

MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
JANUARY 18, 2024

A video recording of this meeting may be viewed at the Board of Regents website as follows:

[Meeting Video](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Gabriel Lee called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at the University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu, Campus Center, Room C208, 91-1001 Farrington Highway, Kapolei, HI 96707, with regents participating from various locations.

Quorum (10): Vice-Chair Gabriel Lee; Vice-Chair Ernest Wilson; Regent Neil Abercrombie; Regent Lauren Akitake; Regent William Haning; Regent Wayne Higaki; Regent Laurel Loo; Regent Abigail Mawae; Regent Diane Paloma; and Regent Laurie Tochiki.

Excused (1): Chair Alapaki Nahale-a

Others in attendance: 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 of Hawai'i (UH) 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; 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) Yvonne Lau; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2023 MEETING

Vice-Chair Lee inquired if there were any corrections to the minutes of the November 16, 2023, meeting which had been distributed. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Board Secretary Lau announced that the Board Office received written comments from K. Akeo regarding in-person attendance at university campuses.

Lyndsey Millerd provided late written, as well as oral, comments on the presidential selection process.

Jill Nunokawa provided oral comments on UH student housing.

Written testimony may be viewed at the Board of Regents website as follows:

[Written Testimony Received](#)

[Late Written Testimony Received](#)

In reference to the remarks made by Ms. Nunokawa, Regent Abercrombie requested that the record reflect audits regarding student housing at UHM are already underway as called for by regents through the board's Committee on Independent Audit.

IV. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

A. Enrollment Update

As of yesterday, systemwide headcount enrollment for the spring 2024 semester is up three percent compared to the same day last year with the community colleges and UHM seeing the largest overall increases of 4.4 and three percent respectively. Comparable growth in student semester hours has also been experienced across the university system. Additionally, the university system witnessed overall increases in degree-seeking students, early college students, and students enrolled in courses at more than one campus. Nevertheless, UH regional universities continue to face enrollment challenges similar to those being witnessed by regional institutions of higher education around the country.

B. Stadium Update

President Lassner spoke about the ongoing effort to develop and build a new Aloha Stadium which is being undertaken using a design-build-operate-maintain, or DBOM, approach. He discussed this paradigm shift, highlighting the fundamental differences between the DBOM model and prior stadium district development proposals; touched upon the university's existing relationship with the public Stadium Authority under an agency-to-agency memorandum of agreement and its anticipated affiliation with a private stadium operator once the stadium is built; reviewed the university administration's primary concerns with respect to the development of a new stadium such as an improved fan and player experience and better financial arrangements than what was afforded with prior stadium agreements; and mentioned efforts currently underway to collaboratively work with the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED) project team, the Stadium Authority, and the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, to insert elements of what the university believes constitutes a fair deal, as well as expectations of the association between the university and selected stadium operator, directly into a request for proposal (RFP). He also went over key aspects of prior agreements with the Stadium Authority the university administration believes must be maintained like scheduling priority for home football games, rent-free use of the facility, and retention of stadium revenue streams currently afforded to the university; noted changes being sought regarding parking, food, and beverage proceeds generated at university events; and went over potential revenue sharing opportunities for the university made possible by the development of a new Aloha Stadium including monies from the sale of premium, loge, and club seating, and temporary advertising and sponsorship deals. The procurement process for developing a new Aloha Stadium is

expected to begin this spring, with projections for a selectee to be named in fall 2024 and a contract to be awarded by summer 2025. Given this timeline and the estimated construction schedule, the new Aloha Stadium is anticipated to be open in time for the university's home football opener against the University of Kansas on August 26, 2028.

To date, total extramural funding was just over \$344 million, which is about a four percent increase over same-day figures from 2023, itself a record-breaking year. VP Symos will be sharing more information on this accomplishment at the Committee on Institutional Success meeting presently slated to take place in February.

C. UHWO and LeeCC Regional Presentation

Regent Abercrombie arrived at 9:25 a.m.

