FIRST FOLLOW-UP REPORT:
A RECORD OF PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL
TO TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
Environmental Science, 11/24/08

With input from the Cabinet, the President makes final approval of program review recommendations. This report articulates those decisions. Approval of task force recommendations requiring funds beyond the base budget of the reviewed unit is not tantamount to receipt of additional funds. Those funding requests must be channeled through the institutional budget process. Nonetheless, special consideration will be given to requests stemming from program review recommendations.

A progress report toward implementation of recommendations must be drafted one year following completion of the task force report by the chairperson. The report will be sent electronically to the Special Assistant to the President for Strategic Planning & Analysis for college-wide distribution and archiving. Recommendations not achieved within a year are to become "objectives" in the corresponding unit plan to ensure a continued focus on their achievement.

The President accepts the recommendations of the task force as presented below with modifications to #3 and 4 as underscored.

Recommendations

1. The Task Force recommends that since the A.S. degree was in place at the time of the agreement and since the agreement is not working to the benefit of both parties (HCC and UF) as called for in the agreement (UF agreement page 1, Section 4, Appendix G), that the agreement be revisited under the provision for coordination (Section 10). The Task Force recognizes that curriculum modifications may be required that are mutually beneficial.

2. The Task Force finds that the fees charged by D.H. Paul are excessive ($11,000 more than an A.S. Degree) and impede a student's entry into the program (especially low income populations); graduation (and therefore retention) is not encouraged by the D. H. Paul literature; that existing or new HCC-developed courses can be implemented and substituted into the A.W.T. curriculum by HCC, and therefore recommends non-renewal of the D.H. Paul contract upon its contractual termination date of December 31, 2008.

3. The classroom facilities have been upgraded to the college's 21st Century Standards; however, laboratory facilities are in need of upgrading. Although the lab facilities are not operated in a way to violate health and safety code, the Task Force recommends that immediate steps be undertaken to expand and remodel and upgrade the chemical laboratory and remodel and upgrade the soils laboratory or relocate to appropriate facilities at another location.

4. The Task Force recommends that an ongoing marketing campaign be launched for the A.S. program potentially including advertisements being made through the print and radio media markets, and direct mail pieces sent to graduating seniors and to diverse populations. The Task Force also recommends that counselors and advisors are given appropriate information about the program and steps are undertaken to correct coding deficiencies by program faculty. Capacity building strategies should be implemented, as well as strengthening ties to industry, with recognition that low enrollment classes will continue during the phase-out of the D.H. Paul contract.

[Signature]
12/4/08