

Department of Political Science
Department Minutes
March 16, 2018

1. Announcements- chair election is coming up. Noenoe and Jon will be canvassing faculty to see who is willing to run and who faculty would like to see run.
3. Reminder of Mini-conference – April 21 – focus on how to make transition from 2 year to 4 year easier; how to change curriculum, advising, etc to meet needs of transfer students
4. Post cards – grad students and faculty, please participate in writing cards to admitted grad students and undergrad students
5. Open source grant – there is a grant available to create open-source text; Jon and Katharina had one and hired grad student to help with work. Email about application has been circulated
5. On-line major - what a hybrid program could look like

Online: Should we scale up or scale down (today's vote, if we are ready to do so): are you willing to be a part of this, planning it as well as teaching it?

Why are we doing this:

- We're in violation of WASC requirements
- We are not being clear with our students: they don't know what they can get on line, what to expect;
- Currently students can take few or no classes with faculty: they can't find sponsors for a thesis or get a letter of recommendation appropriate for grad school or law school
- A few students really need the on-line option; people living off-island, working full time, carrying heavy family responsibilities.

I. Scale down:

1. Cut available on-line classes to less than 50% of requirements. This means:
 - a. Offer fewer required classes
 - b. Offer more electives
 - c. Give up some amount of discretionary dept funding:
 - i. Last year total Extension classes: 13 out of 28 classes that filled were required.
 - ii. We would replace half of the required classes (7 out of 13) with electives
 - iii. Money lost: could be about 15-20%, probably around \$7000-9,000 total for the year
 - d. Other variables out of our control:
 - how many non-majors take our classes (they care about focus designations, topics, and timing, but not polisci requirements)
 - how much competition there is for those non-majors from other on-line offerings

- what other classes (305, 315, 316) get enrollment because them someone else requires it (eg Business Division or cross-list partner)
- e. Fewer opportunities for grad students to develop on-line skills
- f. Serve off-island students less well

II. Scale up: (institute hybrid on-line major; have to have same rules as regular major) Two basic models for staffing:

- a. Commit to adequate number of faculty willing to teach one on line class during regular year.(how many?
 - i. Problem: face-to-face classes general enroll better during the regular year, so we might actually lose enrollment if we swap f-to-f classes for on-line classes
- b. Create plan where most of the classes are taught by grad students and other lecturers, with a few taught by faculty
 - i. 9 credits of face-to-face taught by faculty,
 - ii. No 4xx classes offered on line
 - iii. Specific which classes must be taken f-to-f
 or
 - iv. Specific the number of classes which must be taken f-to-f but let the specific classes vary from student to student

Other considerations and unanswered questions:

- maybe students on campus wouldn't shift to on-line so we could potentially lose that enrollment.
- There may be a trend in the UH system for some transfer students to finish AA degree and transfer to on-line institution rather than to Manoa. Does an on-line major attract them to Manoa?
- What are the labor implications – can a faculty member teach an on-line class during the regular semester as part of their regular two course load? Would it be offered through Extension or through the regular Manoa curriculum?
- For advising: How do we know what courses a student takes are on-line and which ones are f-to-f?
- A small number of students have an intense need for particular classes that we don't offer on-line (often 390) – can we address this by letting everyone know it won't be available on-line, so they can plan? Or is this a small enough number that we could accommodate them some other way (eg a 399)?