Update from the UH Student Caucus - November/December 2017 & January 2018

1 message

Jannah Lyn Dela Cruz <jldc2@hawaii.edu>  
To: Board of Regents <bor@hawaii.edu>  
Wed, Jan 24, 2018 at 12:10 PM

Aloha Board of Regents office,

Please send the attached letter to BOR Chair Jan Naoe Sullivan and all members updating the board about the UH Student Caucus's progress during the months of November, December and January. Included in the letter is also a resolution approved by the Caucus: **UHSC Resolution 18-01: In Support Of Addressing Food Insecurity For All UH System Students**.

Thank you,

Jannah Lyn Dela Cruz  
Chairperson, UH Student Caucus  
University of Hawai‘i

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UHSC Monthly Update 2 Attn - BOR.pdf  
400K
January 23, 2018

Chairperson Jan Naeo Sullivan and Members
Board of Regents
2444 Dole Street
Bachman Hall 209
Honolulu, HI 96822
bor@hawaii.edu

Dear Chairperson Sullivan and Members of the Board,

Happy new year, and welcome to a new Spring semester! The UH Student Caucus is delighted to update you folks on our progress since our last update. We have formally convened on November 16, 2017, December 17, 2017 and January 20, 2018 to progress through the work in our committees and to begin preparing for the legislative session this year.

In the month of November, we have presented to you the areas of focus our Caucus is working on this year. The committees on our Caucus - Open Educational Resources, Affordability, Transportation and Mental Health - have been formed to work on those areas of focus and have progressed throughout the winter intermission. While the Caucus has been working in our committees, we have also been preparing to advocate at the State Legislature, and collaborating on matters pertinent to our constituents.

**Progress on UHSC Initiatives**

Within the last two months, our committees have been productive during and outside of our UHSC meetings and are pleased to report the following:

**Committee on OERs - Chairperson Nels Romerdahl (Maui)**
Accomplishments: Members of the committee have participated at the faculty conversation on OERs. Members of the committee have interviewed multiple instructors and faculty regarding the need and the process for implementing OER's.

Next Steps: While we celebrate that each campus has an OER committee, and that the System has an OER steering committee, we as students need the UH System to recognize the need for OER's. It is proven by the results of students surveys and personal student interviews that the
campus OER committees have done. To start off, the committee wants to work with the System OER committee on developing a comprehensive description of OER. OERs are being implemented on each campus in the System, and there is growing student support for OERs. The committee plans to formalize the UHSC position on Open Educational Resources through a resolution, encouraging the integration of OERs across the System, training for faculty on how to use OERs, and more.

**Committee on Affordability** – Chairperson Hannah Liebreich (Graduate Student Organization)
Accomplishments: The committee has worked on a resolution regarding addressing food insecurity throughout the System. It was presented to the UHSC at our January meeting, and was unanimously approved. For your review, attached is UHSC Resolution 18-01: *In Support Of Addressing Food Insecurity For All UH System Students.*

Next Steps: The committee plans to present UHSC Resolution 18-01 to the BOR and the State Legislature. The next focus the committee wants to work on is issues relating to housing for students.

**Committee on Mental Health** - Chairperson Makana Tani (Windward CC)
Accomplishments: Members of the committee are going to meet with staff from the Counseling and Student Development Center (CDSC) Dr. Allyson Tanouye and Mr. Richard Misuzawa on Thursday January 25th to discuss how we can support the implementation of a mental health counselor on each UH campus based on System-wide data that the CDSC has collected.

Next Steps: The committee will be preparing a resolution presenting the data and our findings, in support of the implementation of a mental health counselor position at each campus. Once approved by the Caucus, we will work with our campus student governments to present the resolution to the appropriate campus entities.

**Committee on Transportation** - Chairperson Ismael Salameh (Kapiolani CC)
Accomplishments: The committee has identified focus areas within transportation on each Oahu UH campus. This includes parking, UPass, Biki, bike racks, and shuttle services. The committee has also identified transportation focus areas that pertain to neighbor-island UH campuses. The committee is currently working on finalizing a survey that will be distributed amongst each individual campus to assess these areas of concern.

Next steps: The committee’s next steps is to finalize the survey, analyze its results, and prepare a resolution presenting the survey data and our findings.

The UHSC will continue to work within our committees to remain collaborative in address concerns that affect students across the System.
General Updates from our UHSC Meetings

November 18, 2017 - Leeward Community College

In the month of November, we learned more about how student fees are implemented at each campus, and was provided with a Legislative and Advocacy training with the Director of Government Relations Stephanie Kim. At the beginning of our meeting we were also honored to have Regent Portnoy visit and meet the Caucus.

