Title: Student Congress Forum Minutes
Place: Lama Library Alcove
Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2014
Time: 3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Convened by Student Congress: Annie (Chi Kuen) Wong, Chair and Alex (Ming Hang) Poon, Treasurer & Secretary

Panelists: Michelle Sturges, Library; Mary Hattori, CELTT; Karl Naito, CELLT; Gordon Man, Auxiliary Services; Krista Hiser, Kahikoluamea; Raymart Cortez, Student Activities; Taylor Pave, Student Activities and JC Byun, Subway

Questions to the panelists:

- A student noted that he was requesting information on establishing residency. He went from department to department and received conflicting information. The problem is student employees are on the frontline for many student services and their knowledge may be incomplete. If important information is required, students need to speak to a staff member.

- A student asked to be notified when there is construction or when elevators are inoperable. It makes it difficult for students with mobility issues. Also, the counter to request IDs in student activities is too high. A possible solution to the construction issue is to make sure the students are emailed or communicated as to when a project is scheduled or if there is an unexpected mechanical breakdown such as an elevator problem.

- Another support for those with disabilities is an automatic door for the bathrooms and especially for the entrance to the disability services office. Automatic doors could be installed in places where there is high foot traffic such as the cafeteria and Iliahi. Also, clearing debris from walkways would be helpful.

- A student observed that the STEM program has been celebrating many awards by students. There are great mentors and faculty advisors to help students succeed. The STEM center is designed to enhance student/faculty interaction. There is discussion on using this model for the whole campus through the student success center, especially in writing and math.

- A student felt the clubs and other organizations at the college could be promoted better. There is a RIO Club day to promote the clubs. A suggestion was to have it more than one time a semester and for longer hours or several days. It is currently held at Iliahi. Could it be moved to the Cafeteria or Great Lawn where there is more visibility?

- There was a question on the progress of the technology plan. The plan is currently being defined, and will be published in several months as part of the accreditation report. There is a proposal for a technology fee. Before it is imposed, students will be asked how much the fee would be and what the fee would cover. It will be a transparent process with strict guidelines for how the money will be used.
• A student asked why the exercise machines were not being used. At one point, there was an Exercise and Sports Science Program, which has been temporarily suspended. There was a request for a student wellness center or gym. There is limited space at the college and numerous educational needs making it difficult to dedicate the space for this purpose.

• A question to the owner of Subway was to offer greater discounts for students who are struggling and possibly link it to the government food subsidy program. Subway offers students a discount before 11am, which is the cheapest offer in the area because of the location at Kap CC.

• A request for the library was to fix the computer for disabled students and provide desks with adjustable heights. The double doors in the bathroom are also difficult to maneuver.

• There was a request for a credit card machine for the cafeteria. The cafeteria manager was invited to the panel but did not respond.

• There was an additional request for tutoring and to inform faculty that tutors are available. There are short-range, mid-range and long-range plans around tutoring at the college. Brainfuse was heralded as a great option for 24/7 tutoring.

• There was a question on why the construction at Olona was during the busy spring semester. The bidding process for construction projects takes the timing of the projects out of our hands.

Chancellor Richards thanked the Student Congress for sponsoring this informative forum and thanked the panelists for taking the time to participate and for their candid responses.