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

Date: Thursday, November 21, 2002

Place & time: Kaua‘i Community College
Performing Arts Center
2:47 p. m.

Committee on Academic Affairs

Committee Members Present: Regents
Nunokawa
Lee
Kurisu
McElrath
Poe
Thurston
Kobayashi (ex-officio)

Committee on Community Colleges

Committee Members Present: Regents
Kawakami (presiding)
Dowling
Ikawa
Kaneshiro
Poe

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)
Douglas Dykstra, Acting Dean of Instruction, Leeward Community College
David Iha, Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board
Carl Makino, Executive Assistant to the Board
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Subjects:

1. **Associate in Applied Science Degree in Opticianry at Leeward Community College**

2. **Authorize the Community Colleges to Proceed with Developing Selected Four-Year Degree Programs**

### Associate in Applied Science Degree in Opticianry at Leeward Community College

Senior Vice President Tsunoda requested that the Committee approve the establishment of the Associate in Applied Science degree 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 statewide.

Regent Kawakami explained that at its meeting in October the Committee had raised questions on liability. The administration had since obtained a legal opinion that the program presents little or no risk of exposure to liability because when doing the clinical
portions students will only converse with patients and not engage in any invasive activities. Additionally, students are required to purchase professional liability insurance that would provide coverage for any injury or damage caused by the student to third parties during the clinical phase of the program.

Regent Lee moved to approve the establishment of the Associate in Applied Science in Opticianry at Leeward Community College effective Fall 2003 subject to the Regents’ policy on provisional academic programs. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Authorize the Community Colleges to Proceed with Developing Selected Four-Year Degree Programs

Senior Vice President Tsunoda requested that the Committee authorize Honolulu Community College (HCC), Kapi‘olani Community College (KCC), and Mānoa Community College (MCC) to proceed with the planning and developing of select four-year occupational-technical degree programs. This request addresses the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges requirement that the decision to pursue the baccalaureate be approved by the Board of Regents.

In 1991 the Legislature passed a resolution, SCR 188, “Requesting Honolulu Community College to Evaluate and Report on the Need to Offer Three- and Four-year Degrees in Certain Applied Technological Fields.” In its 1993 report to the Legislature, HCC identified a number of colleges offering four-year applied technology degrees and identified a number of related issues including: accreditation, articulation, targeted programs, advanced technology centers, etc.

In 1996, Act 51 amended Chapter 305 of the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes by authorizing the community colleges to offer four-year vocational technical education programs.

The recently approved University of Hawai‘i system Strategic Plan and the draft strategic plan for the Community Colleges support the development and offering of selected baccalaureate degrees at UH community colleges.

Consistent with UH system and campus plan priorities, Honolulu, Kapi‘olani, and Mānoa Community Colleges each are planning to add baccalaureate degrees to their educational programs. HCC’s proposed Computer, Electronics, and Networking Technology degree (CENT), KCC’s proposed Culinary Arts, Science and Management degree, and MCC’s proposed Applied Business and Information Technology (ABIT) degree will address student interests and community needs in these respective areas.

Approval of the request will permit Honolulu, Kapi‘olani, and Mānoa Community Colleges to formally begin meeting the criteria required by WASC for each community college to offer a single baccalaureate degree, while continuing their respective accreditation as community colleges. The Commission is prepared to consider the colleges’ requests for joint accreditation at its January meeting, should the BOR approve this request.
The Board’s policy on the mission and purpose of the Community Colleges currently allows for such programs to be offered by the two-year campuses provided they are uniquely suited and equipped to engage in such programs. The policy further stipulates that such programs be offered in affiliation with a baccalaureate campus, program or institution so as not to deviate from the successful mission of the Community Colleges. WASC, in addition, limits each campus to no more than one such baccalaureate offering. Complete program proposals for each degree will be developed according to established BOR and University policies and, when completed, submitted for BOR approval before students are enrolled in the programs. Additional WASC joint accreditation requirements will also need to be met prior to the degrees being offered.

Senior Vice President Tsunoda emphasized that there would be only one special four-year program at these campuses. Anything more would affect accreditation of the Community Colleges as two-year programs. They would then have to apply for accreditation under different standards.

Regent Kurisu asked if this action would also approve the use of funds to plan. Senior Vice President Tsunoda stated that the action would only approve the authorization to plan. The final program proposals would still require prior Board approval to implement.

Regent Kawakami inquired about similar plans for Kaua‘i Community College. Senior Vice President Tsunoda informed that other campuses have not expressed interest as yet in a four-year program, Kaua‘i Community College being one of them.

Regent Lee moved to authorize Honolulu Community College, Kapi‘olani Community College and Mānoa Community College to proceed with the planning and development of selected four-year occupational-technical degree programs with the understanding that completed program proposals are subject to compliance with the Board’s policy on mission and purpose of the Community Colleges. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Iha, Secretary

Dated: December 16, 2002

C:
Chairperson Bert A. Kobayashi
Members, Committee on Academic Affairs
Members, Committee on Community Colleges