

March 17, 2017

To the Chancellor's Advisory Council:

What does it mean to assess? It means to observe, to gather information on the observed behaviors. In our case, we seek to answer the following questions: How effectively are our students learning? How effectively are we delivering our support? That's the first step. Based on the results of those observed behaviors, we determine whether our students' learning or our support is meeting the standards we have set. If so, let's celebrate the accomplishments. If not, how do we improve? We are compelled to do something with the results of our assessment to improve our programs and support. Weighing the pig doesn't make it grow any faster. Weighing the pig is not enough. We have to act on the results of the weighing to effect growth. Once we have determined the remedy, we need to set the next milestone, so that we can know whether our strategies for improvement have been effective. We have to weigh the pig again. And so the cycle of improvement is continuous.

Attached is the draft assessment plan, the culmination of almost 15 years of a cycle of discussion, planning, implementation, revision, and improvement (we have, in fact, used the assessment cycle on our assessment plans). Compiled by Sally Pestana and Tanya Renner and based on consultation with the Taskstream Coordinator, General Education Board Members, CTE Assessment Coach, Arts & Sciences Assessment Coach, Faculty Senate Student Learning Outcome Committee, Accreditation Liaison Officer, College Accreditation Consultant and various other faculty and staff working on assessment, it represents the best thinking of a significant group of Kapi'olani faculty and staff.

I urge you to carefully read the plan, keeping uppermost in your mind how your program or unit stands to benefit from following the plan and assessing the related student learning outcomes and support unit outcomes. Good educators complete this process all the time, individually in their own areas of practice. We are now tasking ourselves to do this work collectively, across shared areas of instruction or support.

Without a doubt, the assessment plan is ambitious, not just in the timeline but also in scope. It commits the College to a process for the short-term, but more importantly, it commits us to a process going forward. Central to the effective implementation of the plan is the commitment of resources to ensure that the faculty and staff have the support they need to continue their important work. I pledge that support to you and commit to doing the work with you.

Please give us your feedback on the Google Form. Your feedback will be shared and more feedback will be invited at two open forums (dates/times TBD). The assessment plan will be discussed at the newly-added April CAC meeting on Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 2:30-4:30 p.m., revised based on feedback and brought to the May 2nd CAC meeting for endorsement.

The plan has identified the priorities. It's time to act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Honore Pestana". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.