Chancellor Benham and Chancellor Peñaloza began by thanking their respective students, faculty, and staff for all of the work carried out in putting together this joint, co-hosted, and first-of-its-kind regional campus presentation. They went on to note some of the characteristics that differentiate UHWO and LeeCC from other campuses within the university system; describe the region served by the two campuses, which spans from central and leeward O'ahu to west O'ahu and the Waianae coast; speak about the breadth and depth of educational programming, various instructional modalities, unique curricula, and degrees offered at each campus and the opportunities this provides to individuals living within the aforementioned regional boundaries and beyond; and provide information on some of the characteristics of the region's population which is reflected in the diverse student demographic served by each campus. They also briefly reviewed student population statistics, enrollment figures, and outcome performance data for each institution; pointed out the strong academic relationship between the two campuses, in addition to those with other institutions throughout the university system, as evidenced by various articulation and career pathway agreements, and discussed the benefits afforded by these affiliations; highlighted specific ways in which each campus is assisting the region's constituency in continuing their post-secondary educational journey and achieving academic success including through early college programs, veterans' resource centers, and curricular alignment with secondary schools in various career pathways; drew attention to community, business, and secondary education partnerships intended to take care of a full gamut of workforce demands via training initiatives and commented on efforts to formulate programs with the ability to quickly adapt to a dynamic labor market; shared some insights on the creation, development, implementation, and initial successes of career pathways which have been designed to address community needs, such as the recently established Bachelor of Science in Nursing pathway; went over impediments to attaining a post-secondary education individuals served by UHWO and LeeCC face, along with efforts undertaken to remove these barriers; touched upon endeavors being carried out to contend with the mental health requirements of students as well as overall student well-being; and discussed each campus's work towards accomplishing the goals for each of the four imperatives set forth in the University of Hawai'i Strategic Plan 2023-2029. It was emphasized that addendums included in the board materials packet provided much more data on UHWO and LeeCC, as well as its educational programming, and explored the information presented in greater detail.

Vice-Chair Wilson and Regent Akitake arrived at 9:48 a.m.

To illustrate the success of UHWO and LeeCC's educational strategies and programming and the impact this has had on students, Chancellor Benham shared a story about Bryson Tugade, a fall 2023 graduate of UHWO, recapping his academic journey from Radford High School through LeeCC and on to UHWO where he earned a Bachelor of Applied Science in sustainable community food systems. Mr. Tugade is currently employed as a teacher with the State Department of Education and is preparing to attend graduate school at UHM.

Noting the proximity of the UHWO and LeeCC campuses, Regent Haning asked Chancellor Benham and Chancellor Peñaloza to provide their assessment of the justification for having two university institutions so closely collocated. Chancellor Benham replied that UHWO and LeeCC have two distinct missions with each providing curricula to meet the post-secondary needs of unique student populations. LeeCC also serves as a gateway for students requiring remedial support in certain academic subject matter areas to further their baccalaureate education at UHWO. Chancellor Peñaloza concurred with Chancellor Benham's assessment emphasizing the complementary, as opposed to redundant, nature of UHWO and LeeCC's relationship.

In light of the large number of students participating in either fully online or hybrid course modalities, Regent Tochiki inquired about efforts being made to rejuvenate campus life and whether any additional resources were needed to achieve this goal. Chancellor Benham and Chancellor Peñaloza espoused the benefits of social interaction attained through a vibrant campus life and spoke about actions being taken to address this issue such as the holding of more on-campus social events, the institution of a more balanced approach to academic programming that provides greater opportunities for in-person course instruction while at the same time meeting the desire of students to have the flexibility in academic scheduling offered by online and hybrid courses, and the promotion of on-campus faculty and staff gatherings. They also commented on observed increases in the number of students seeking classes with more traditional forms of teaching as well as those wanting to take full advantage of available campus facilities and resources such as the library and Wi-Fi access.

Regent Paloma questioned whether the various modalities of course instruction cited in previous UHWO presentations were still in existence. Chancellor Benham replied in the affirmative noting the continued offering of completely in-person, hybrid, and fully online classes at UHWO.

Regent Abercrombie expressed his opinions about the advantages of in-person, as opposed to online, course instruction particularly in relation to certain subject matter areas. Although he understood student demand for the scheduling flexibility offered by online classes, he stressed the importance of the direct, interpersonal contact afforded by in-person instruction to an individual's academic success and urged the campuses to delve deeper into possible ways to attend to this matter. Chancellor Benham replied that discussions on this topic are currently occurring throughout the higher education landscape. While in-person instruction does provide the ultimate scholastic experience, the aspects of student learning have evolved over the years and campuses must adapt

to these changes. Nevertheless, higher education institutions continue to search for innovative ways to provide intellectual offerings in a well-rounded manner optimally suited for the students they serve.

