

MINUTES OF THE REGENTS'
COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

Date: Thursday, April 18, 2002

Place & Time: Outrigger Waikoloa Beach Hotel
Ali'i Rooms I and II
5:06 p. m.

Committee Members Present: Regents Lee (presiding)
Bergin
McElrath
Poe
Ikawa (ex-officio)

Committee Member Excused: Regent Thurston

Other Regents Present: Regents Kobayashi
Kurusu
Nunokawa

Others Present: Evan S. Dobbelle, President University of Hawai'i
Doris M. Ching, Vice President for Student Affairs
Jan M. Javinar, Director, Co-Curricular Activities,
Programs and Services
David Iha, Executive Administrator and Secretary of the
Board
Carl H. Makino, Executive Assistant to the Board

Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Regents' Committee on Student Affairs held on January 17, 2002, were approved as circulated.

Amendment to Board of Regents' Policy Relating to Student Government Organizations

Vice President Ching recommended that the Committee approve an additional section to Board policy, facilitating the establishment and chartering of a systemwide student association and to delegate the establishment and chartering of such an organization to the President of the University system.

Adopting the proposed amendments to the Board's policy on student government organizations would enable the establishment of a systemwide student association. Explicit BOR policy would promote the credibility and continuity of a systemwide student association in two ways: 1) by facilitating communication between the University and its students through an established mechanism which promotes dialogue among student leaders systemwide to generate solutions to common problems; and 2) by encouraging student leaders to "act as a system. "

During the 1990 legislative session, former State Senator Malama Solomon invited student government presidents of the University system to a meeting to discuss student involvement in the legislative process as well as collective concerns of the student leaders. The subject of a systemwide network and organization of student leaders was raised. Shortly thereafter a plan for a systemwide student organization was developed. Student leaders created a charter for the University of Hawai'i Student Caucus. The charter was concurrently ratified by all active eligible student governments and the first official meeting of the Caucus was held on December 7, 1990. Since then, the Student Caucus has lobbied on behalf of students systemwide on issues impacting the quality of campus life for students.

Student Caucus members, in succeeding years, have resolved to propose that the organization be officially chartered as a systemwide student association. The Student Caucus unanimously endorsed this proposal in December 1998 and a draft proposal was distributed in March 1999 to student life staff and deans of student services for input. Eight out of the eleven campus student life staff members or deans of student services supported the proposal to amend the Board's policy with three concerns: 1) that the authority of the systemwide association not include oversight of any campus student government; 2) that the purpose of the systemwide student association as one of collective lobbying and advocacy for student interests as well as potential trainers for campus student government be explicit; and 3) that campus student leaders who attend meetings be chosen for their commitment to the organization's purposes. In response, a purpose statement for the organization is being proposed as part of the amendments. The proposed constitution or charter will include provisions to address the remaining concerns.

In Spring 2002, the proposal was distributed to all eleven campus student governments. To date, nine of the eleven student governments have responded, and all nine did so in support of this proposal, echoing and reaffirming the interest and commitment of their predecessors from at least four years ago.

Existing space is available within student affairs facilities and sufficient to accommodate the systemwide student association. Further, it is anticipated that reasonable funding will continue to be made available by the University to cover the operating costs of said association.

Regent Nunokawa inquired as to how this organization would be funded. Vice President Ching stated that it would be funded through the budget provided to her office.

Regent Poe noted that two student organizations had not endorsed the proposal. Mr. Javinar informed that it was Leeward Community College's student government association and UH Mānoa's Graduate Student Organization.

Regent Lee commended the student leaders for their efforts. Vice President Ching introduced the student leaders from the various campuses whose efforts went into the proposal.

Regent Poe moved to approve the proposed amendments to the Board of Regents' policy relating to student government organizations to facilitate the establishment and chartering of a systemwide student association and to delegate the establishment and chartering of such an organization to the President. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Iha, Secretary

Dated: May 16, 2002

c: Chairperson Allan K. Ikawa
Members, Committee on Student Affairs
President Evan S. Dobelle
Vice President Doris M. Ching
Vice Chancellor Daniel Ishii
Vice Chancellor Keith Miser