Committee Chair Report
University Of Hawai‘i
Board Of Regents’ Committee On Research And Innovation

On Thursday, November 5, 2015, the committee met to receive five items for information:

1. Briefing on Research Corporation University of Hawai‘i (RCUH) Functions and Relationship with University of Hawai‘i by Executive Director Sylvia Yuen;
2. Update on Status and Timeline of Long Range Plans that Establish the Strategic Goals and Objectives for Research, Innovation, and Technology Transfer at the University;
3. Update on Amendment Proposals Regarding three Research-Related Regents’ Policies:
   a. RP 12.203, Right to Investigate and Disseminate
   b. RP 12.206, Establishment and Review of Organized Research Units
   c. RP 12.207, Research Corporation of the University of Hawai‘i;
4. Review of Research and Innovation Performance Goals and Metrics; and
5. Research Compliance Task Force (RCTF) Report

Dr. Yuen provided a comprehensive briefing on RCUH mission and purpose to support research activity at the UH, with a more nimble process to enable to conduct research and research related activities within the extramural grant funding parameters. The report and inquiries related to personnel management, clarity of mission, funding sources and allocation, management processes, services provided, fees charged, efforts to ensure avoiding duplicative services, and encouraging more assistance for new researchers to compete for grants.

Regarding the status of long range plans, the deadline of October 30 for four year campuses and community colleges to submit their plans has been met except for one community college. Administration is targeting January to combine and vet all plans with campuses.

Regarding the proposals for amendments to the board policies, the proposed amendments seek to tighten the language for clarity and align with board approvals required. The policy regarding academic freedom will remain as is, although there is concern that administration should take a more concerted effort to encourage research that align with the University’s priorities. The next step will be to consult with others and post the proposed amendments on the website for comments during the next 60 day period, with a target to bring the final proposals to the board in February 2016. The committee received reassurance that grant proposals go through a multilevel process to ensure a check and balance on focus and resource availability.

Regarding metrics, the committee reviewed a revised matrix that included metrics based on national standards and peers that track outcomes and results of development conducted by faculty, students and post-doctoral students, and student exposure, for which the UH has the sufficient data. The committee agreed to adopt and include the additional metrics.
Dr. Yuen updated the committee on the work of the research compliance task force that was created to recommend improvements to compliance procedures and processes to address long-standing issues and to reduce the administrative workload on researchers. The approach improves education and prevention through increased communication, transparency and accountability, utilizing technology at a system level. Compliance rests with UH, not RCUH, as the principal investigator is usually a faculty member and not an employee of RCUH.