Refencing a recent informational briefing held by the Senate Committees on Ways and Means (WAM) and Higher Education (HRE) where concerns were raised about the effects distance learning has had on enrollment at the various university campuses and, in turn, their capital needs, Regent Akitake asked Chancellor Benham and Chancellor Peñaloza to share their thoughts on what appears to be a recurring issue among legislators and regents. Chancellor Benham and Chancellor Peñaloza remarked that while distance learning does impact the on-campus presence of students, a number of programs have experienced enrollment increases as a result of the availability of online coursework which has not only benefitted students but the community as well. Additionally, while workforce training courses, many of which involve in-person classes, are witnessing enrollment growth, these numbers are not reflected in the reports and data presented. Both also noted the high percentage of students taking courses online experienced by each campus prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, a trend that continues. However, demand for in-person courses and activities remains strong and is on the rise.

Conversations occurred among Regent Akitake, Chancellor Benham, and Chancellor Peñaloza about improving messaging with respect to enrollment successes relative to the courses being offered especially given the apparent disconnect among legislators, regents, and the university administration on this subject.

For the edification of regents who arrived after the completion of the President's Report, Vice-Chair Lee summarized the enrollment and stadium updates provided by President Lassner and asked if there were any questions.

In light of the president being a non-voting member of the Stadium Authority, Regent Abercrombie shared his fervent views and concerns about the authenticity of the university's involvement in the NASED project and the effectiveness of its participation in matters relative to the new stadium.

A robust conversation took place between Regent Abercrombie and President Lassner regarding the university's relationship with the Stadium Authority and the bearing of its input on the NASED project.

Given Regent Abercrombie and President Lassner's discussion, Regent Akitake suggested placing the Aloha Stadium issue on an agenda for the Committee on Institutional Success (IS Committee) to provide regents with an overview of, and historical background on, this subject. Vice-Chair Lee, as Chair of the IS Committee, recommended waiting until an actual RFP for the NASED project was issued before discussing this topic further. President Lassner offered to provide more background information on this issue to individual regents if they were so inclined to receive this material.

Regent Abercrombie communicated his belief in the exigency of the situation involving the stadium, especially since the Legislature is currently working on

developing the supplemental budget and will embark on crafting the next biennium budget soon thereafter. As such, he asked for clarification as to whether the stadium issue would be placed on a meeting agenda in the near future. Vice-Chair Lee replied that Regent Abercrombie's concerns were noted and would be taken under consideration by board leadership.

V. COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Report from the Committee on Independent Audit

Vice-Chair Lee referred regents to the standing committee report from the December 7, 2023, committee meeting which was contained in the materials packet.

VI. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Review of the Executive Summary of the Annual Institutional Review of Graduate Medical Education (GME) Programs at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) for Academic Year 2022-2023

Susan Steinmann, M.D, the Designated Institutional Official for the GME Programs at JABSOM, explained that the annual institutional review of GME programs at JABSOM is a major component of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's accreditation process. She also highlighted some of the key statistics and successes of the residency program contained within the executive summary of the annual institutional review and talked about JABSOM's ongoing work to expand residency programs statewide, particularly on the neighbor islands, along with associated challenges to these efforts. While the board is required to review these materials, it was noted that no further action would be necessary since the meeting minutes will serve as certification for the purposes of the review of the executive summaries of the annual institutional review of GME programs at JABSOM for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Regent Akitake asked about JABSOM's strategies for dealing with critical physician shortages being experienced on the neighbor islands, particularly in Maui County. Dr. Steinmann replied that JABSOM's ability to develop GME resources is partly dependent upon the availability of financial resources as well as the capacity of medical facilities to support, facilitate, and expand residency programs. Nevertheless, JABSOM is interested in establishing GME programs with more rotations on the neighbor islands, including Maui County, and is in the infancy stages of working with Maui Health Systems to be able to support inpatient learning by residents and advanced medical students. Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, M.D., Interim Dean of JABSOM, added that JABSOM has been actively engaged with the administration of Maui Health Systems regarding this matter.

