MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS’ COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION MEETING

SEPTEMBER 2, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Eugene Bal, called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. on Wednesday, September 2, 2015, at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Information Technology Building, 1st Floor Conference Room 105A, 2420 Correa Road, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96822.

Committee members in attendance: Committee Chair Eugene Bal; Committee Vice Chair Jan Sullivan; Regent Ben Kudo; Regent Coralie Matayoshi; Regent Barry Mizuno.

Others in attendance: Regents’ Chair Randy Moore; Regent David Iha, Regent Jeffrey Portnoy; Regent Michelle Tagorda, Regent Stanford Yuen, Regent Ernie Wilson (ex officio committee members); President David Lassner; Vice President for Community Colleges John Morton; Vice President for Legal Affairs and University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; Vice President for Research Vassilis Syrmos; Interim UH Mānoa Chancellor (UHM) Robert Bley-Vroman; UH Hilo (UHH) Chancellor, Don Straney; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents Cynthia Quinn; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 5, 2015 MEETING

Regent Mizuno moved to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2015 meeting, Committee Vice Chair Sullivan seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Committee Chair Bal announced that the Board Office received no written testimony, and no individuals signed up to testify.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Update on Research & Innovation Performance Metrics:

The committee reviewed the established and proposed research & innovation performance metrics, and discussed adding measures to refine and establish new metrics on a sampling of four to five institutions’ measures that are possible to track with the data available at the University.

He explained the first six metrics that were already approved with the strategic directions.
1. Invention disclosures measures activity of any new ideas, it does not measure for patents and licenses because it is uncertain at the invention disclosure stage whether or not it will lead to actual patents, license, or royalties.

2. U.S. patents issued. The Office of Technology Transfer & Economic Development (OTTED) investigates the merit of the invention disclosure and decides whether to provide for a provisional patent, which gives OTTED a year to further investigate the merits of the technology and decide whether to file for a U.S. patent. Patents are done in two stages and more expensive than filing for a provisional patent.

3. Licenses/options executed. In the university’s research portfolio there is a set of patents, and the university advertises those technologies and patents.

4. Start-up companies created. The next step after licensing patents is generating revenues with royalties or actual equity on start-up businesses.

5. Total extramural funds received. This measure is used by every research institution to measure activity in research awards.


The additional proposed metrics include:

1. Total Research and Development (R&D) expenditures give a clear picture of activity in a given fiscal year and can be measured against a National Science Foundation (NSF) survey that all institutions in the nation participate in.

2. Total R&D ratio to tenured/tenure track faculty (instructional and research faculty only) uses the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDs) to measure productivity used by other institutions and has three to five years of previous numbers, which can be utilized to structure a baseline.

3. Industry funded research as a percentage of total R&D expenditures shows relevancy to industry and other commercialization activities and the engagement of faculty and research in industry.

4. Other sponsored project expenditures helps understand how well the community colleges training programs or others are performing and help keep up the success.

5. Licensing royalties received ties the licenses/options executed to actual revenue to show the level of success of patent and technology licenses, and in recovering investment in technologies because filing for patents costs between $15,000 to $50,000, depending if the patent is international.

6. Other new companies are companies that do not use exclusive IP and technology that has already been licensed from UH, but use different business models. This measure in addition to start-up companies the university invested, nurtured and incubated to start-up through XLR8UH will be reported.

The last three metrics regarding campus competitions (innovation), campuses competitions (general business plans), and iLab Concept Impact, are being evaluated with the College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources (CTAHR), College of Engineering, and the Shidler School of Business for the impact university innovation component efforts have on students, specifically undergraduates, on all campuses. Campus competitions (innovation) measure participation of students in competitions and programs, and they are also looking into and discussing participation of students on credit courses dealing with entrepreneurship. Campus Competitions (general business plans) would measure programs in very different business like activities (e.g., food innovation,
clothing, and others) by taking an inventory of these activities on campuses. The iLabs concept created an innovation/entrepreneurship hub with a physical presence at UHM and one underway at UHH, strategically located on campus where undergraduate students can bring ideas and questions to stimulate entrepreneurship and innovation through programs offered in those spaces, which is akin to other institutions across nation.

The committee received an update on the iLab building that is located in the old ITS building next to Campus Center, which underwent minor renovations. A soft opening was held, and some courses will be offered this fall, but iLab is partnering with 'Iolani to use the Sullivan Center set up as a model. There is a committee that includes architecture students to design the furniture and space. A January opening is scheduled to coincide with renovations at the Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (PACE) at Shidler. There will be a UH Innovation Day in January with an open house for the community on innovation and entrepreneurship.

