MINUTES OF THE REGENTS’ JOINT COMMITTEES
ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Date: Thursday, October 17, 2002
Place & Time: Campus Center Conference Chamber, Rm. 220
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
4:21 p.m.

Committee on Academic Affairs

Committee Members Present: Regents
Nunokawa (presiding)
Lee
McElrath
Poe
Yamasato
Kobayashi (ex-officio)

Committee on Community Colleges

Committee Members Present: Regents
Dowling
Ikawa
Poe

Committee Members Excused: Regent
Hartley
Kawakami

Other Regents Present
Kurisu
Thurston

Others Present:
Evan S. Dobelle, President, University of Hawai‘i
Joyce S. Tsunoda, Senior Vice President and Chancellor, Community Colleges
(Herein: Senior Vice President Tsunoda)
David Iha, Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board
Carl Makino, Executive Assistant to the Board

Associate in Applied Science Degree in Opticianry at Leeward Community College

Senior Vice President Tsunoda requested that the Committee approve the establishment of an Associate in Applied Science in Opticianry at Leeward Community College. The curriculum
for the program was developed by the National Federation of Opticianry Schools (NFOS), an organization of colleges and schools offering opticianry programs to improve the standards of practitioners in the field. The NFOS provides the curriculum at no cost to the campus. Completion of the program prepares individuals for certification exams for both the American Board of Opticianry and the National Contact Lens Examiners. The initiative for establishing the program came from professionals in the community to upgrade the skills of employees in their businesses. This will be the first program in the nation to be delivered exclusively through distance education.

Presently, state licensing requires the individual to pass the certification exams of both the American Board of Opticianry and the National Contact Lens Examiners. The 150 certified opticians are likely certified to work with either eye glasses or contact lens, but not both and therefore do not meet the requirements for licensing as an optician. In addition, there are an estimated 400-500 employees in ophthalmic offices throughout the state who are not certified in either area. Individuals in both categories are potential students for this proposed program.

Costs for the program for curriculum development, equipment and personnel are minimal compared to other vocational programs. Because of this level of investment, the college will have the flexibility to maintain or contract enrollment in the program as demand increases or decreases.

The program is unique in the University of Hawai‘i system and provides an educational option to not only students at Leeward Community College, but students throughout the state and internationally. All content courses in the major are delivered through the Internet. The UH system-wide distance education system allows students to complete all general education requirements either at home or on the community college campus nearest their residence. Distance delivery makes the program accessible state-wide.

Due to a concern over a liability issue, this matter was deferred subject to the administration obtaining additional information. There were no objections from the members of the Committee.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Iha, Secretary

Dated: November 22, 2002

c: Chairperson Bert A. Kobayashi
Members, Committee on Community Colleges
Members, Committee on Academic Affairs
President Evan S. Dobelle
Senior Vice President & Chancellor Joyce S. Tsunoda
Interim Vice President Deane Neubauer