The Caucus had a meaningful discussion with Regent Portnoy, and are appreciative of the time members of the Board take to meet with or listen to our Caucus delegates.

We were also fortunate to have Jan Javinar from UHWO to explain to us the process of student fees. Some Caucus members brought forth concerns regarding fees that their campus constituents had. Majority of the concern was the lack in transparency of what certain fees covered and students were not provided the assistance requested to explain what the fees paid for. For example, some fees have blanket names when charged on a student’s account, such as “student fee.” The presentation on fees helped provide further clarification to our Caucus, which we were able to provide to our concerned constituents.

The UHSC went through a training to learn more about the State Legislature and lobbying/testimony efforts in order to prepare ourselves to advocate for our students during this Legislative session. We are aware that there will be many bills regarding the University, and it is important to us that we are ready to speak up for our students.

We also appointed student representatives to serve on System wide committees. Lorraine Osako from Maui College will be serving on the Committee on the President’s Award for Excellence in Building and Grounds Maintenance, and Makani Tani from Windward Community College will be serving on the Committee on the Willard Wilson Award for Distinguished Service to the University.

December 17, 2017 - University of Hawaii West Oahu

At our December meeting, our Caucus was informed that there are plans to propose changes to the current System Wide Student Conduct Code. To further prepare for the Legislative Session, we have also established topics of bills that are of interest and priority to our Caucus to track.

Curtis Washburn, the Dean of Student Services from Leeward Community College briefed the UHSC on proposed changes to the System Wide Student Conduct Code. Our UH Senior Student Affairs Officers from each UH campus have been working together on these changes. The UHSC is currently preparing recommendations and feedback on the proposed changes.

Our committees also spent more time during this month to work on the initiatives they have been planning.

January 20, 2018 - Kauai Community College

At our January meeting, our Caucus convened at Kauai Community College. We approved UHSC Resolution 18-01, our UHSC Budget for this fiscal year, and reviewed Senate and House bills that related to the topics of priority that we had established in December.
We were able to determine a high priority list of subjects and bills the Caucus wants to submit testimony to and lobby for. Currently the Caucus is determining our position on the different bills we want to submit testimony for, and will be preparing to testify and lobby within the next few months. The UHSC is preparing to conduct formal lobby visits on Friday February 16, 2018 at the Hawaii State Capitol. Our caucus delegates, along with our caucus alternate delegates will be participating in this advocacy event. With the participation of our caucus delegates and alternate delegates from each campus, we hope to increase the amount of student participation and presence, as well as strengthen the student voice at the State Legislature.

Moving Forward

The UHSC will be meeting again on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at UH Manoa. You all are invited to attend our meetings. Due to the progress we are making in our Caucus, we had adjusted our February meeting date from what was scheduled to be on February 10, to February 17. For your personal reference, I have enclosed our meeting schedule in this letter as well with the reflected changes.

I thank you for the continued support of the UHSC, and look forward to the rest of the semester working with you.

If you would like to get in contact with the UHSC, please email me at jldc2@hawaii.edu. The advisor of the UHSC is Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Hae Okimoto, and communication to the caucus can also be forwarded or copied to her at hae@hawaii.edu.

We are looking forward to working with you all.

Sincerely,

Jannah Lyn Dela Cruz
Chairperson, 2017-2018
UH Student Caucus

Enclosures: UH Student Caucus Meeting Schedule, UHSC Resolution 18-01
**University of Hawai‘i Student Caucus**  
**Meeting Schedule**  
(with BOR Meeting dates included)  

UHSC Meetings normally begin at 9:00 AM or 9:30 AM. Details on times and location are announced when dates come closer.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I STUDENT CAUCUS

UHSC RESOLUTION 18-01
IN SUPPORT OF ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY FOR ALL UH SYSTEM STUDENTS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I STUDENT CAUCUS:

WHEREAS, the University of Hawai‘i Student Caucus (UHSC) is an overarching, System level body representing approximately 60,000 part and full-time undergraduate and graduate students from across the University of Hawai‘i System; and

WHEREAS, students, faculty, staff, and administrators, representing the UH System on behalf of the Chancellor’s Office have agreed that approximately 60 percent¹ of students in the UH System are considered food insecure at any given time throughout the school year, where food insecurity is defined as, “not knowing where you will receive your next meal;” and