The committee requested that metrics for UHH and other campuses be included in the metrics. VP Syrmos responded that the awards and expenditures report include UHH and the community colleges and broken out individually. He will go back and work with VP Morton to see if they can come up with additional metrics for the community colleges and report back on those at the next committee meeting. There was discussion about utilizing the Research Training & Revolving Fund (RTRF) budget and expenditure for projects as a metric once the new rate is renegotiated, and establishing stress targets noting the substantial increase of 50-60% over the same period, and considering metrics to reflect excellence. The metrics should reflect the university’s achievement goals. Research awards could have lagging (expenditures) and leading indicators (number of awards for that year) to give better insight into the operating budget and cash flow and provide an indication of what the university can look forward to in the next couple of years. Regarding intellectual property, the leading indicator is invention disclosures and the lagging indicator is patents. There should be a relationship to what is being targeted. There was consideration of adding a metric for innovation base development as increasing STEM degrees should have an impact on the number of startups and licensing to establish strategic areas of excellence in growth areas. The committee also suggested VP Syrmos look at the proposed metrics to determine if it is appropriate to set targets versus just tracking results.

B. Briefing on the Status of University Affiliated Research Center and Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) Awards for FY14 & FY15

The committee received a briefing on the Status of University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) and Applied Research Laboratory (ARL) Awards for FY14 & FY15. Dr. Margo Edwards, Executive Director of the ARL provided a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the ARL, core competencies, projects, personnel, future plans for operation and expansion, and growth concept of the ARL as a virtual hi-tech shopping mall. The ARL has a higher overhead rate than UH, and can act as a sole source which avoids proposal writing and broad agency response. The Department of Defense has been supportive of the ARL continuing, and the Navy in particular has expressed interest in certain areas and collaboration is ongoing, including a half-day workshop held with the
Pacific Command (PACOM) and the Pacific Fleet (PACFLEET). Deans and Directors were initially concerned about going through the ARL for research because of lost overhead, but that has been addressed as part of the ARL overhead goes back to those units as an incentive for participation. There are efforts to engage parents by helping build a strong, technical workforce for students with the goal of keeping the talent at home. The virtual hi-tech shopping mall concept has anchor stores, such as the National Security Agency, the Department of Defense, Banking community, along with health services community, and technical companies who need talented students. Students have opportunities to find a job that fits, gives these agencies opportunities to fund students through internships at UH or get high school students involved in the projects that matter to the state, and students obtain skillsets that translate well in transportable jobs.

The committee requested more information be provided on the rationale to support establishing UARC, the purpose, and targets in comparison with other peer UARCs. Administration explained that the UARC is different in age and integration with internal research, whereas other institutions are standalone research entities that have a hands off relationship with the institution. UH has the first 21st century UARC that is now involved in technology and cybersecurity, which has the ability to adapt quickly to the way students learn. In the past, the UARC was proposed as an organization that could perform classified research, and later when the UARC was approved a moratorium was placed on classified research component for the first three years. The moratorium ended, but there has been no classified research at the ARL. They are currently negotiating a classified task order. All operations for any classified work are done outside any of the 10 campuses. The ARL continues seeking funding from other branches of the armed services, such as PACOM and Hickam. Even though the UARC is Navy-centric, there are projects with the U.S. Airforce, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and the Pacific Missile Range Facility.

C. Review Timeline for Long-Range Plans and Goals for University of Hawai‘i Strategic Directions: Hawai‘i Innovation Initiative

The committee reviewed the timeline for the Long-Range Plans and Goals for University of Hawai‘i Strategic Directions for the Hawai‘i Innovation Initiative. The system office of the VP for Research will gather input by October 30 and report back to the committee by January 2016.

D. Review Regents’ Policies on Research and Innovation

The committee reviewed Board policies on research and innovation and discussed the process that would require consult with the unions and legal review before seeking board approval. The revisions ranged from housekeeping and clarification matters on investigator authority, academic freedom, ensuring highest and best use to meet strategic directions, aligning Organized Research Units with academic units and needs and justification analysis.
The policy on the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai‘i (RCUH) was deferred to the next committee meeting. Dr. Sylvia Yuen, Executive Director of RCUH, is scheduled to give a presentation at the committee meeting in November.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on the motion of Regent Matayoshi and seconded by Committee Vice Chair Sullivan, with unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Cynthia Quinn
Executive Administrator and
Secretary of the Board of Regents