

Hawai'i Community College Annual Program/Unit Reviews AY 2007-08
Executive Summary

Instructional Program Reviews Summary:

With the completion of its third cycle of program/unit reviews Hawai'i Community College is able to report that eighteen of its twenty seven instructional programs can be designated as fully healthy. Although none of its programs ranks in the overall unhealthy category two programs reflect unhealthy conditions in specific facets of their program review data reports. The academic administration will be working with these programs to address the unhealthy facets of their respective metrics and to analyze the best path to early recovery.

The following programs fall into the overall cautionary category, and the more prominent features of their respective action plans are mentioned:

Auto Body Repair & Paint A.A.S.: Health calls for this program are cautionary across the board for Demand, Efficiency and Effectiveness. Academic administration will have to work directly and immediately with this program because the program faculty appear to be in denial about the recent downward trends as reflected in the coversheet observation that the "...program is healthy...in comparison to the division." Two years ago this would have been a reasonable summation, but the trends for the last two years have not been in the correct direction. As you may surmise the action plan for this program will not address its problems to restore it to healthy status without outside intervention to assure that the program faculty face the challenges realistically.

Cisco Networking Academy: is a short-term series of courses that prepares students for industry certifications. No BOR certificate or degree is attached to these courses and program health indicators are not generated. However the program does generate enrollment data since the courses are credit bearing. Additionally the program is quite heavily dependent upon enrollment by non-credits students. The college has not been able to develop a data reporting technique that integrates the enrollment data of both credit and non-credits students to accurately review this program. Although we had hoped to accomplish this task by this year, data delivery demands on the college have been greater than the capacity of the staff to deliver. This task will be re-prioritized in the coming year. The college has begun taking on casual hire data delivery help at the APT B band level to meet its needs and this may have to continue until a permanent staffing solution is attained.

Digital Media Arts C.C.: Although this program reflects cautionary conditions across the board it is still very new with only two years of history to it. During that two year history most of the data elements have been moving in the correct direction. Its class percentile fill rates have dropped from the high 90's to the mid 80's, but this is not worrisome. Number of majors is rising, articulation agreements have been completed with similar programs throughout the community college system, and a capable Advisory Board has been recruited. Recruitment efforts for this program are vigorous and creative with

program faculty and students showing up at information booths around the County, as well as ads for the program running at movie theatres. Although currently identified at cautionary status, this is a program on the path to health.

HOPE/HOST A.A.S.: Very strong demand for graduates of this program exists; moreover the new location of the campus development near Palamanui should be perfectly situated within easy commuting distance for students and lecturers to contact fifteen world class resorts and clubs. Moreover the Palamanui development is planning a modestly priced 120 room hotel that will provide optimal opportunities for HOST students to conduct internships. In large measure the cautionary indicators for this program are a product of its current location too far removed from the heart of the Kona and Kohala resorts.

Information Technology A.S.: Demand, efficiency and effectiveness figures for this program all reflect cautionary levels. The projected annual job openings for the County are quite healthy at 240 per year. One possibility would be to survey employers systematically as to their job expectations for actual position openings in the County and then examine the IT program to assure that it matches those expectations. The program can not allow trends to continue as numbers of majors have dropped by 1/3 in the last year alone. Program faculty are making some progress toward serving the general education course needs of non-majors, as well as the IT skills course needs of majors from other A.S. degree programs. This service to other programs will certainly help improve the demand figures for the program. Efficiency and effectiveness figures may be helped by the development of a new Certificate of Completion as part of the IT program. This may be attractive to students who may need to stop out to take on job and/or family responsibilities. The best of the students graduating from this program are among the best in the country, but the college hopes to build a stronger base of majors to benefit from its excellent instructional talents.

