MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
JULY 18, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Wayne Higaki called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. on Thursday, July 18, 2019, at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Information Technology Building, 1st Floor Conference Room 105A/B, 2520 Correa Road, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96822.

Quorum (10): Acting Chair Wayne Higaki; Regent Kelli Acopan; Regent Eugene Bal; Regent Ben Kudo; Regent Michael McEnerney; Regent Randy Moore; Regent Alapaki Nahale-a; Regent Jan Sullivan; Regent Michelle Tagorda; and Regent Ernest Wilson Jr.

Excused (2): Regent Simeon Acoba; and Regent Robert Westerman.

Others in attendance: President David Lassner; Vice President for Administration Jan Gouveia; Vice President for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy Donald Straney; Vice President for Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos; Vice President for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer Garret Yoshimi; Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; Vice President for Advancement/UH Foundation Chief Executive Officer Tim Dolan; UH-Mānoa (UHM) Provost Michael Bruno; UH-Hilo (UHH) Chancellor Bonnie Irwin; UH-West O‘ahu (UHWO) Chancellor Maenette Benham; Leeward Community College (LeeCC) Chancellor Carlos Peñaloza; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Kendra Oishi; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18, 2019 AND MAY 16, 2019 MEETING

Regent Moore moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2019, and May 16, 2019 meetings, seconded by Regent Sullivan, and the motion carried unanimously.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Acting Chair Higaki stated that he requested that Board Secretary Oishi conduct the election of officers, as he is interested in being considered for one of the positions.

Board Secretary Oishi noted that the Chair elected today will preside beginning at the next board meeting. Board Secretary Oishi opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the board. Regent McEnerney nominated Regent Kudo. Regent Nahale-a suggested that the positions of chair, first vice chair, and second vice chair be considered together as a slate. Board Secretary Oishi clarified whether he was nominating specific individuals to be considered for each of the positions. Regent Nahale-a nominated Regent Kudo for chair, Regent Sullivan for first vice chair, and
Regent Higaki for second vice chair. Board Secretary Oishi asked if there were any objections to considering the nominations as a slate.

Regent Moore did not have any objection, but ask for clarification regarding the election procedures whether there was a difference if there were one person being considered versus two people being considered for a position with regard to having elections by paper ballot or by voice vote. Board Secretary Oishi explained and VP Okinaga affirmed that ballots are necessary only if there is more than one candidate being considered for any particular position, per the board bylaws.

Board Secretary Oishi asked whether there were any further nominations. There were none stated. Regent Moore moved to close the nominations, Regent Wilson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Board Secretary Oishi restated that Regent Kudo was nominated for chair, Regent Sullivan nominated for first vice chair, and Regent Higaki nominated for second vice chair. By unanimous vote, Regent Kudo was elected chair, Regent Sullivan was elected first vice chair, and Regent Higaki was elected second vice chair.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Board Secretary Oishi announced that the Board Office received written testimony from the following:

- Andy Lachman in support of awarding the Vice Chancellor Emerita title to Kathleen Cutshaw.
- Tammy Kaulukukui offering comments regarding the appointment of Greg Chun as the Executive Director of Maunakea Stewardship as noted on agenda attachment A-2.

No one signed up to provide oral testimony.

V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Lassner introduced two new chancellors: Bonnie Irwin, UHH Chancellor, and Carlos Peñaloza, LeeCC Chancellor.

President Lassner provided comments related to recent events regarding Maunakea, including the arrests of kupuna, the call from the UHM Hawaiian Studies Department for his resignation, and the demonstrations at the UHM and UH-Maui College (UHMC) campuses and other parts of the state. He expressed his respect for those who choose to exercise peaceful nonviolent civil disobedience as a tool to advocate for change, as well as respect for law enforcement officers. He noted his pride in students, graduates, faculty, and staff for standing up for what they believe.

President Lassner further expressed that his utmost concern is for the safety of those on Maunakea including students, faculty, and staff, and noted that UH has no authority over law enforcement. He noted that the issues at hand are bigger than the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) or Maunakea, including land use decisions and self-
determination, as well as education, health, homelessness, and incarceration which impact many across the state, but disproportionately impact Hawaiians. He expressed his commitment to keep rifts from spreading and to work toward achieving the core mission of UH in service to all the people of Hawai‘i.