Regent Abercrombie complimented JABSOM on the excellence and thoroughness of its report, which includes details on the barriers to establishing GME programs on the neighbor islands as well as specific strategies for tackling some of these challenges. He also inquired as to whether JABSOM has requested legislative funding to address the GME program's faculty needs, as noted in the annual institutional review. Dr. Buenconsejo-Lum stated that a request to fund three full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty

positions for the expansion of medical education and health professions pathway programs, particularly on the neighbor islands, was submitted to the governor and Legislature via the university's budget request. In addition, a position request was made for a physician-scientist in endocrinology to help grow clinical diabetes research. She also provided details on the expenditure of these funds relative to the categories of faculty slated to be hired should the Legislature approve the appropriations being sought. Regent Abercrombie asked if the requested monies were one-time funding and if the amount would be sufficient to meet the GME Program needs of the neighbor islands. Dr. Buencosejo-Lum responded that, although the noted funding for the additional FTE positions was included in JABSOM's base budget, the amount of money and FTE positions currently being asked for is below amounts sufficient to meet all of the GME program's future personnel requirements with respect to residency program expansion. However, JABSOM does anticipate submitting additional funding requests for this purpose to the Legislature as plans to expand GME programs further begin to materialize.

Regent Akitake voiced her support for JABSOM's "growing your own doctors" concept which, in her opinion, is a brilliant approach to addressing physician retention issues, especially for the neighbor islands. She also suggested the notion of including demographic components within this concept so as to develop physicians who are representative of the community in which they serve. Dr. Buenconsejo-Lum noted JABSOM's current efforts to attain the utmost compatibility between the MD Program (medical students) and GME Program residents and fellows and the community they serve while concomitantly ensuring diversity amongst its student population.

B. 2024 University of Hawai'i Legislative Pre-Session Review and Legislative Budget Update

VP Young furnished a preview of the 2024 legislative session and updated the board on the university's supplemental operating and capital improvement project (CIP) budget requests, highlighting several key elements of each, including variances between the university's budget requests and what was approved for inclusion in the governor's legislative ask. In total, the governor's budget request for the university includes approximately \$28.6 million in supplemental operating funds and \$66 million in supplemental Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds which is less than the \$56.3 million and \$331.5 million in respective funding sought by the university. Information about the membership of the current legislature, including the House Committees on Finance and Higher Education and Technology and the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Higher Education; briefings that were held regarding the university's budget; and the legislative timetable was also presented.

Referencing the absence of the board's request for an additional \$120 million in funding for student housing at UHM from the governor's proposed budget and noting the urgency of the situation, Regent Akitake asked if the administration is provided with an opportunity to speak with the governor and express the wishes of regents regarding the university's budget request. VP Young explained the budget submittal process, which includes obtaining requisite approval from the board and meetings with the governor and Director of the State Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) about the

funding request as well as opportunities to advocate for items excluded from the governor's proposed budget for submission to the Legislature. In addition, the university is one of only a few State departments that separately submits its budget request directly to the Legislature and the administration has been working with individual legislators to introduce legislative appropriation measures to address some of the university's budget requests including a bill to fund student housing at UHM. VP Young also emphasized the impacts of the Maui wildfires on the State's overall budget noting the anticipated costs for initiatives relating to the restoration of Maui may offer an explanation for the lower CIP amounts included in the governor's submitted budget.

Regent Akitake questioned whether the administration fervently advocated for inclusion of the UHM student housing request in its meetings with the governor and Director of B&F and inquired if involving regents in these discussions would be helpful. VP Young replied that, without a doubt, the university administration ardently fought for the inclusion of student housing funds within the governor's budget and expressed the board's desire for this item to be prioritized. He also welcomed any additional support the regents could provide when seeking inclusion of items within the governor's budget request.

Discussions ensued amongst Regent Akitake and VP Young on the intricacies and challenges of the budget submission process and the inclusion of board priorities and regent requests within the university's comprehensive budget request.

Regent Abercrombie sought clarification as to whether the context for the board's request to include funding for student housing at UHM in the university's budget request was made clear to the governor and Director of B&F. VP Young replied in the affirmative. Regent Abercrombie proceeded to share his thoughts on, and experiences with, the State budgeting process stressing that the budget process is dynamic and opportunities will be available for inclusion of this funding, or some variation thereof, within the overall State budget throughout the course of the legislative session.

