As charged by Vice-Chancellor Smatresk and our respective campuses, we met on 9/25/2004 to review each campus’ portfolio and to map out our activities and goals for the coming year. We had a thoroughly productive meeting in an environment that was both positive and encouraging.

We came to consensus on the following points:

We agree that the overarching goal of the Systemwide Foundations Committee is to provide a system of check and balances for each campus’s foundations board while still enabling autonomy for each campus in the review and assignment of foundations designations. To that end we’ve each approved all three portfolios that have been submitted. We strongly recommend that our respective campuses fully approve the common foundations programs of the other two campuses. We believe that this formal approval will enable us to move ahead with the work of creating a smoother transfer process for all UH-system students.

We agree that given UH Manoa’s experience with interpreting and applying hallmarks, it is most expedient for KCC and HCC to adopt UHM’s current documented interpretations as the basis for evaluating their own courses. Additionally, we agree that our collective understanding of the hallmarks will continue to change and grow, much as it has done in the past during the meetings of the UHM foundations board. We are committed to annually producing a collaboratively written and owned document that represents the current shared understanding and best practices for interpreting and applying UHM’s hallmarks. This document will be incorporated into the program review process for the following year.

We agree that an ongoing task for this year will be to refine the criteria and process for each foundation program’s annual review. This will include defining what constitutes “appropriate assessment” and “appropriate faculty training”. However, we believe that before we can quantify effective program review processes, we need to create a cross-campus, common understanding of the hallmarks, their interpretation, and the course review process. In lieu of systemwide foundations committee meetings in the short-term,
we instead agree to make a concerted effort to arrange for members of each board to attend the board meetings of other campuses as non-voting observers. We believe that this involvement with other boards will most likely lead to the realization that we already share a common understanding of the hallmarks as well as a common commitment to the quality of the education we provide.

The coming year will surely provide a multitude of challenges as well as opportunities to question ourselves and each other. Despite this, we agree that the potential rewards from this common foundations articulation process are significant and we are committed to making it work.

Signed:

Nathan Dwyer (KCC)

Todd H. Sammons (UHM)

Jerry Saviano (HCC)