General Education Structure Discussion

On Oct. 19, 2012, the CTE General Education Sub-Committee met to discuss potential general education course designations for a group of CTE courses. The group engaged in a discussion focused on the importance of meeting UHCC policy and ACCJC requirements around General Education components for all degrees. Those in attendance included Sandy Sanpei (sub-committee chair), Jim Poole, Evelyn Greene Paul Sherard, Diane Caulfield, Joy Nagaue, Kara Kam, Fumi Takasugi and Jennifer Higa-King. The three-hour meeting was extremely productive in identifying the need for an overarching General Education structure to be comprised of both University College and CTE faculty.

The University of Hawaii Community Colleges Policy on General Education in All Degree Programs (UHCCP #5.200) states the “policy addresses the inclusion of a component of general education in all degree programs offered by the institution. It ensures that the institution provides an environment that supports learning, enhances student understanding and appreciation of diversity, and encourages personal and civic responsibility as well as intellectual, aesthetic and personal development for all of its students.”

The policy further states “It is the responsibility of each chancellor to ensure that a component of general education based on a carefully considered philosophy clearly stated in the college’s catalog is included in all degree programs. Each chancellor will:

A. Ensure that the institution relying on the expertise of its faculty and the institution’s chief academic officer determines the appropriateness of each course for inclusion in the general education curriculum by examining the stated learning outcomes for the course.
B. Ensure that the process includes broad dialogue on how student learning outcomes are used to analyze courses for inclusion as general education.
C. Ensure that the rationale for general education is communicated to all stakeholders.
D. Ensure that the general education philosophy is reflected in the degree requirements.”

At the completion of the sub-committee meeting on General Education for CTE it became very clear the need for a curriculum governance structure that addresses ALL general education regardless of the type of degree.

The group discussed several options and the outcome became a possible structure identified below.
- The proposed structure will allow for campus-wide dialogue as required by the accrediting standards. Current membership of the foundations, diversifications, focus area requirements, and the overall general education board includes only members of the University College faculty. **Under the proposed structure, both University College and CTE faculty will make up the sub-committees and general education committee.** Chairs of the foundations, diversifications, focus requirements and CTE general education sub-committees will make up the membership of the General Education Committee for all degree programs.

- As delegated by the Committee on Programs and Curricula, the General Education Committee will serve as the overarching governance structure for determining and approving general education requirements for all degree programs, following the same reporting structure for the current General Education Board.

- The goal of this proposal is to create a well-balanced committee to oversee general education for all degree programs. The recent visit by the accrediting team pointed to issues related to the college meeting the eligibility requirements within the area of general education. Creating a structure of required consultation, cooperation and collaboration in identifying general education is both expected and required by the college’s accrediting body.