MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS
MEETING

NOVEMBER 7, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ernest Wilson Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:19 a.m. on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i, Moanahoku Exhibit Hall, 600 ‘Imiloa Place, Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

Committee members in attendance: Committee Chair Ernest Wilson Jr.; Vice-Chair Robert Westerman; Regent Alapaki Nahale-a; Regent Jan Sullivan; and Regent Michelle Tagorda.

Others in attendance: Board Chair Ben Kudo; Regent Simeon Acoba; Regent Kelli Acooran; Regent Eugene Bal; Regent Wayne Higaki; Regent Michael McEnerny; Regent Randy Moore (ex officio committee members); President David Lassner; Vice President for Administration Jan Gouveia; Interim Vice President for Community Colleges Erika Lacro; Vice President for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy Donald Straney; Vice President for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer Garret Yoshimi; Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; UH-Mānoa (UHM) Provost Michael Bruno; UH-Hilo (UHH) Chancellor Bonnie Irwin; UH-West O‘ahu (UHWO) Chancellor Maenette Benham; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Kendra Oishi; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 6, 2019 MEETING

Vice-Chair Westerman moved to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2019, meeting, seconded by Regent Sullivan and the motion carried unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Board Secretary Oishi announced that the Board Office received no written testimony and no individuals had signed up to provide oral testimony.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

Prior to commencement of discussion, Chair Wilson announced that the agenda items would be taken out of order and that discussion of the Committee Goals and Objectives would be moved to the end of the calendar. There were no objections.

C. Review and Recommend Board Approval to Change from Provisional to Established Status: Doctor of Education in Professional Educational Practice, UHM

UHM Provost Bruno provided an overview of the Doctor of Education in Professional Educational Practice Program (Program) in the College of Education at UHM. He noted
that one of UH’s key goals is to continue to meet the professional workforce needs of Hawai‘i, including the needs of providing quality professionals for Hawai‘i’s educational workforce. The Program was originally approved by the Board in 2011 and is designed as a professional practice doctorate focused on educational practitioners in three distinct groups, including school leaders (e.g. principals, superintendents), teaching leaders (e.g. four year and community college faculty), and leaders in educational organizations (e.g. leaders in state educational agencies). The goal of the Program is to prepare students for these leadership roles, as well as positions dealing with policy and practice. Provost Bruno highlighted that the Program is on its third cohort with each cohort consisting of approximately 64 semester hours of education over a three year period and that 54 students have already graduated from the Program. The Program received the Program of the Year Award from the Carnegie Project on the Doctorate of Education in 2018.

Regent Sullivan left the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Vice-Chair Westerman inquired as to the demographics of the cohorts. Provost Bruno responded that anecdotally, his sense was that the students in the Program were mainly local students, particularly since many were already working in some capacity for educational organizations or institutions in Hawai‘i.

Chair Wilson noted that in the statistics he has seen, he has found that many of the graduates of the Program are broadly distributed throughout the educational system in Hawai‘i both in the Department of Education and private educational institutions.

Regent Acopan appreciated that the Program takes into account the practical aspects of earning a degree. She noted that individuals in graduate programs often question what they will be doing with their degrees upon graduation. The Program established by UHM takes a more hands-on approach and works with the community it is trying to serve to fill a need.

Regent Tagorda noted that she was happy to see the breakdown of ethnicities enrolled in the Program which highlights the investment in outreach and training for a diverse set of leaders in education. She commented that the leadership modeling provided by the Program in underrepresented groups, such as Native Hawaiians, Filipinos, and other affected populations, serves as inspiration to these underrepresented communities.

Regent Nahale-a stated that Hawai‘i has a dramatic teacher shortage that has reached critical levels and one reason for this shortage proffered by teachers and educators is weak leadership in their respective institutions. He was happy to see the success of the Program in developing stronger leadership in the educational field to meet this critical need.

Regent Acoba asked how many other institutions throughout the country have similar programs and what UHM was doing to try to keep people in Hawai‘i or recruit others into the Program. Provost Bruno responded that recruiting is mostly based on the success of the Program in the community. Graduates are already working in the community, a number of them in fairly significant positions in Hawai‘i’s educational system, and they serve as a recruiting tool for the Program. Provost Bruno did not have specific numbers
of similar programs being offered at other universities, but noted that this is a relatively new field that has only been in existence for approximately 10 to 12 years.

