January 30, 2013

To: UHCC Administrators, Faculty, and Staff
From: Cory Ando, Part Time Student Committee Chair
Subject: Part-Time Student Committee Call for Proposals

The UHCC System’s Student Success Agenda is moving the system forward through three approaches: investing in faculty and staff professional development, building a culture of evidence and continuous improvement, and enhancing student success through innovation and change.

The first approach, investing in faculty and staff professional development, is the opportunity to hear from national leaders in the areas of course/program redesign, student support innovations, and transfer and graduation strategies. We have heard from speakers such as Peter Adams from the Community Colleges of Baltimore County about accelerated learning strategies and more recently, Donna Linderman from the City University of New York (CUNY) on strategies that have succeeded in making at-risk students more successful through cohort programs and block scheduling.

The second approach is the deployment of agreed-upon strategic numbers on each campus. These numbers measure enrollment, gatekeeper course activities, remedial/developmental success, Native Hawaiian progress, STEM course and program completion, and much more. Data collection on part time students has begun at some campuses. At Kapi‘olani CC, a survey was sent out to part time students, which found that part time students attributed working more than 20 hours (57.2%), enrolling in challenging courses (44%), and caring for a family member (32.1%) as the main reasons for enrolling part time. Having more free financial aid (65.2%), online courses (46.1%), and counseling (37.9%) were the three things that could help part time students at Kapi‘olani CC enroll full time. Kaua‘i CC has surveyed its students to determine if course scheduling is meeting students’ needs. Their survey found that more morning courses (72.4%) and evening (27.6%) were needed to meet students’ needs. Kaua‘i CC utilized this data to schedule remedial and developmental courses and has recommended that it be used to schedule other courses throughout the College.

The third approach involves the deployment of innovation dollars and locating these dollars in committees such as the Developmental Education Committee and the Part Time Student Committee. These committees issue Request For Proposals (RFPs) system wide to solicit projects designed to improve student success and completion. As a result of a competitive process, faculty receive the resources and time needed to improve their craft, innovate for student success, and sometimes gain national recognition in the process. The third approach also involves performance funding. Each campus measures its annual performance on strategic elements in various student success areas such as graduation and transfer. There are funds distributed annually when campuses meet or exceed these goals.
We are proud to announce a newly formed committee, the Part Time Student Committee, as part of the UHCC Student Success Agenda. The part time student is well known as a typical student at community colleges across the nation and within the UHCC System. Research has shown that increasing the amount of time it takes for students to obtain a degree or transfer to a four-year institution lessens the likelihood that students realize their success. This is of great concern to part time students who generally enroll in 6-8 credits per semester. This committee is charged with addressing issues that will help the UHCC system better understand the needs, the obstacles, and the opportunities for success relative to part time students. The committee has been allocated $250,000 to distribute annually to help faculty and staff find solutions and pathways for increasing the success of part time students. The first allocation will be distributed for utilization during the 2013-2014 academic year.

Therefore, the Part Time Student Committee announces the call for proposals. Proposals should be focused on innovations that shorten the time it takes a part time student to complete a degree and/or transfer. Examples of projects are:

Academic:
- Curriculum – Should there be condensed course structuring (e.g. 4-6 week courses) for these students allowing them to complete 2 or 3 courses in a term instead of only a single course.
- Are there new learning approaches and pedagogies we might need to deploy to better engage with these students?
- What role does online education play for these students?

Student Services:
- Advising - Should there be more intentional advising to help these students understand their options?

Collaborative:
- Course Scheduling - Should there be a more determined and intentional scheduling process that addresses the timeline for part time students?
- What’s the role of marketing, student advising, and data collection around the part time student?
- What policies might we change to advance the success options for these students?

Data Collection and Analysis:
- Data Collection – What is the profile of part time students at each campus? Are there similar characteristics?

Each campus has representatives to help facilitate discussions on innovations and who serve as conduits for information between the campuses and the Part Time Student Committee. These representatives are:
If at anytime you have any questions, contact your campus representative or myself at cando@hawaii.edu.