WHEREAS, according to a 2009 publication, 21 percent² of students surveyed at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa experienced food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, the same study also found that approximately one in four students at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa experienced one or more of the following food insecurity related issues: limited food accessibility; anxiety over household food shortage; reduced diet quality and/or variety and appeal; reduced food intake and disrupted eating patterns; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the UHSC calls upon the UH Board of Regents to approve funds for a food pantry on each UH System campus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UHSC calls upon the UH Board of Regents to approve funds for one full-time coordinator on each UH System campus to assist students in applying for SNAP³ benefits and/or other relevant assistant programs related to affordability; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the UHSC encourages the UH Board of Regents to support UHSC efforts at the legislature in creating policy that would make SNAP benefits more accessible for students.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents Chair Jan Naoe Sullivan and Members, President David Lassner, the University of Hawai‘i Chancellors, campus student governments, Honolulu Civil Beat, Honolulu Star Advertiser, and all campus student newspaper publications.

ROLLED VOTE TO ACCEPT UHSC RESOLUTION 18-01 WITH AMENDMENTS
Aye(s): ASUH Hawai‘i Community College, ASUH Kapi‘olani Community College, ASUH Ka‘u‘u Community College, Leeward Community College Student Government, ASUH Maui College, ASUH Windward Community College, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo Student Association, ASUH at Manoa, ASUH West Oahu, Graduate Student Organization [10]
Naye(s): [0]
Abstention(s): [0]

Introduced by Hannah Liebreich, Chair of UHSC Affordability Committee, Vice President of Graduate Student Organization

¹ As discussed by members of the Chancellor’s committee on food insecurity Fall 2017.
³ http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/snap/
Christine Sorensen <sorens@hawaii.edu>  
To: Board of Regents <bor@hawaii.edu>  
Wed, Jan 24, 2018 at 2:53 PM

I will not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow on maui, but I am sending this testimony to share with the Board and others. Testimony is attached. Thank you.

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Christine K. Sorensen Irvine  
Professor, Learning Design and Technology  
College of Education  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

BOR Testimony January 2018v2.docx  
16K
I apologize for not attending the January meeting in person to present testimony as I usually do. The beginning of the semester has been hectic, and we are in the middle of a search for a new faculty member for our department with interviews this week – good news of course.

First, we want to highlight innovation at Mānoa. The Mānoa Faculty Senate (MFS) recently approved a first in the world program in ethnomathematics. The graduate certificate, which may eventually become a master’s program, integrates indigenous wisdom with 21st century teaching and learning strategies. Through place-based and real-world project-based experiences, students in the program explore sustainability and stewardship of the planet through mathematics. This exciting new program is recruiting now and will begin this summer. We encourage the Board to endorse such innovative programs across the System, but also to remain diligent in preventing duplication across campuses.

Second, we want to thank our President and Interim Chancellor for inviting MFS leadership to participate in several new committees with both long and short-term missions. Hearing faculty voices as part of the discussion is essential to shared governance. While we wish it were more than just one or two faculty at times, we strive to share with those committees what we hear from our colleagues and to share with faculty what we experience at these meetings.

Last week I participated in a two-day meeting with EAB, a company focused on researching educational issues and identifying best practices. I found their sessions on organizational structures and budgeting quite interesting. As we continue discussions about restructuring at both administrative and academic programming levels at Mānoa, I think it may be useful to have professionals such as these facilitate future decision-making.

I know you are aware that when the decision was made for President Lassner to serve as Mānoa’s Interim Chancellor, the MFS strenuously objected. Interim Chancellor Lassner recently presented a possible reorganization scenario moving Mānoa to a Provost model and asked for faculty feedback. You may or may not be aware that the MFS Senate Executive Committee (SEC) has shared with Interim Chancellor Lassner our concern that the fundamental issue that has faced Mānoa leadership is its organizational relationship with the UH System. At the last MFS meeting, we sought faculty feedback on the question of how a UH Mānoa Chancellor should serve under a UH System President. We discussed whether these positions should remain separate, be joined, or have a Vice President position at the UH System for Mānoa. Because of the unique political conditions in Hawaii, the faculty expressed a new willingness to consider all three options rather than only the separate Chancellor and President positions.

Having said that, I would urge us to take the time for thoughtful discourse, even if that means delaying a final solution. We all want Mānoa to be a strong, robust, high quality research university contributing excellence to the people and state of Hawaii. We want to make the best choices possible to achieve that outcome. I believe it is positive that there is room for considering alternatives. But I caution that we not rush the process and that we make sure faculty continue to have the opportunity to engage. This is a decision that I believe both the faculty and the administration want to get right. Thank you for your time and attention and we look forward to more opportunities for discussion.