Regent Tagorda moved to recommend Board approval to change the status of the Doctor of Education in Professional Educational Practice at UHM from provisional to established, seconded by Vice-Chair Westerman, and the motion carried unanimously, with the excused absence of Regent Sullivan.

B. Review and Recommend Board Approval to Change from Provisional to Established Status: Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering, UHM.

Provost Bruno provided a brief history of the Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering Program (Program) in the College of Engineering, noting that the Program is an intersection of the computer science and electrical engineering fields that began as a track in the electrical engineering program but grew to the point that it merited a stand-alone degree. The Program was approved by the Board in 2010 and has grown well beyond the projected interest with over 119 majors currently in the Program. In 2016, the Program received full accreditation and is the only fully accredited computer engineering program in Hawai‘i.

Regent McEnerney asked whether participants in the Program were primarily from Hawai‘i and if they found employment in Hawai‘i upon graduation or if graduates were more likely to find employment on the mainland. Provost Bruno responded that the majority of the students in the Program are from Hawai‘i. He noted that the College of Engineering was the first college at UHM to have a clearly articulated pathway from the community colleges into UHM. He also noted that the vast majority of graduates of the Program found employment in engineering firms in Hawai‘i and with the federal government, particularly in the shipyard.

Regent McEnerney inquired whether the Program dealt more with hardware or software. Provost Bruno stated that the Program is a combination of both fields and serves as a bridge between those two distinct fields.

Chair Wilson asked whether there was a breakdown of the demographics of the Program, particularly with regard to minorities. Provost Bruno did not have the breakdown of the student population enrolled in the Program on hand, but offered to provide that information to the Committee. He noted that the Program had a strong representation among Native Hawaiians and other underrepresented groups.

Vice-Chair Westerman moved to recommend Board approval to change the status of the Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering at UHM from provisional to established, seconded by Regent Tagorda, and the motion carried unanimously, with the excused absence of Regent Sullivan.

A. Committee Goals and Objectives

Chair Wilson referenced the matrix summarizing the goals and objectives of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and inquired as to whether Committee members had any thoughts on keeping abreast of what was happening in the academic field to prepare for strategic planning in this area.
Vice-Chair Westerman stated that the Committee needs to understand how information would be gathered and disseminated to allow the Committee to make informed decisions in setting academically strategic directives. VP Straney responded that the Administration is preparing a new version of the academic master plan which include the academic and programmatic goals and plans for each of the four major units, which should help in the planning process. He also noted that the Administration is currently in discussions as to how UH should strategically plan to meet both existing and emerging educational needs.

Regent Nahale-a stated that the academic master plan should also consider academic areas where UH is overproducing graduates. VP Straney noted that the academic master plan has a six-year time horizon which will be updated annually and that it will consider both immediate academic needs and medium-term needs to help with strategic planning.

Chair Wilson commented that he would like to see the Administration develop the academic master plan keeping in mind both existing and emerging workforce needs. VP Straney responded that the third decade planning project should help to address this. He noted that the practice followed by UH has been to take a forward look, over ten year periods, at immediate and anticipated needs facing Hawai‘i, including economic, social, and demographic needs, and to use this information to drive the development of the strategic direction of UH, which also provides direction for the academic master plan.

Vice-Chair Westerman stated that, while the Administration needs to be forward thinking and look ahead at the educational needs over the next few decades, it also has to be fluid and able to adapt programs to meet ever-changing and emerging needs.

Regent Tagorda noted that the Administration also needs to address issues regarding the student experience beyond academics, as the Board has heard about the difficulties faced by students in navigating current times. She suggested that this also be considered in developing the academic master plan.

Chair Wilson stated that the perceptions of the University faculty that were noted during previous committee meetings should be addressed and that the positive aspects of UH should be better communicated and promoted.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice-Chair Westerman moved to adjourn, Regent Tagorda seconded, and with unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Kendra Oishi
Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents