CTAH Faculty Senate Meeting
8 February 2007
Kuykendall 204 and HITS

Members Present:
Brent Sipes
Janice Uchida
Joannie Dobbs
Travis Idol
John Engel
Susan Miyasaka
Cathy Chan-Halbrendt
Diane Chung
Jonathan Deenik
John Griffis
Andy Kaufman
Julia Lee
Richard Manshardt
Gernot Presting
Jari Sugano
Alan Titchenal
Ronaele Whittington
Julian Yates
By Proxy:
Jim Carpenter
Dan Jenkins
Naomi Kanehiro
Mike Kawate
Ania Wieczorek
Mark Wright

Meeting called to order at 1:32 PM by President Brent Sipes

I. Minutes from 02 November 2006 Meeting Approved as Submitted

II. Senate Committee Reports

A. Elections 1. resolution on Senate constituencies, defining “department” (see Attachment A) -resolution read by Naomi Kanehiro -John Engel submitted amendment “we affirm” changed to “be it resolved” -it was seconded; there was no discussion -resolution and amendment passed unanimously

B. Instruction (Jonathan Deenik) -met three times since last Senate meeting -reviewed four new course proposals and sent recommendations to executive committee -sent recommendation for buying out faculty instructional time to executive committee

C. Extension (Jari Sugano) 1. looked at role of agents and departments -committee and Assoc. Dean Nishijima drafted survey -will go out from county administrators to agents -results will be placed in a report 2. reviewed change in minimum qualifications for county agents -will be looking into alternative qualifications for agents without a master’s degree -will be looking at alternative ways for agents to obtain continuing education credits 3. will be looking at departmental tenure and promotion review procedures -will be looking at adjusting agent pay scale to match librarians -will meet 14 February, 2007

D. Research:

1. Magoon facility investigation, tasked by SEC -Thomas Lim working on a white paper on value and vision for facility

2. resolution on re-allocation of T-STAR Funds for support of capacity building, bioenergy funds and communication within the college (see Attachment B) -the administration expressed concern about the tone and spirit of the resolution -Doug Vincent explained that the TSTAR Pacific Basin Administration, which includes USDA, CTAHR, and Univ. of Guam members, ultimately determine TSTAR funding allocations
Senators agreed that the resolution expressed important issues that needed to be discussed further.

Alan Titchenal moved to table the resolution; it was seconded and approved unanimously.

3. Resolution on taro research (see Attachment C)

- The resolution was originally presented to the SEC who sent it to the research committee.
- Jonathan Deenik expressed concern that many taro farmers are not up-to-date on GE taro; not sure leaf blight is the main issue for yield declines; apple snail and reduced acreage are more important causes of decline.
- Richard Manshardt reminded us that the mission of CTAHR is to serve all stakeholders and not be restricted by minority groups.
- Joannie Dobbs stated such a movement threatens academic freedom and limits our ability to quickly adapt tropical agriculture to emerging challenges and threats.

- Others stated we need to act quickly to respond to the Senate bill.
- The bill as written prohibits GM research on all varieties of taro, not just Hawaiian varieties.

- A motion was made to vote on accepting the resolution and was seconded; 20 voted in favor, 3 opposed; the motion carried.

E. Personnel; submitted report (Attachment E)
- Has requested a meeting with the Instruction committee on the proposed Buy-out of Instructional time.

III. Manoa Faculty Senate: ACCFSC Resolution on Board of Regents Advisory Council (see Attachment D)
- A motion was made to accept the resolution and send to the MFS; it was seconded and passed unanimously.

