

March 29, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Counseling Unit, Student Services Division

RE: Proposed Changes to the LCC AA degree per the March 1, 2005 minutes of the AA Revision Committee

The counselors in the Student Services Division met on Friday, March 18, 2005 to discuss the proposed changes to the AA degree set forth by the AA Revision Committee. The committee has enumerated 10 recommendations; counselor discussion yielded the following two motions pertaining to recommendations 8 and 2.

1. MOTION: The counselors in the Student Services Division strongly oppose allowing students to double dip from the same disciplines in the Foundations and Diversification categories. Motion passed unanimously (Y-16; N-0; Ab-0).

Rationale:

- a. UH Manoa does not allow students to double dip from the same discipline for Foundations and Diversification requirements. The committee has followed UHM's lead in allowing multiple courses to fulfill the Foundations Global and Multicultural Perspectives requirement. Maintaining the "no double dipping" policy will further increase consistency with UHM and minimize student confusion.
- b. Permitting double dipping from the same disciplines to fulfill Foundations and Diversification requirements will knowingly set LCC students up for transfer problems to UHM.
- c. Even if the number of transfer students who encounter problems is small, it will still affect LCC's transfer credibility with students.

2. MOTION: The counselors in the Student Services Division strongly recommend that the Diversification requirements be changed to 6 credits required from Arts and Humanities, 6 credits required from Social Sciences, and 7 credits required from Natural Sciences. Motion passed Unanimously (Y-16; N-0; Ab-0)

Rationale:

- a. The counselors recognize the teaching faculty's desire to create a strong AA degree and do not intend to weaken the AA degree. However, it is likely that students will choose not to complete the LCC AA degree given the fact that it will be significantly different from the AA degree

requirements of the other Oahu community colleges and inconsistent with the UHM core.

- b. Assessment – WASC does assess LCC on the number of AA degrees completed as well as the number of students who transfer after earning an AA degree.
- c. Reducing the Diversification requirements will enable students to take more elective classes, explore a wider variety of subject areas, and increase their knowledge base. This structure will also give students the opportunity to complete more courses required for their baccalaureate degree.
- d. This change will align LCC with the other community colleges on the island of Oahu. KCC and HCC currently require students to complete 6 cr SS, 6 cr AH and 7 cr NS. WCC is in the process of modifying their AA to reflect this distribution of credit requirements for the Diversification categories.
- e. Alignment with our sister community colleges will make it easier for students to transfer between the community colleges.
- f. These last two points remind us that we are a system. We should make it easier for students to complete a degree from the CC's and avoid making the process more complicated and confusing for students.

It is for these reasons, especially 2f, that the counselors in the Student Services Division ask that the Faculty Senate make these changes to recommendations 8 and 1 of the AA Revision Committee. We thank the Senate for considering our request.