MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS MEETING

MARCH 8, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Michelle Tagorda called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m. on Thursday, March 8, 2018, at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Information Technology Building, 1st Floor Conference Room 105A/B, 2420 Correa Road, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96822.

Committee members in attendance: Committee Chair Michelle Tagorda; Committee Vice Chair Lee Putnam; Regent Simeon Acoba; Regent Brandon Marc Higa, Board Vice Chair Ben Kudo.

Committee members excused: Regent Eugene Bal; Regent Jeffrey Portnoy.

Others in attendance: Board Chair Jan Sullivan; Board Vice Chair Randy Moore; Regent Wayne Higaki; Regent Michael McEnery; Regent Douglas Shinsato; Regent Ernest Wilson Jr.; Regent Stanford Yuen (ex officio committee members); President/Interim UH-Mānoa (UHM) Chancellor David Lassner; Vice President for Administration Jan Gouveia; Vice President for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; Vice President for Academic Planning & Policy Donald Straney; Vice President for Research & Innovation Vassilis Syrmos; Vice President for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer Garret Yoshimi; Vice President for Budget & Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; Interim UH-Hilo (UHH) Chancellor Marcia Sakai; UH-West O‘ahu (UHWO) Chancellor Maenette Benham; UHM Vice Chancellor for Research/Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Michael Bruno; Interim Kapi‘olani Community College (KapCC) Chancellor Louise Pagotto; Executive Administrator and Secretary to the Board of Regents Kendra Oishi; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2017 MEETING

Regent Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2017 meeting, seconded by Regent Higa and the motion carried unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Executive Administrator and Secretary to the Board Kendra Oishi announced that the Board Office received no written testimony, and no individuals had signed up to give oral testimony.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

A. For Information

1. Distance Learning Plan
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Interim Associate VP for Student Affairs and Director of Academic Technologies Hae Okimoto provided an overview on the distance learning plan that included a historical timeline of distance learning at UH; courses and registrations by technology type for Fall 2017; distance learning course taking trends; the impact of online courses on persistence and graduation rates; where UH community college transfers are going, with many choosing institutions for their online program offerings; major characteristics of nationally successful online programs; UH's intentional focus on adult distant learners and online degree pathways; how UH is rethinking academic support services from application to graduation; how UH is rethinking programs via pathways; and goals for Fall 2020. There are an increasing number of students taking online courses and students who take at least one course entirely online persist and graduate at higher rates.

Questions and comments were raised regarding whether additional support could be provided to help ensure students succeed in this format; whether there are certificate programs that use online technology, and if there are any plans to market certificate programs unique to Hawai'i to national and international students; the importance of certificate programs to help students in the military build their resumes and be eligible for advancement; the specific efforts that have been made towards increasing enrollment of veterans and students in the military; the focus areas of the four fully online programs targeted for fall 2020; how online programs are being expanded to meet workforce needs by fall 2020; the impact of online courses on student fees and financial aid; what is needed from the board to make these programs successful; the revenue generated from distance learning; and whether there is any potential of reducing tuition for online courses.

Director Okimoto explained that besides intentionally looking at academic and student support, UH is also putting effort into professional development for support staff, which is a model that provides students with two sets of mentors to guide them including a program person and someone to help students navigate the intricacies of UH and where to find the online tutors and support services students might need. At present, UH does not have an entire certificate program targeted to students outside of Hawai'i, as many certificate programs are a hybrid of in-class and online components. This differently structured model provides a good stepping stone to create and market certificate programs unique to Hawai'i (e.g., Hawaiian studies, ethnomusicology, volcanology, etc) and also help meet the military market whose members are deployed and prefer shorter term courses.

This year, UH restarted the Military Serving Committee comprised of veterans and students in the military, which identified certificate programs as an area of need. The committee will be identifying barriers and those results will factor that into the plan for the distance education program.

The goal is to have degree completion pathways in place by fall 2020 for four fully online programs provided in an accelerated format including: Bachelor of Social Work, Bachelor of Science in Psychology, and Bachelor of Arts in Business. The business and psychology programs will not be offered until the entire program is fully available in the 5 week format. Expansion of online programs is not being done in isolation; administration is working with various committees and groups in different areas to identify workforce needs and plan programs accordingly.
The student fee structure was changed last year so students do not pay fees for any services they cannot take advantage of. Fees for courses were coded based on instructional mode (e.g., completely online, Hawai‘i Interactive Video Service, or cable), and for those courses students did not pay those fees. Distance learning will follow the same model. Some traditional students choose to take online courses, and are subject to paying mandatory fees (e.g., student government, health center, transportation, etc.). Clearly defining traditional students from distance students will enrich the lives of all students and make fees appropriate. Distance learning students are eligible for aid if they take 3 courses per semester, but because UH is structured as a traditional university it makes it difficult to monitor and make sure financial aid is appropriately awarded. Additional work needs to be done to figure out how best to overlay the modular structure of online courses over the traditional semester format.

