is expected that many of the students will be practitioners with experience and training in fields related to the psychological, social, health, and nutritional needs of very young children.

At the national level as well as in Hawai‘i, there is increasing attention being given to the needs of young children. This is partly due to research demonstrating the importance of the formative early childhood years for later development and educational success. The Felix Consent Decree calls for a continuum of care for children with special needs from birth to the age of three. More early childhood professionals are needed to staff a range of programs and services for all children. At present there is no program in the State of Hawai‘i which trains specialists in working with children under five and their
families. The College of Education has a MEd program in the Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies that focuses on early childhood but is intended to train Kindergarten and primary school teachers rather than those children below the age of five.

The degree has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty Senate of the College of Education, the Graduate Council, the Manoa Faculty Senate, and the System Academic Affairs Council. This degree program will not require any additional resources or new funding from the University. The curriculum will be based upon existing graduate level and advanced undergraduate courses.

Board of Regents’ policy provides that all new academic programs, once approved, shall have provisional status until a review is conducted. Reviews are initiated once a full cycle of graduates has been completed. Since this is a Masters program, the first degrees should be awarded in 2004. The required review will be conducted during the 2004-2005 academic year.

Regent Nunokawa commented that in light of the importance of early childhood education, he thought this program should have been proposed to the Regents sooner, suggesting that the campus pay closer attention to the needs of the community.

Regent Poe asked for a clarification on the review process. Interim Chancellor Kim clarified that only baccalaureate programs are reviewed by the undergraduate review committee.

Regent Nunokawa moved to establish the Masters of Education in Early Childhood Education within the Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, College of Education, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa effective Fall 2002, subject to the Regent’s policy on provisional academic programs. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Grant Established Status to the Bachelor of Science in Global Environmental Science, Department of Oceanography, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, Mānoa Campus

Interim Chancellor Kim requested a Bachelor of Science in Global Environmental Science in the Department of Oceanography be granted established academic status within the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology at the Mānoa campus.

He explained that this degree was designed to provide a scientifically based, interdisciplinary approach to questions of global change. Society has an increasing need for individuals who have a broad scientific base for understanding how the land, sea, and atmosphere are being affected by human activity. The BS in Global Environmental Science employs the existing expertise of the faculty of the School of Ocean and Earth
Science and Technology along with the relevant contributions of other faculty at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa to provide this broad base.

As a Land Grant and Sea Grant institution, the University is in an excellent position to become a worldwide leader in this area of education. The program is training students to continue to pursue study at the graduate level, prepare for positions in public policy, seek careers in environmental law, teach, or simply become citizens who have a fuller awareness of the impact of our society’s decisions on the environment.

The BS in Global Environmental Science is the only undergraduate program offered by the Department of Oceanography and is a program world renowned for its research and graduate training. The faculty of the Department have created a rigorous program of study requiring intensive preparation in biology, chemistry, physics and two years of the calculus in the lower division and a strong curriculum within the major. Students are appreciative of this rigor and take great pride in mastering the courses. Responses from the students are extremely positive. The program is also growing in popularity, having increased from 19 students in 1999 to 40 in 2000 and 69 as of Fall 2001. There have been six graduates from the program.

This degree was approved by the Board of Regents in October 1997 to be effective Fall 1998. Board Policy provides that all new academic programs, once approved, shall have provisional status until a review is conducted. The Bachelor of Science in Global Environmental Science program has been reviewed by the Council on Program Reviews and by the System Academic Affairs Council and found to be efficient and of high quality.

Regent Bergin moved to grant established status to the Bachelor of Science in Global Environmental Science, Department of Oceanography, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa subject to the Regent’s policy on established academic programs. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Establishment of a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Geology, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo

Chancellor Tseng requested that the Committee approve the establishment of the Bachelor of Arts degree in Geology at the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. She explained that this proposal was approved by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, in Spring 1999. The Geology Department currently offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology with a strong mathematical component, designed for students planning to pursue graduate degrees. The proposed Bachelor of Arts degree, however, will attract students who plan to pursue teacher certification, scientific/technical writing, and other fields combining a strong liberal arts background with science training.
The program supports the UH-Hilo mission of using the Big Island as a living laboratory and of involving students in hands-on learning. It also makes the study of geology more accessible to more students by reducing somewhat the level of mathematics. The proposed degree encourages students to broaden their study of other sciences.

The requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in Geology may be summarized as follows:

- four foundation courses in geology (plus laboratory courses)
- one introductory course in either marine science or astronomy
- two upper-division geology courses selected from subjects taught in traditional geology curriculum
- six upper-division elective courses in geology or closely related disciplines (two of these six may be selected from earth science courses in closely-related disciplines)
- a senior seminar series
- one course each in calculus, chemistry and physics (plus laboratory courses)

The required courses add up to 45 credits in geology and closely-related disciplines and 11 credits of supplementary (math, chemistry, and physics) courses. In comparison, the existing Bachelor of Science degree requires 42 credits in geology and 31 credits of supplementary courses.

Students in the B.S. program will take several upper-division courses not required of students in the B.S. On the other hand, students working towards their Bachelor of Arts degree will be able to take a larger number of courses in such areas as History, English, Philosophy, and Psychology than in a Bachelor of Science program. Such breadth is especially desirable in the education of teachers.

No additional resources are required for implementation of the proposed degree. The curriculum includes existing courses only. Students in the B.A. will take fewer 400-level Geology courses than those working for their B.S. degree if they choose to substitute science courses from other disciplines. Required lower-division courses in Math, Physics and Chemistry, are also required for other majors, and the numbers of geology majors will have only a modest impact on those courses.

Assuming that students will be attracted to the B.A. program who might have been
Minutes of the Regents’ Committee
on Academic Affairs
March 14, 2002
Page 6

intimidated by the B.S. requirements, enrollment in Geology courses will increase. The
department estimates that the second bachelor’s degree will increase the major count from
30 students to approximately 40 students.

Regent Bergin asked if this program would be established at the expense of any other programs. Chancellor Tseng stated that it would not and that UH-Hilo was providing this proposed program by making more efficient use of existing resources.

Regent Lee asked if the dual-track system of a bachelor of science as well as bachelor of arts was common to other institutions. Chancellor Tseng stated that it was.

Regent Nunokawa inquired about the possible cooperation between the UH-Hilo and Mānoa programs in this area. Chancellor Tseng affirmed that both faculties have considerable interaction.

Regent Nunokawa moved to grant establishment of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geology, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo to be effective Fall 2002 subject to the Regent’s policy on provisional academic programs. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Iha, Secretary

Dated: April 5, 2002

c: Chairperson Allan K. Ikawa
Members, Committee on Academic Affairs
President Evan S. Dobelle
Sr. Vice President & Chancellor Joyce S. Tsunoda
Sr. Vice President & Chancellor Rose Tseng
Interim Chancellor Deane Neubauer
Chancellor William A. Pearman