

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS' COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS MEETING

December 13, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Mark Fukunaga Lee called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 13, 2010, at the University of Hawai'i, 2465 Campus Road, Campus Center Ballroom, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822.

Committee members in attendance: Chair Mark Fukunaga; Ramon de la Peña; Michael Dahilig; Matthew Williams; and Teena Rasmussen.

Others in attendance: President MRC Greenwood, Ph.D.; Vice President for Academic Planning & Policy, Linda Johnsrud, Ph.D.; UH-Mānoa Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw, Ph.D.; UH-Mānoa Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education Gary Ostrander, Ph.D.; and Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents Keith Amemiya, Esq., and others as noted.

II. AGENDA ITEMS

Proposal to Abolish the Pacific Biosciences Research Center (PBRC), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

A. Presentation by the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Mānoa Chancellor, Virginia Hinshaw, spoke in support of the closure, saying that discussions have been ongoing for several years, and that the proposal is about reorganization, and not about reducing the research or training activities of the faculty. Faculty will continue to have the freedom to conduct research and training in areas of their choosing, but the expertise within PBRC will be integrated into existing units on Mānoa's campus.

The closure is part of Mānoa's revised campus strategic plan, which states that "the mission and productivity of existing research institutes and centers should be reviewed regularly as a basis for determining if these should be eliminated, merged, or new ones developed to advance the university's research agenda."

Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education, Gary Ostrander, reiterated that no faculty or staff jobs would be lost. PBRC is an Organized Research Unit (ORU), and does not offer degree or certificate programs and the faculty in ORUs do not have teaching or curricular responsibility. Vice Chancellor Ostrander said that over time, PBRC has evolved from a core focus on biomedical research to a very diverse unit that includes many research foci geographically distributed over multiple locations on and

off the Mānoa campus, and based on executive policy E5.213, PBRC no longer meets the unique criteria of an ORU.

Vice Chancellor Ostrander emphasized that Kewalo Marine Laboratory is not part of the proposal. However, he has proposed that it be closed in 2013 due to the high cost of maintaining an aging facility.

Fiscal considerations include:

1. Eliminating the Director's position (\$250,000 a year plus benefits).
2. Six vacant faculty positions in PBRC can be assigned to other units.
3. The Faculty Senate Committee on Administration and Budget (CAB) voted in support of the proposal.
4. Mānoa budget was cut by \$66 million.

B. Presentation by the Pacific Biosciences Research Center

Mark Martindale, of PBRC and the Director of the Kewalo Marine Laboratory, said PBRC serves users throughout the University and State of Hawai'i, with a Biological Electron Microscopy Facility, Molecular Biology Facility, Computer Network Support Facility, Cyberinfrastructure Facility and Live Cell Imaging Facility. It is a catalyst for new programs and houses unique programs, with partnerships with outside groups.

Martindale said that the proposal is flawed because the decision was announced one year before the prioritization process was initiated. Damage has been incurred since the announcement to close PBRC, because it is hard to recruit students and obtain extramural grants to fund research and training.

If PBRC is dissolved, faculty will leave to fulfill careers elsewhere, taking with them millions of grant money and local knowledge.

Ken Kaneshiro, the director of the Center for Conservation Research and Training, spoke about the major scientific nationwide initiative in biological sciences, and the lost opportunity for the University of Hawai'i if PBRC is unable to continue as an ORU. Last year, the National Science Foundation convened a national conference on "A View for the 21st Century," on what needed to be done to transform undergraduate biology education, which would incorporate a transdisciplinary approach. PBRC researchers already use transdisciplinary research to address life sciences issues.

Costs to close PBRC are not only financial, but there are other issues that have an impact on broader issues beyond the University of Hawai'i.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Board Secretary Keith Amemiya said the following written testimonies against the abolishment of the Pacific Biosciences Research Center were received by the Board of Regents' office:

1. Dr. Andrew Christie, Ph.D., Investigator/Director, Imaging Core (Maine)
2. Dave Au, PBRC Administrative/Fiscal Officer
3. Dr. Robert Cooney, Ph.D., Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i
4. State Rep. K. Mark Takai
5. Brad Jones, PBRC
6. Doris M. Ching, University of Hawai'i Emeritus Vice President for Student Affairs
7. Dr. Patrick U. Tellei, Palau Community College President
8. Dr. Gabor Mocz, Frederick Greenwood Molecular Biology Core Facility, UH-Mānoa
9. Noah Idechong, Palau National Congress Speaker
10. Christian Giardina, Kelley Sage and Gregory Koob, Hawai'i Conservation Alliance
11. Suresh S. Patil, Ph.D., PBRC Emeritus Researcher
12. Edward G. Ruby and Margaret McFall-Ngai, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
13. Dan Eschel, Ph.D., The City University of New York-Brooklyn College Professor
14. Togiola T. A. Tulafono, American Samoa Governor
15. Marilou A. Andres, Ph.D., PBRC Assistant Researcher
16. Jennifer Taylor, Malama Maunalua President
17. Daniel Hartline, PBRC faculty and director of Békésy Laboratory for Neurobiology
18. Robert Cooney, Ph.D., Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i
19. J.N. Musto, Ph.D., University of Hawai'i Professional Assembly Executive Director
20. David Ross, Former Chair, Mānoa Faculty Senate

The Board of Regents' office also received a letter from State Rep. Jerry L. Chang and State Sen. Jill N. Tokuda that requests the Committee on Academic Affairs to review and evaluate the proposed closure of PBRC.

The following people gave oral testimony opposing the abolishment of PBRC:

1. Marilyn Dunlap, PBRC
2. Pat Couvillon, PBRC
3. Rob Cowie, PBRC
4. Healani Chang, PBRC
5. Mike Hadfield, PBRC
6. Dave Au, PBRC
7. Susan Hippensteele and David Duffy, Mānoa Faculty Senate
8. Laura Thompson, Malama Maunalua

9. Gerry Davis, NOAA Pacific Island Regional Office
10. Kelley Sage, Hawai'i Conservation Alliance
11. Michelle Matson, HCDA CPAC
12. Donna Wong, Hawai'i Thousand Friends
13. Joshua Irvine, Student
14. Brent Rubio, Visiting Faculty
15. Kaipo Perez, graduate student
16. Sean MacDuff, Minority Ph.D.
17. Jon Martinez, former student
18. Keali'i Gora, Pukoa Council
19. Lilikala Kame'eleihiwa, Hawaiian Studies
20. Bob Cooney, Faculty Senate Committee on Research
21. Marguerite Butler, Zoology professor
22. J.N. Musto, University of Hawai'i Professional Assembly
23. Steven Robinow, Zoology
24. Sheila Conant, Zoology
25. Bob Richmond, PBRC

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Keith Y. Amemiya, Esq.
Executive Administrator and
Secretary of the Board of Regents