President Lassner explained the procedures regarding the administrative rulemaking process which requires that either a decision be made either at the public hearing or a date at which a decision is intended to be made be announced. He noted that during the public hearings relating to Chapter 20-26, Hawai‘i Administrative Rules, entitled “Public and Commercial Activities on Mauna Kea Lands,” that were held in June 2019, it was announced that this meeting would be the date at which decision making occur because it was the earliest date possible after the conclusion of the public hearings. However, upon review of the information received, administration did not believe they were ready to provide a recommendation to the board on the rules at this time.

President Lassner highlighted the following:

**Hawai‘i Innovation Initiative (HII)**

- Extramural funding awarded for the 2018-2019 fiscal year was in excess of $426 million, the highest amount since the federal stimulus funding provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This amounted to a 9 percent increase, and every major unit received an increase.
- Data science was an area of strategic weakness and was critical to success in research and workforce development, and strategic hires were made to boost this area. The Data Science Institute has been in existence for about a year and was recently awarded a $1 million research instrumentation grant and was part of a $1 million business innovation research innovation grant and a $4 million grant with UT Austin, and is also working with Chaminade University on a project.
- The Hawai‘i Volcano Observatory, which was displaced due to the last lava flow, is likely to move to the UHH science and technology park. This is a good opportunity to keep jobs on the island and to create synergies between educational opportunities for UHH and Hawai‘i Community College students and research opportunities for faculty.

**Hawai‘i Graduation Initiative (HGI)**

- UHMC was designated as a center of academic excellence in cyber defense education.
- A core program is being developed for system-wide data science education, including working with Outreach College on courses and developing an innovative approach to curriculum development.
- UHWO received a $2.5 million National Science Foundation grant to increase success for Native Hawaiian students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). There is also a $638,000 grant to help bring veterans into STEM.

**21st Century Facilities (21CF)**
• A request for proposals was issued to identify a public-private partner for the former National Marine Fisheries National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration building. The selection committee has finalized a selection and will enter an exclusive negotiation period upon notifying the developer. The goal will be to enter into a contract and have plans by the first quarter of next year and occupancy by fall 2023.

• Acknowledged VP Young for providing an explanation on a radio interview of UH’s position on Senate Bill No. 33 (2019); UH recommended veto on the bill, but it was enacted. The bill extended and expanded the film tax credit, but also included a requirement that UH transfer land ownership to the High Technology Development Corporation. UH is opposed to the land transfer, although is supportive of the film studio project at UHWO.

President Lassner and the board presented Mr. Ralph Yoshioka, Information Technology Services Telecom Analyst, with the Willard Wilson Award for Distinguished Service. Mr. Yoshioka is a UHM alumnus who has worked at UH for 27 years.

President Lassner and the board presented Ms. Xiao Cheng, janitor supervisor for the BioMed C-MORE buildings, with the President’s Award for Excellence in Building and Ground Maintenance. Ms. Cheng was recognized for the pride she takes in her work and for inspiring others.

In response to President Lassner’s opening comments relating to Maunakea, Regent Nahale-a appreciated the sentiment and expressed that any criticism directed to the president is also directed toward the board and that it is a shared burden. He expressed faith in the president and his love for the institution, for Hawai‘i, and for Native Hawaiians.

Regent Kudo noted that this is a difficult situation and thanked President Lassner for his leadership, and noted that the public may not realize that this is a difficult time for all.

Regent Sullivan echoed Regent Nahale-a’s comments. She noted that it is a difficult situation and that the board probably is not aware of all the effort that President Lassner has put into this issue. She suggested that at some point he share those efforts.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (continued)

A member of the public interjected and asked if the public comment period could be reopened. Acting Chair Higaki allowed the public comment period to be reopened.

The following individuals provided oral testimony:

• Shelley Muneoka noted that she was at Pu‘uhuluhulu earlier this week and asked the board to place pressure where they can. She understands the difficult position the university is in and recognized UH’s mission to be indigenous-serving and a Hawaiian place of learning and suggested that the way to demonstrate that is for TMT to not be built.
• Logan Narikawa shared his thoughts regarding the board and president’s role in making difficult decisions and the sense of community with Hawaiians and asked them to make a just choice.
• Katherine Achacoso expressed her opposition to the desecration of the mauna. She asked that the people and the mauna be protected and that the university is only a Hawaiian place of learning if we listen to and stand with kanaka maoli.
• Aurora Kagawa-Viviani expressed her concern about students and staff and is worried about escalation on the mauna. She asked for an immediate halt to construction, that UH leadership come back to the table, to divest from TMT, and that the sublease for TMT be rescinded.
• Manu Kaiama commented that UH leadership has not been good stewards of Maunakea and asked the board to stop the construction of TMT.

