

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES
ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SENIOR COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES



August 14, 2007

Gene Awakuni, Chancellor
University of Hawai'i, West Oahu
96-129 Ala Ike
Pearl City, HI 96782

Dear Dr. Awakuni:

At its August 13, 2007, meeting, the Structural Change Panel of the Commission considered the action of the Substantive Change Panel forwarding with approval the application for the University of Hawai'i, West Oahu, to expand its programs to include lower division courses under the WASC category of Change of Mission. The Panel had access to the institution's proposal and a summary of the University's Accreditation History.

This letter is to confirm that the Panel acted to approve the proposal for the Change of Mission. This action was subsequently confirmed by the Commission, allowing the University to begin offering lower division courses.

In taking the action, the Panel noted that, while the application was sufficient to warrant this approval, there were several areas where documentation of detailed planning was sparse. At the time of the Special Visit, and included in the institution's report for that visit, the Panel requests that UHWO provide additional information, reflective of substantial planning, in the following areas:

Recruitment Planning. It is likely that the institution, along with the University System, has assembled and analyzed more extensive information about the probable sources and numbers of potential students, the impact of their recruitment on the projected lower division UHWO enrollments and on the institutions from which they may be drawn away, and thus on the level of confidence the institution can have in meeting its enrollment projections. These data together with their analyses should be provided. The institution should also clearly identify the admissions criteria employed for admitting students to its lower-division courses.

Curriculum Planning. A more detailed description of how lower division coursework will link with upper division courses, particularly leading to the

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inverted Bachelor of Applied Science degree, needs to be provided. With a continuing reliance on students transferring their major-related credits from community colleges, to be combined with general education courses at UHWO, issues such as degree integrity and coordinated assessment planning need to be addressed in greater detail.

Student Services. The Panel requests that the Special Visit institutional report reflect more detailed planning related to the various resources that are being committed to this new category of student, at a more detached location, to ensure their academic success. Since the university will now be dealing with a younger student cohort, most likely with significantly different learning needs, the Panel is anxious to know how the institution is fully anticipating these changes on behalf of its intended student population.

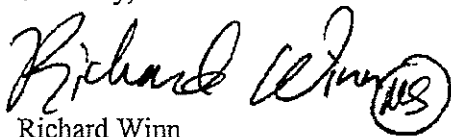
In view of the uncertainties arising from the minimal amount of sufficiently detailed planning information, the Panel acted to:

1. Approve the recommended Change of Mission, with reservations, effective this date
2. Request additional planning information as identified in this letter, to be provided as a component of the institutional report in connection with its fall 2008 Special Visit
3. Request a meeting between yourself and WASC staff to discuss the issues identified in this letter, to be arranged with the WASC office
4. Add an extra day to the Special Visit in order for the team to verify an appropriate level of planning and implementation around the issues identified here and in the February 2005 action letter stipulating the Special Visit.

The federally mandated site visit following a change of mission and the initiation of new levels of instruction will be conducted as an aspect of the Special Visit scheduled for October 2008 to UHWO.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments about this letter or the Panel's action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Winn". The signature is written in black ink and includes a circular stamp or mark at the end.

Richard Winn

CC: Joanne Itano, ALO