Next Senate Meeting - April 12, 2007

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 PM
A Resolution Pertaining to the Definition of Constituencies
Whereas the tripartite mission of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is addressed by agents, instructors, researchers, and specialists in multiple programs located on campus, in county offices, and at research stations throughout the state; and
Whereas Board of Regents approved instructional and research programs and their constituent faculty in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources are of equal stature; and
Whereas the Senate of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is the representative body of these faculty; therefore
We affirm that for the purpose of constituencies (Article 1, Section 2) in the Charter of the Faculty Senate of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources “department” means a Board of Regents approved program in the College that is responsible for research, instruction, or extension.
A Resolution Pertaining to the Prioritization and Re-allocation of T-STAR Funds by the CTAHR Administration

Whereas the Senate has discussed and evaluated the Administration’s decision to re-allocate funds from the Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural Research (T-STAR) program to other college activities; and

Whereas the 10% cut of the active T-STAR grants decision lacked input from the investigators affected, and will adversely impact research, extension and instruction projects of numerous faculty, students and post-doctoral associates with faculty shouldering the burden and consequences of this administrative decision; and

Whereas the Congressional “earmark” nature of T-STAR funds makes them tenuous, the decision to fund capacity-building and bioenergy initiatives lacked conscientious budgetary foresight and removed valuable grant support from the broad research enterprise; and

Whereas the Faculty Senate is the policy recommending body of college acting on behalf of the College and its faculty evaluating and debating issues that impact the College and in the spirit of shared governance, the Senate must develop, consider, and make recommendations on all changes in the policies; and

Whereas the Faculty and the Administration share a vision for a brighter future; therefore

Be it resolved that it is logical, responsible, and that in the best interests of the faculty, students and other stakeholders that immediate administrative action be taken to reinstate the 10% cut from on-going T-STAR projects; and

Be it resolved that we do not endorse using T-STAR or earmark funds to support capacity-building and bioenergy initiatives; and

Be it resolved that it is in the best interest and well-being of the College for the Administration to improve accountability to and communication with the Faculty; soliciting and allowing input into budgetary and programmatic policy changes by regular and substantive consultation with the Senate, implementing mutually-agreed policy changes.
A Resolution Pertaining to Taro Research

Whereas the vision of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is to actively help Hawaii diversify its economy, ensure a sustainable environment, strengthen its communities, and be the premier resource for tropical agricultural systems and natural resource management in the Asia-Pacific region, and

Whereas taro yields in Hawaii have been declining over the past 50 years, with the lowest production since 1946 recorded in 2005, and

Whereas diseases of taro are limiting production with as much as 30% of leaves lost to leaf blight and the economic stability of the crop hampered by such high disease levels, and

Whereas new molecular methods have produced several promising genetically engineered (GE) disease resistant lines of Chinese taro, and

Whereas this new disease resistant taro needs to be challenged with pathogens in greenhouse and contained field trials, and

Whereas all research will be conducted in secure locations and biosafety measures taken to prevent the escape of the new GE Chinese taro lines or its transgenes, therefore

Be it resolved that the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Faculty Senate endorses continued testing of disease resistant GE Chinese taro to improve the crop and the lives of those who cultivate and consume this plant.
Attachment D

A Resolution Proposed by the ACCFSC Regarding the Board of Regents Advisory Council

Whereas, a recent amendment to the Hawai‘i State constitution requires that the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai‘i be selected from a pool of qualified candidates chosen by a candidate advisory council, and

Whereas, the legislation that will specify the manner in which the candidate advisory council is chosen will be determined during the 2007 Hawai‘i State legislative session, and

Whereas, it has been proposed that the enabling legislation specify that Governor select the advisory council and also proposed that it specify that selection of the advisory council be made by various constituencies, be it therefore

Resolved, that if the advisory council is to be selected by constituencies, the faculty of the UH System should be one of the constituencies.
CTAHR Faculty Senate Personnel Committee
Report for February 8, 2007 Faculty Senate Meeting

Members of the Personnel Committee: James R. Carpenter (Chair), Carol Ikeda, Daniel Jenkins, Andy Kaufman, Qing Li, Julian Yates, and John Engel (SEC liaison – non voting member).

