Workshops on WASC Accreditation Guidelines Changes
with Jill Ferguson, WASC Director of Organizational Change
February 29, 2012

You are invited to attend a session with Jill Ferguson, WASC’s Director of Organizational Change, to explore how recent changes in WASC accreditation guidelines may affect assessment of programs and degrees at UH Mānoa.

The WASC Commission recently voted to revise their accreditation guidelines to include:

**Graduation Proficiencies for Undergraduate Degrees:** This includes (1) demonstrating that graduates of undergraduate degrees have achieved the institution’s stated level of proficiency in at least the following five areas: written and oral communication, quantitative skills, critical thinking, and information literacy and (2) determining similar outcomes and levels of proficiency in the major or disciplinary field. External validation of these proficiencies is also under consideration.

**Focusing on the Meaning, Quality, and Rigor of the Degree:** This includes articulating the learning outcomes of the degree as a whole and demonstrating that there are processes in place to assure the meaning, quality, and rigor of the degrees offered. The Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP) is being piloted in WASC institutions to assess its usefulness as a framework for assisting institutions to assess the quality of degrees or portions of degree programs.

Jill Ferguson will be visiting several UH campuses during the week of February 27th to talk about the new guidelines and the DQP and will be visiting UH Mānoa on Wednesday, February 29th.

We have arranged three sessions for her visit (see attached schedule). The first session will focus on the DQP, the major, and institutional learning outcomes. The second will focus on general education, graduation proficiencies, and the DQP. The third session will focus on the link between student success and assessment.

This is our opportunity to learn more about the directions that WASC is taking regarding graduation proficiencies and assessing the quality of the degree. It is also an opportunity to learn about the DQP and to provide feedback regarding using the DQP as a framework for assessing the quality of degrees.

While the attached schedule indicates the intended participants for each session, we understand that your schedule may not allow you to attend the session indicated. You are therefore welcome to attend any of the three sessions on February 29th.

If you are able to attend one (or more sessions), please complete and return the attached registration form to Dr. Myrtle Yamada (myrtle@hawaii.edu) in Hawai‘i Hall 209 by **Friday, February 17, 2012.**