I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gabriel Lee called the meeting to order at 11:17 a.m. on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at the University of Hawai‘i (UH) at Mānoa, Information Technology Building, 1st Floor Conference Room 105A/B, 2520 Correa Road, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96822, with regents participating from various locations.

Committee members in attendance: Chair Gabriel Lee; Vice-Chair Lauren Akitake; Regent Wayne Higaki; and Regent Diane Paloma.

Committee members excused: Regent Neil Abercrombie.

Others in attendance: Regent William Haning; Regent Laurel Loo; Regent Laurie Tochiki; Regent Ernest Wilson (ex officio committee members); President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Administration Jan Gouveia; VP for Academic Strategy Debora Halbert; VP for Community Colleges Erika Lacro; VP for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; VP for Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos; VP for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer Garret Yoshimi; VP for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; UH-Mānoa (UHM) Provost Michael Bruno; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Yvonne Lau; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Lee inquired if there were any corrections to the minutes of the February 15, 2024, committee meeting which had been distributed. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Board Secretary Lau announced that the Board Office did not receive any written testimony and that no one had signed up to provide oral testimony.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Recommendation to Approve Amendments to Board of Regents Policy (RP) 5.211 Admissions
VP Halbert reviewed and discussed the proposed modifications to RP 5.211 which establishes the authority of the President of the University to create campus ceilings for non-resident undergraduate enrollment. While these ceilings were designed during a period when the environment for admission of qualified undergraduate students required restrictions on non-resident enrollment in order to prioritize Hawai‘i residents for the limited capacity available on some university campuses, changes in enrollment trends and enrollment management strategies have occurred over the last two decades such that this type of restriction is no longer necessary. Accordingly, the administration was seeking board approval of the noted amendments to RP 5.211. However, it was pointed out that these changes are currently in the formal consultation process. Based upon comments received thus far, minor, technical amendments have been made to the RP and are reflected in the redline version provided to the committee in the materials packet. President Lassner added that the administration believes artificial barriers and caps should not be placed on non-resident applicants so long as there is adequate space on the university’s campuses to accommodate all Hawai‘i residents who choose to attend this institution and hope the board will act favorably on this request.

Given the proposed amendments to the RP are still proceeding through the formal consultation process, Regent Tochiki sought clarification as to when the administration expects to bring the final version of the policy revisions to the board for approval. VP Halbert stated the formal consultation process is scheduled to be completed by the end of April and the administration anticipates bringing the final revisions to RP 5.211 to the board for approval shortly thereafter which will most likely be in May.

Thinking more long-term, Regent Paloma asked if the prospect of changes in enrollment demographics and population factors were taken into consideration when developing the noted policy amendments. She also questioned whether non-resident caps could be reinstated should it be necessary to do so in the future. VP Halbert responded that population cliffs are being experienced nationwide with birthrates not outpacing replacement rates. However, campuses are already thinking about and working on layers of enrollment strategies which could be implemented should a demographic explosion occur. VP Halbert also noted the demographic shifts taking place across the country are not as severe in Hawai‘i, which has resulted in an increase in recruitment efforts for Hawai‘i students by other institutions of higher education across the nation and presents a challenge for the university. At the same time, Hawai‘i students benefit from an exposure to a diversity of backgrounds and perspectives afforded through a balanced non-resident to resident student population. As such, the administration likes the flexibility provided by the proposed policy revisions which allows for adjustments to be made in response to evolving population demographics. President Lassner added that the university is committed to ensuring a public university education is available for all qualified residents of Hawai‘i and highlighted the unique advantage the university has in offering different educational opportunities for Hawai‘i residents because of its multi-campus system consisting of a mix of two- and four-year institutions.

Reiterating the administration’s expectations of bringing the final revisions to RP 5.211 before the board for approval at its May meeting after formal consultation is
completed, Chair Lee inquired if regents would be made aware of any additional modifications to the policy formulated as a result of the consultation process. VP Halbert responded in the affirmative stating she would be highlighting changes made to the amended version of the policy currently before the committee should any arise out of the consultation process.

Regent Higaki moved to recommend approval of the revisions to RP 5.211, seconded by Vice-Chair Akitake, and noting the excused absence of Regent Abercrombie, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yvonne Lau
Executive Administrator and Secretary
of the Board of Regents