E-Focus Board Note Spring 2012

The E-focus board met on Monday, February 13th. All board members were present: Marcia Roberts Deutsch, Ron Pine and Chris Ann Moore (chair). The board officially voted for the recertification of all E-Focus courses for another 5 years based on the applications that were received in Fall 2011. The official vote had been delayed due to Ron Pine’s sabbatical, but all materials had been reviewed and discussion had occurred over email.

In Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 all E-focus faculty were sent emails reminding them to prepare for the recertification process by ensuring that they have developed individualized assessment techniques in addition to utilizing the E-focus student evaluation instrument all instructors must employ. In addition to presenting their evaluation instruments, faculty were informed that they would also need to summarize their “assessment of the assessments” and to describe the course improvements they instituted based on these. After reviewing the applications and the data from the evaluation instruments as well as the chair’s summary reports from each semester, the board unanimously agreed that the faculty had met all requirements and were, in fact, exceeding the expectations of all hallmarks.

The board also thoroughly reviewed and approved the applications for E-Focus certification from Mike Liederman for Journalism 150 and Journalism 205. Previously the board had reviewed the applications and sent them back for suggested revisions. The chair worked with Mike to include these suggestions in the syllabi and application. He was happy to comply and the board is happy to expand our offerings with such relevant offerings.

Several on-going issues were also discussed. A primary goal at this point is further expanding our E-Focus offerings. Both the Administration of Justice program’s “Ethics and Criminal Justice” and the ethics component of the proposed AA in Hawaiian Studies were suggested as possible additions. It was agreed that we would follow up with the faculty in those departments. The problem of the poor response rate of distance learning students in completing student evaluations was also discussed. This is a problem for distance students in all disciplines. Several strategies were proposed, but it was admitted that the solution has yet to be found and requires further study by all involved. This has been and continues to be is on-going discussion for the Distance Education Review Board. Finally, the board reiterated its commitment to maintaining the E-Focus requirement despite the fact that other campuses do not have a similar commitment. Not only do we feel our students need it, it also is a key component of our college’s mission and one of the ways we meet our accreditation requirements. We believe that eventually other campuses will need to add an ethics requirement.