Regent Akitake asked VP Young to share his thoughts on statements uttered by legislators during the WAM-HRE informational briefing about the university's ability to find money within its existing appropriations to tackle UHM's student housing needs. VP Young stated that while there are limited ways for the university to find money within its available fiscal resources for some of its priority projects, uncovering an additional \$40 and \$80 million in Renew, Improve, and Modernize funding for student housing and for renovations to the Hale Noelani residence hall respectively would be a challenge. As a special fund program, student housing at UHM is also expected to be financially self-sustaining, generating sufficient revenues to cover operational expenses as well as capital investments, which adds another layer of complexity to the situation and has proven to be problematic. With more time, the administration believes it could probably develop a more suitable financial plan to deal with this matter.

In light of his response, extensive conversations took place between Regent Akitake and VP Young about the length of time the administration would need to develop a financial plan to address UHM's student housing issues; the necessity of considering multiple, at times interrelated factors impacting student housing revenues and

expenditures when creating a financial plan; and the exploration of alternative financing strategies and options to contend with both the immediate and long-term needs of UHM student housing.

Noting the dynamic nature of the legislative process where positions can change at a moment's notice, as well as the impact of statutory open meeting requirements on the board's ability to quickly respond to items before the Legislature involving the board, or university governance, Regent Abercrombie voiced his apprehensions about the effectiveness of the board receiving after-the-fact legislative updates from the administration on issues pertinent to the university. As such, he suggested the board explore courses of action that will allow it to provide responses to legislative matters in a timely fashion and asked VP Young for his opinion on this situation. VP Young reviewed the process currently used by the administration to monitor legislation relevant to the university emphasizing the vast amount of personnel, effort, and time it takes to carry out this endeavor. Thus, he would be hard-pressed to suggest a simple way for the board to engage with the Legislature to the same degree as the administration.

Deliberations followed on the procedures used to inform the administration of real-time actions taken on legislation with the potential of affecting the university and past practices used by the board to discuss legislative matters and determine whether it would take an official stance on specific measures involving the board or the governance of the university.

Regent Abercrombie vehemently made a case for the board to play a larger, more in-depth role in the legislative process, particularly among its leadership and committee chairs and vice chairs. He also called for greater collaboration between regents and the administration on legislative items related to the university.

Vice-Chair Wilson conveyed his reservations in relation to the board becoming overly involved in all legislative matters concerning the university. Instead, he supported the use of a more thoughtful approach whereby regents would discuss their views and positions on legislative measures with the greatest potential for impacting the success of the institution and which were a high priority for the administration.

Taking into consideration the dialogue occurring to this point, Regent Akitake asked for this topic to be placed on a Committee on Governance agenda so as to provide adequate time for more detailed discussions. Vice-Chair Lee acknowledged Regent Akitake's request and stated that it would be taken under advisement.

C. Update on Manoa Student Housing

David Akana, Interim Director of Student Housing at UHM, gave an update on the progress made in tackling some of the more pressing issues facing residence halls at UHM since the board's December 7, 2023, meeting; spoke about the conducting of student engagement sessions to assist the administration in the planning and prioritization process for interior and exterior student housing improvement projects and went over some of the feedback received; discussed a recent site visit to UHM student housing facilities by members of WAM and HRE; noted follow-up requests received for

specific data related to student housing at UHM subsequent to the tour including wait list figures for the past several years and reserve fund balances; and presented information on a proposal put forth by the administration to increase bed rates, which have remained unchanged since 2016, by five percent in each of the next three years to help offset rising operational costs in addition to improving conditions and amenities of the residence halls.

In view of ongoing efforts by KMH LLP to conduct a comprehensive study of room rates and generate a stable financial model for the operation and maintenance of UHM's residence halls, Regent Akitake inquired about the rationale for proposing student housing rate increases at this time. Interim Director Akana replied that conversations about increasing student housing room rates were initiated prior to KMH LLP being contracted to perform the aforementioned task. Considering the current and anticipated future financial needs for UHM student housing, the length of time required to propose and receive approval for rate increases, and the projected date of June 2024 for KMH LLP to complete its work on creating a financial model, the administration believed starting discussions on this matter now was important to provide greater financial predictability for both students and student housing administrators over the next three to four years. He also mentioned questions raised by students during public meetings on this item regarding the potential for rate increases beyond the 2026-2027 Academic Year. In response to these questions, students were informed that the same established processes used to seek approval for the current rate proposal would be used by the administration should rate increases in accordance with KMH LLP recommendations be put forth in the future.

