

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

UH Hilo Administration  
Office of the Chancellor

August 28, 2008

Dear UH Hilo Colleagues and Community,

In its June 30, 2008 action letter to the university, our accrediting commission, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), identified a number of changes in current university policies and practices that must be addressed immediately in order to return UH Hilo to compliance with WASC expectations and to avoid sanctions.

In brief, before the next WASC special visit to campus in Fall 2009, we must codify institutional governance structures, responsibilities, and policies, clarify roles of the deans in the shared governance process, and move “purview over curricular review and approval to the University Congress.” The WASC action letter is posted at <http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/uhh/accreditation>.

Clearly, we must move forward promptly, collaboratively, and with focus, using the months ahead to design and implement an institutional shared governance system that will function efficiently, effectively, and in accordance with well-articulated policies.

I will appoint a task force of faculty and administrators to oversee the process of bringing us to the desired resolution by the end of this academic year.

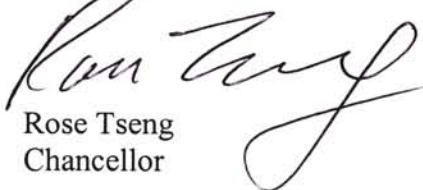
In September, faculty governance representatives from each college will meet with the vice chancellor for academic affairs and their respective dean to discuss governance concerns and to select a college representative to the task force. The vice chancellor for academic affairs will also meet with the UH Hilo Faculty Congress and Graduate Council for the same purposes.

To ensure that we remain on task and meet our deadline – as failure to respond to these WASC concerns is not an option – I have asked the vice chancellor for student affairs to serve as facilitator for this process. In addition, our WASC Liaison will serve as recorder throughout this effort to ensure we have all decisions documented and disseminated. The task force will submit recommendations to me following consultation with the faculty.

Implementation of identified actions will begin immediately upon my approval. It is essential that the necessary changes be in place and that the revised processes and policies be operational by the beginning of Fall 2009. A proposed timeline for this process is also posted on the UH Hilo Accreditation website at the above URL; it will be updated to reflect actual progress.

I would appreciate everyone’s cooperation in giving this effort priority attention.

Sincerely,



Rose Tseng  
Chancellor