The CTAHR Faculty Senate Personnel Committee has met once since the last general faculty senate meeting, February 7, 2007. There are four issues to report on:

1. “Policy for Buying-out Instructional Responsibilities”
   a. Dr. Engel (SEC Liaison) provided the Personnel committee with a copy of the report from the Instructional Committee that we reviewed.
   b. Although there are differences in philosophy as to how a policy statement should be written the substance is very similar to the Personnel Committee report to the general faculty senate on November 2nd. The Personnel Committee is uncertain whether the Instructional Committee had received and considered their version of the policy.
   c. With both reports now received by the CTAHR Faculty Senate the Personnel Committee recommends that the CTAHR Senate should discuss the two draft policy proposals, get any additional comments or recommendations from the senators, and have the Personnel and Instructional Committees meet jointly to finalize a policy statement to be presented at the April 2007 Faculty Senate meeting for adoption, and then presentation to the CTAHR Administrative Team.
   d. We believe that a consolidation of these revised policy statements would provide both sufficient guidance and flexibility for our faculty.

2. “Expectations of 9-month faculty appointees”
   a. The Committee continued our discussion of the need for CTAHR Administration and Department Chair’s to provide their expectations/requirements of 9-month faculty appointees’ participation during “non-duty periods”
   b. There appears to be great uncertainty or the expectation for activities such as new student orientation, service on CTAHR/Dept. Committees, official functions, and summer advising activities, annual industry meetings, and other industry or individual producer assessment meetings during official non-duty periods and whether comp-time or additional financial remuneration should be a consideration?
c. It is also unclear what the current CTAHR policy is in regards to I, R, E FTE time allocations, when and how shifts can be made, and what the approval procedure is, when does it need to be done, and who is the approving authority?

d. There is also great uncertainty as to the methodology in calculating years of service, retirement and health benefits and the differences between 9- and 11-month faculty appointments. An explanation of the differences in vacation and sick leave would also be very helpful.

e. The Personnel Committee is considering conducting a survey of the CTAHR faculty to determine how they feel/perceive the issues dividing 9- and 11-month faculty. The Committee realizes that variation in wages is a very emotional issue and the differences in 9- and 11-month compensation just muddies the water. All faculty need to realize that initial salaries at hire are very dependent on years of experience and market value of the discipline so people should not be assuming that everyone at each rank who has been at UH Manoa for the same number of years should have the same salary. Some faculty may have also received equity and/or merit awards that would further separate individuals within each rank.

f. The Personnel committee recommends that the administrative team make a report on these issues at the next General Faculty Senate Meeting (April 12, 2007) to help educate the faculty and clarify some of the concerns.

3. “Extension personnel concerns about P & T process”

a. The Committee continued with our discussions concerning the September 21st Extension Committee Report regarding departmental criteria for contract renewal and post tenure review.

b. The Committee will be requesting from each of the CTAHR Departments a copy of their current “Department procedures governing tenure and promotion and contract renewal” and their Post-Tenure Review guidelines.

c. Committee personnel will also check with the College Personnel Office to determine number of extension specialist and agent P & T applications that have been received over the past five years and the success rate for each.

d. There appears to be great concern about the fairness and difficulty of assessing E appointee’s dossiers during the P & T process, particularly among departments and at the TPRC levels.

e. The Personnel Committee believes that it is essential for Department DPC’s to educate the faculty about the P & T process, the criteria for the various I, R and E ranks, and the importance of extension work plans and how measures of success and effectiveness are determined.

4. “Continued discussion on faculty housing concerns”
a. The Committee continued with the discussions that were initiated and reported at the Nov 2, 2006 CTAHR Faculty Senate Mtg. We confirmed our previous assessment that the issue is broader than just the ranking policy and that it should also include assessment of 1) the critical need for married graduate student housing, 2) the need for more faculty housing units, and 3) the need for Board of Regents enforcement of existing policies in regards to short term/long term contracts.

b. Some of the situations being reported are quite appalling and in fact causing poor morale of faculty. A few specific concerns are listed below:

1) Supposedly there are senior faculty whom have been living there 10 to 12 years, although this needs to be verified since some units were sold a few years back.

2) There are inconsistencies in handling requests from across campus in how priorities are shifted based on administrative requests.

3) Although contracts for new faculty are for three years they are inspected annually.

4) Clearly there is inconsistencies and lack of enforcement of guidelines.

c. In our future meetings the Personnel Committee will be continuing to research the issues, contact the Manoa Faculty Senate to determine what is being done at both their level and at BOR, and propose an action plan our Faculty Senate might consider.