VI. COMMITTEE AND AFFILIATE REPORTS

A. Report from the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs
   Committee Chair Tagorda summarized the committee report.

B. Report from the Committee on Research and Innovation
   Committee Chair Sullivan summarized the committee report.

C. Report from the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics
   Acting Chair Higaki referred to the written committee report provided in the materials packet.

D. Affiliate Reports
   UH Student Caucus: Regent Acopan reported that the next UH Student Caucus meeting will be taking place in September. The Student Caucus traditionally begins in August when school resumes but they decided to allow more time for the student governments to build their councils.

VII. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Review of the Executive Summaries of the Annual Institutional Reviews of Graduate Medical Education Programs at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) for Academic Years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018

President Lassner noted that this is a requirement of the accreditation process associated with graduate medical education, also known as the residency program that occurs after the completion of medical school. The board is required to review the materials, but no action is required. Dr. Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, the designated institutional official of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), was present to answer questions.

Regent Moore questioned why Kaiser doesn’t participate in residency programs, what JABSOM can do about student debt, and what can the university do to help with the physician shortage in rural areas of the state. Dr. Buenconsejo-Lum explained that
Kaiser does participate in the residency program and also has its own internal residency program. The report only covers the program for which UH has direct oversight. She also noted residency programs at Hawai‘i Island Family Medicine Residency under the Hilo Medical Center and Tripler Hospital.

With regard to student debt, Dr. Buenconsejo-Lum noted that JABSOM is trying to increase the number of full-ride scholarships available to students. A number of organizations and private donors have contributed to provide JABSOM with enough funding to cover approximately one-third of a class of 77 students. She added that having no debt may allow more graduates to choose a specialty that they are passionate about and noted that primary care physicians are underpaid although highly valued. Having no debt may allow more graduates to choose primary care, especially in rural areas.

With regard to rural areas, Dr. Buenconsejo-Lum announced that beginning July 1 of this year, obstetrics-gynecology students are now being trained in Hilo doing gynecologic surgery.

Regent Wilson asked if there could be more residencies to keep more students in Hawai‘i and whether scholarships have a service component. Dr. Buenconsejo-Lum responded that the current scholarships have a service commitment, which varies depending on the donor. JABSOM is actively working on creative partnerships to expand support of residency programs.

Regent Sullivan shared that last year NYU announced that its medical school would be tuition-free as a result of a $250 million philanthropic gift in an effort to address the physician shortage in rural areas. She asked whether it is possible to set up a strategic initiative to allow at least a portion of students to attend JABSOM tuition-free. Dr. Buenconsejo-Lum responded that she would need to defer to Dean Jerris Hedges, but acknowledged it would be great if that were possible. President Lassner added that the better predictor of where an individual practices is where they do their residency. There has been discussion on expanding residencies on the neighbor islands.

Regent Moore commented that JABSOM is a gem and noted that over half of the currently active physicians in Hawai‘i are from JABSOM.

President Lassner noted that the minutes of this meeting will serve as the certification for the purposes of the review of the executive summaries of the annual institutional reviews of graduate medical education programs at JABSOM for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 academic years.

B. Awarding of Vice Chancellor Emerita Title to Kathleen Cutshaw

President Lassner acknowledged Ms. Cutshaw for her service to the university.

Regent Moore moved to approve awarding Vice Chancellor Emerita title to Kathleen Cutshaw, seconded by Regent Wilson, and the motion carried unanimously with the exception of Regent McEnerney who was not present at the time of the vote.
VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (closed to the public)

Upon motion by Regent Moore, seconded by Regent Wilson, the board unanimously approved convening in executive session to consult with the board’s attorneys to: consider the hire, evaluation, dismissal, or discipline of an officer or employee, where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved, pursuant to Section 92-5(a)(2), Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS); on questions and issues pertaining to the board’s powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities, pursuant to Section 92-5(a)(4), HRS; and to consider matters relating to the solicitation and acceptance of private donations, pursuant to Section 92-5(a)(7), HRS.

The meeting recessed at 10:15 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:04 p.m. Acting Chair Higaki noted that the board went into executive session to discuss matters as indicated on the agenda.

IX AGENDA ITEMS (continued)

A. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

Regent Wilson moved to approve the personnel actions on Attachment A-1, seconded by Regent Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acting Chair Higaki announced the Regents and Presidential Scholars Dinner would be later that evening at the UHM Campus Center Ballroom. He also announced that the next board meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2019, at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Regent Kudo moved to adjourn, and Regent Sullivan seconded, and with unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Kendra Oishi
Executive Administrator and Secretary
of the Board of Regents