

COLLEGE FOCUS
The College of Social Sciences
University of Hawaii
Part One
An Initiative For Change

College Focus is an ongoing initiative for change. The goal is to have the College of Social Sciences become a dynamic institution known for its continual pursuit of fostering a collegial governance system, a vibrant academic climate, and outstanding scholarship.

The college's governance system is based on two interrelated values: collegiality and excellence. A collegial body is one that shares commitment to mutual respect, openness, and cooperation. Excellence embodies the spirit of always striving for improvement.

The mission of the college is to foster a vibrant academic climate and support outstanding scholarship. The main feature of a vibrant academic climate is the exciting, intense interaction among students and faculty. While difficult to define, this climate is an essential part of the intellectual life of a truly exciting campus. Scholarship is the heart of the academic life of the faculty and the most important part of the academic experience of students. The college encourages the integration of scholarship across disciplines and the integration of the scholarship of teaching, discovery and application.

College Focus is a work in progress, an evolving initiative guided by our governance philosophy and academic mission. Different activities and mechanisms are needed to support this initiative, including exchange and discussion of new ideas, systems of approval and implementation, and monitoring progress and quality. It is essential that we continually engage in an open, frank, and honest dialogue about the college and its most basic concerns: climate, governance, and mission. Lines of communication should be open across all levels from individuals to departments/programs to the Support Staff Roundtable to the Council of Chairs and Directors to the Office of the Dean. College Focus will require our time, energy and commitment. It is the faculty, staff, and students who will give meaning and substance to every element of College Focus. Through our continued efforts we will create an excellent educational experience for our students, an exciting intellectual climate for our faculty, and a high quality of life for our community.