

### A Message from the Dean of the College of Engineering

For the record and the sake of veracity I would like to clarify some information and provide a more complete background of the picture painted of the College of Engineering at UH Mānoa in a recent article published in the Star Advertiser.

Since July 2006:

- The College of Engineering has made significant gains in many dimensions and with the continued support of our many partners, employers, and most of all its cherished students and families; and will continue to do so.
- The fundraising results for the last four years were nearly 40% higher than the same period prior to my arrival.
- Funding expenditures of external grant and contract awards to the College have increased from an average of \$4.3 Million in the years 2004-2006 to \$6.9 Million in the year 2010- 2011. In that time the number of grant proposals submitted has increased 280% and 100% of the funding that had been obtained through Hawai‘i’s congressional assistance (approximately 40% of the funding) has been replaced by regularly completed proposals, putting the College in good position for the future.
- This growth has supported 19 new faculty hires in the College since 2006, approximately 1/3 of the engineering faculty strength.
- In the last four years, the College has successfully executed on behalf of the State STEM outreach programs, expending over \$1 Million each year and building strong working relations with many school teachers across our state.
- The College has enjoyed great success in building alumni relationships with the annual Engineering Awards Banquet raising over \$100,000 each year for undergraduate student programs. Attendance last year has grown to nearly 800 alumni and friends!
- The Engineering Alumni chapter, in close association with the College staff and UHAA has created another very successful annual event called “Holmes”coming, in honor of Holmes Hall, and timed around the UH Mānoa Homecoming, that draws hundreds of engineering alumni every year.
- I am now a member of the Executive Board of the Engineering Dean’s Council of the American Society for Engineering Education and is the program host for the 2012 ASEE Engineering Deans Institute in Kaua‘i next year, where most of the Nation’s Engineering Deans gather.

Faculty, staff and others should know the following:

- Various members of the staff and College faculty have access to certain UH Foundation accounts. Out of over 120 College expendable Foundation accounts, I have direct access to information on 20 accounts.
- Since the College Faculty Senate Executive Committee (SEC) persisted, I did request advice on the disclosure issue from UH General Counsel for which I am awaiting a response, although I understand that they have a heavy backlog of cases.
- I have agreed to supply some representative data for UH Foundation expendable accounts to which I have access. This will be completed early in the Fall semester.
- The focus on my travel in the article specifically in the years July 2007 – June 2009, detracts from the original presumed, good faith effort by the SEC to better understand the intent with respect to the College travel policy, even though the existing travel policy has never been formally retracted. Again, as agreed with the SEC in late spring, I will send a draft travel policy statement, that has been reviewed by the College Department Chairs over the summer to the SEC early in the Fall semester.
- Support for faculty travel has increased from an average of \$56,000 in the years July 2004 – June 2006 before I came to office, to an average of \$86,000 during the years July 2007 – June 2009, and culminating in \$96,000 in the year July 2010 – June 2011.
- Faculty can obtain funding for travel from many sources:
  - Ask the Dean or their department chairs for support, using non-state and non-tuition funds.
  - Ask the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, who traditionally supports travel in UH Mānoa units, especially units that cannot compete for external grant support.
  - Obtain travel funds from external grants and contracts.

Nearly two years was spent assisting and developing the design of the proposed student lounge. However, the mounting projected expenses for the renovations, all of which did not provide any more existing space for students, promised to go well beyond the available funding as was originally budgeted prior to my arrival. The space has been subsequently equipped with new tables and chairs and white boards for exclusive student use in consultation with the students.

Consequently, it was determined there were additional benefits to provide a long term environment suitable for external visitors to the College, some of whom may potentially provide additional funding to the College; this use of funds was consistent with the intent of the donor. In addition, the funding also enabled the renovation of the student support services area for the College that is contiguous with the Dean's reception area. It should be pointed out that no funds from this account were used to renovate the Deans' office; this was an erroneous statement in the article by the Star Advertiser.

I thank you for your ongoing support of our efforts to continue to elevate the global reputation and quality of education at the UH Mānoa College of Engineering.