Addendum to the Hawai‘i Community College Fire Science Proposal

In response to the December 6th, 2010, letter from ACCJC regarding Hawai‘i Community College’s Fire Science Proposal, the following provides additional information and clarification about staffing, library resources and Board of Regents approval as they pertain to the proposed Fire Science Program.

Staffing

The Fire Science Program is staffed by one full-time, tenure-track instructor and four lecturers.

Full-time Faculty

Mr. Minassian is highly qualified both in the field of fire science and as an educator of fire fighters. He has a B.S. from Northern Arizona University and 34 years experience in firefighting with the National Park Service. He is a Fire Training Officer for the National Park Service and is certified nationally as an Incident Commander Type III, Prescribed Burn Boss Type II, Division/Group Supervisor, and Resource Unit Leader. His additional certifications are Hazardous Material Management at Operations Level, Emergency Medical Technician 1-B, and Aviation Management Officer.

As an educator, Mr. Minassian was certified by the National Park Service in 1984 as an instructor. From 1984 to 2004, he taught numerous and various fire courses that meet National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) standards.

Since January 2005, Mr. Minassian has taught 153 credits of Fire Science courses at the college level.

Adjunct Faculty

The college has employed four lecturers.

Chief Daryl Oliveira is the Fire Chief for the Hawaii Fire Department. He has close to 20 years experience and is well qualified to teach the Fire 202 Fire Hydraulics course one semester per year.

Mr. Justin Musselman is currently a Captain with the State of Hawaii DOT Airports Division. He is stationed at Hilo International Airport. He is qualified to teach the Fire 208 Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting course which is also offered once a year.
As the Fire Science program has grown, two additional lecturers have been identified and trained to teach the introduction to Fire Science courses in Fall 2011. Both lecturers are highly qualified (one is the Hawai‘i County Fire Department Inspector and the second is a veteran Hawaii County Fire Department Fire fighter).

The curriculum and textbooks used by all members of the Fire Science Program are produced by the National Fire Protection Association (for structural firefighting) and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (for wildfire management).

**Further Staffing Needs**

The only other employees impacted by the addition of the Fire Science Program are the counselors in Student Services who work with students interested in pursuing a degree in this area. At present, the Student Services staff adequately meets student needs for this program.

**Library Resources**

The college provides extensive library resources for *all* Hawai‘i CC students; we have an enormous, state-wide library network that allows every student to have access to virtually inexhaustible resources from all campuses, including the four year institutions: Universities of Hawaii at Manoa, West O‘ahu and Hilo. Specific to the Fire Science courses, the Library added 20 fire fighters code books, at the cost of $1500 for the set.

Furthermore, Hawai‘i Community College provides for student access to computers and the Internet. The Library resources available to Fire Science students are extensive and comprehensive.

**August the Board of Regents (BOR) Approval**

The Fire Science Program proposal was approved at the March 20, 2009, BOR meeting as a provisional program with an effective date of Aug 17, 2009. According to BOR policy, all programs approved by the BOR are placed on provisional status during their first cycle of operation. A cycle is defined as two years for programs normally completed in one or two years (e.g., certificate, associate, master’s and supplementary programs). For all other programs the cycle equals the number of years students are normally expected to take to complete the program.

TIMELINE: We will seek BOR approval to establish the Fire Science Program after the first group of students who graduate with the AS Degree in Fire Science. This would mean we should request BOR approval in Fall 2011 or Spring 2012.