

Manfred Henningsen

Minutes of the Department Meeting, Oct. 20, 2017.

- (1) The Chair, Kathy Ferguson, informed the meeting that there will be a voluntary one-hour *Security Training* session on Friday, January 12, 2018 at 12:30.
- (2) The Chair gave an up-date on the administration's interpretation of the *Free Speech* clause of the *First Amendment* to the Constitution, namely that all offensive symbols are protected. Some members raised concerns about this policy reading.
Jairus Grove reported about his contact with the UHPA representatives concerning this interpretation of the law and will get back to the Department once he has heard from the union.
- (3) The 22 members present at the meeting supported unanimously the suggestion to retain the existing open policy for visitors at the Department that doesn't include any financial obligations. It was, however, suggested that visitor should be asked to introduce themselves by giving a colloquium.
- (4) Ehito Kimura suggested that the Department support a policy change for undergraduates with a strong educational record to enable them to accelerate their BA graduation by enrolling in graduate classes and, possibly, begin the process for an MA degree.
In the following discussion, a consensus emerged to encourage strong undergraduates to take graduate classes.
- (5) A faculty member from UH West-Oahu informed the Department about the efforts to get data about the issue of food insecurity among students within the UH system as a whole.