Policy changes and additional resources may be needed at some point, but more important is for the board to give administration the freedom to experiment and pilot. In order to ensure high-quality online programs, there will be a professional development process for faculty and student development staff. Time will be spent looking at what is possible, and how to structure and schedule the programs to meet the institution’s needs and the needs of working adult students. The performance-based funding structure for UH needs to be rethought to take distance learning into consideration. Accreditation requires students to get a degree from a campus, so even though online courses contribute to a degree program, students will continue to receive degrees from their home-based campus.

President Lassner noted that online learning courses are a mode of course delivery that is embedded into the overall financial and enrollment numbers, and are not separated out as a separate financial activity. It will make more sense to separate out online courses once UH moves towards a cohort model, but is less significant in a mixed-mode model where there are both traditional and online students in the same course. This program is designed to serve students UH does not currently serve well, so new enrollments would be the focus instead of replacements.

VP Straney explained that UH currently charges the same tuition for courses, regardless of the mode of delivery, but the accelerated format opens up opportunities that need to be looked at. Any discussion regarding tuition is best answered in the context of planning for the next tuition fee schedule.

2. Update on Systemwide Enrollment Management

VP Straney provided an update on systemwide enrollment management that included UH System goals, defining the roles of System and units/campuses, factors affecting undergraduate enrollment, college participation rates of Hawai‘i public high school graduates, and 2018-2021 unit enrollment goals. The UH System goals include increasing enrollment; aligning fiscal and facilities planning with enrollment and retention goals; and developing data, tools, and innovative approaches to enrollment planning and decision making. He noted that the presentation did not distinguish between traditional students and online students.
UHM, UHH, UHWO, and UH Community Colleges each presented enrollment management reports which included a 2017 assessment, and strategies and targets for the next three academic years. Overall, if unit targets are met, then UH will meet and exceed the peak enrollment prior to the recession. The targets are aggressive and will require intensive work. The tactics used by the various units are not isolated, but are coordinated across campuses.

Comments and questions were raised regarding preparing students beyond today’s needs into the needs of the future, which may be unknown; concerns over the decrease in high school graduates choosing to stay in Hawai‘i and whether campuses are competing with each other or coordinating efforts; what micro-scholarships are and how they work; and how keeping students in Hawai‘i is a shared responsibility for the state, as job opportunities and other factors play a role in whether students choose to stay in Hawai‘i.

VP Straney noted that all campuses have convened groups of faculty and campus leaders that meet with industry sector leaders to discuss future workforce needs. These convenings provide industry leaders the opportunity to be heard, and have led to some interesting opportunities. UH is also working with DBEDT on hiring a recruiter in China. Education is a statewide responsibility. UH and other state agencies need to work together on solutions to educate students and create jobs to meet future workforce needs, and strengthen Hawai‘i’s economy.

UH has looked at what colleges high school students are applying to and attending, and the initial review suggests there is not a tremendous amount of competition among the four-year UH campuses. Competition among campuses is something that UH will need to look at more intensely as campuses strive to increase enrollment. One reason for the increasing number of Hawai‘i high school graduates attending college on the mainland may be due to the recession being over, and that mainland higher education may be viewed as more affordable than it was five years ago. In this instance, UH would need to make it clear there is an economic advantage to attending a UH campus while at the same time getting similar experiences that students can get on the mainland.

Chancellor Sakai explained that micro-scholarships are on a platform called “RaiseMe.” RaiseMe contacts and makes scholarships to students as young as 9th grade, and these scholarships provide the opportunity for students to engage in activities that have been identified through research as best practices for students to be successful in college. For every activity or event students complete, UHH can pledge a specified amount of financial aid that can be redeemed if the student chooses to attend UHH. The funding source is part of UHH’s tuition scholarship base, which UHH has maintained at a constant level even though the minimum requirement of board policy is less than that amount.

3. Updating the University of Hawai‘i Strategic Directions Hawai‘i Graduation Initiative, 2015-2021

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred. There were no objections to defer. VP Straney will meet with regents individually to discuss and get their feedback.
V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Regent Higa moved to adjourn, Board Vice Chair Kudo seconded the motion, and with unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Kendra Oishi
Executive Administrator and Secretary
to the Board of Regents