Regent Akitake asked the administration to elaborate further on the exploration of alternative financing strategies and options for UHM student housing brought up during earlier discussions. VP Gouveia responded that the student housing program is searching for ways it can simultaneously balance multiple priorities with respect to UHM's residence halls, including the possible restoration of Hale Noelani and maintenance of existing facilities so as not to lose any additional student housing inventory. While KMH LLP was contracted to provide the administration with a financial model to assist with forecasting the short-, mid-, and long-term fiscal requirements to meet all the student housing needs, together with a viable business model, the enormity of funding required to operate and maintain UHM's residence halls suggest the need for considering financing alternatives beyond room rate increase. Regent Akitake questioned when the board will be briefed on these alternatives. VP Gouveia replied that the board would be provided with more comprehensive information on the various proposals, including funding requirements for each scenario and the student housing rate structures needed to obtain these monies, after the financial model is finalized in June of this year.

Regent Mawae sought clarification on the revenue source for student housing at UHM. She also verbalized her support for investigating alternatives to the means by which UHM's student housing program is currently funded, particularly since the Legislature appears to be reluctant in providing the university with requisite monies for this purpose, and praised the proactive, student-focused, collaborative approach being

taken by the administration regarding this issue. VP Gouveia replied that the student housing program is financed entirely by the money it generates via room rental rates based on the principle of having individuals residing in and utilizing the facility shoulder the costs for its operation and maintenance.

Vice-Chair Wilson questioned whether KMH LLP's financial analysis was inclusive of future student housing requirements relative to enrollment projections. VP Gouveia responded that the primary goal of the rate study was to ascertain an accurate understanding of the true operational and maintenance costs for student housing on a per unit basis and develop hypothetical rate structures to contend with these expenses. While the report will contain data on the alignment between headcount enrollment and student housing, this particular study will not include market demand forecasts, although this idea is something to contemplate for consideration in the future.

Regent Tochiki urged the administration to think of student housing more in terms of the impact a vibrant and healthy residence hall atmosphere can have on a student's educational experience and overall community perception of the university rather than viewing the program solely from the perspective of it being a self-sustaining enterprise. She verbalized her appreciation for the administration's attempts to learn from past errors and look towards the future with respect to the oversight of student housing at UHM but also wondered whether the root cause of the complex historical problems faced by this program were, in fact, truly understood, so as to make sure they did not happen again.

Regent Abercrombie offered his observations on the state of student housing at UHM, the importance of aesthetic and practical improvements to residence halls, creative measures to address some of the noted issues facing student housing units, and the fairness of burdening current students with financing the costs for previous mistakes in managing and overseeing the facilities. He also asked about the basis for the administration's proposal to increase bed rates by five percent in each of the next three years and inquired if employment, as well as financial aid, data for students living in the residence halls was available. VP Gouveia replied that the rationale for the five percent bed rate increase was based, in part, on an escalation in salary and fringe benefit costs associated with several recent across the board raises received by student housing staff through their respective collective bargaining agreements. She also discussed the administration's exploration of incrementally larger rate increases over the next three years to address mounting labor costs, a concept which, based upon student feedback, was not pursued. Interim Director Akana added that historical increases in bed rates at UHM served as an additional basis for choosing the five percent figure and emphasized that the money generated by the increase is intended to be used strictly for operational expenditures. From 2012 to 2017, the student housing program implemented five percent increases every year to keep up with inflation but stopped this practice in 2017. The current proposal of five percent just resumes past practice. While data on the employment and financial aid situation for students living in the residence halls is not currently captured, gathering this information via future student housing surveys may be something to consider as this could help guide the administration when considering bed rate increases going forward.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (closed to the public)

Vice-Chair Wilson moved to convene into executive session, seconded by Regent Tochiki, and with all members present voting in the affirmative, the board approved convening in executive session to consult with the board's attorneys on questions and issues pertaining to the board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities, pursuant to Section 92-5(a)(4), Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

The meeting recessed at 12:21 p.m.

Vice-Chair Lee called the meeting back to order at 1:45 p.m. and announced that the board met in executive session to discuss the matters as stated on the agenda.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-Chair Lee announced that the next board meeting was scheduled for February 16, 2024, at UHH. Furthermore, he noted that committee meetings were slated to be held on February 15, 2024, at UHH, and a Special Board meeting was planned for February 16, 2024, after the regular board meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice-Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 1:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Yvonne Lau
Executive Administrator and Secretary
of the Board of Regents