Forest TEAM A.S.: This program is highly acclaimed by the National Science Foundation and its evaluation reports from PREL have been glowing. It does reflect cautionary indicators for efficiency and for effectiveness. Demand figures are marginally healthy; however trends in this area are in the right direction. The program is among the most active recruiters on this campus. Students who qualify for the stringent Mathematics prerequisites produce very high credits earned ratio and gpa figures. Moreover, the requirement to complete an internship often leads to employment opportunities for graduates of the program. The program has an outstanding Advisory Board and perhaps that expertise should be tapped to address the perennial problem of incoming student preparation for work at the level required for success in the program.

The following programs fall partially into the unhealthy category, although both qualify to be considered to be at cautionary status overall. One program may need outside professional intervention to resolve its situation and the more prominent features of a well conceived action plan for the other program are summarized here.

Agriculture A.A.S.: Note that this program is identified overall as cautionary in its status; however Demand and Efficiency figures fall into the unhealthy category. That would place this program only marginally into the cautionary category because its Perkins core indicators reflect healthy results. Data on position openings for the County of Hawai'i suggest strong employment opportunities in the field; however students are not matriculating in this program. Although the need for recruitment efforts and curriculum revision are recognized by the program the time has come to look for an outside consultant to advise this program toward a plan of specific improvements.

Electronics Technology A.A.S.: Although demand and efficiency figures for this program reflect unhealthy levels there are two major reasons for giving an overall cautionary status to it. First the Perkins core indicators are healthy and second the action plan for this program is creative and largely accomplished already. A complete overhaul of the curriculum is in the works with an emphasis upon laser and optic technologies. Moreover, the program is collaborating with Maui CC and Kauai CC to maximize access to faculty expertise statewide via distance course delivery. Additionally a new Certificate of Competence in Photonics Technology has been developed that may have appeal for in-service technicians in addition to the college's degree students. Finally, the program is considering the feasibility of integrating fuel cell and hydrogen technology into the curriculum. Although this program faces challenges it is responding with aggressive and specific efforts to renovate its curriculum and to appeal to new constituencies of students and employers of our students. We hold high hopes for the success of new developments now being put in place by the program faculty.

Unit Reviews Summary:

The units have presented some very detailed and insightful review documents. The following summary focuses primarily on those units that have identified either unhealthy conditions or very seriously cautionary situations followed by a summary of the proposed actions to address the situations.

Academic Computing Unit: This unit has been well supported with positions and supplies/equipment money. The main concern now has to do with providing work and storage space for the new personnel. This is a challenge across the campus and it illustrates the need to proceed with new campus development. Short term solutions will have to be resorted to in the meantime.

The Learning Center & Hale Kea Advancement and Testing Center: The testing demand at Hale Kea is identified as a critical indicator of the need for a thorough review of the priorities facilities and personnel at that site to determine if changes must be made. Additionally, the growth of distance delivery of courses raises the prospect of a need for educational technology expertise on the staff at the The Learning Center.

Student Services: Morale is high as well as hopes that staffing and space needs will be resolved. The Dean has provided a very effective executive summary of the programmatic directions for this set of pivotally important student support units.

University of Hawai'i Center at West Hawai'i: Anticipation of the development of a new site near Palamanui is palpable. The site location and the condition of its current rented facility are limiting factors that must be rectified without delay. The review conducted for Library services on this campus echoes these concerns. The campus and the community have made this very clear repeatedly. We can not afford to disappoint these expectations.

Office of Continuing Education and Training: This unit is under new leadership and the morale is strong as reflected in the very ambitious action plans for the whole unit. Challenges to be faced in the coming year include stabilizing the personnel in the unit after years of turnover; developing a standardized pricing policy that is understandable to clients; and reviewing the current data management system. The Intensive English Program component of this unit likewise is challenged by staff turnover in this instance because of the lack of permanency in the teaching staff positions. Finally, the Apprenticeship Program component of this unit is faced primarily by facilities and space challenges. It hopes to utilize vacated shops and open campus areas to maximized utility in response to these challenges.