I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Dahilig at 1:10 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31, 2006, at the University of Hawai‘i Manoa, Campus Center Room 220, 2465 Campus Road, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96822.

Regents in attendance: Chair Mike Dahilig; Andres Albano; Ramon de la Pena, Ph.D.; Marlene Hapai, Ph.D.

Others in attendance: Vice President Sam Callejo; Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Karen Lee; UH Manoa Vice Chancellor for Students Francisco Hernandez; Interim Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board Presley Pang, Esq.; and others as noted.

II. AGENDA

Informational Briefing and Testimony: Response to Earthquake at Student Housing, Manoa

Richard Ross testified for Housing Director Laurie Furutani, who was out-of-state. Mr. Ross provided copies of their emergency procedures manual and responded to questions about their response after the earthquake.

Regent Dahilig asked if the emergency procedures were implemented properly, which Mr. Ross confirmed. The Housing staff is continuing to assess their procedures. Staff responded well during the crisis, and were grateful to Campus Security for providing extra officers throughout that day and night.

Regent Dahilig asked what Campus Security’s responsibilities are in emergencies and how they interface with Housing. Mr. Ross said that he and Chief Neal Sakamoto were on campus within 30 minutes after the earthquake. Damages couldn’t be immediately assessed, and the duration of the power outage was not known. Since it was a Sunday, Campus Security focused their efforts on the students in the residence halls and added more officers in the Housing areas.
Regent Dahilig asked if a typical Friday or Saturday night requires extra security. Mr. Ross responded that after consultation with Chief Sakamoto, it was decided that Campus Security officers would be increased on those nights rather than hire private security.

Regent Dahilig commented that a student informed him that he was almost hit by a beer bottle one evening. Regent Dahilig's past experience living in the residence halls led him to question whether security was sufficient. He asked why was Housing providing security that should be Campus Security’s responsibility. He asked if Friday and Saturday nights are such extraordinary events that security has become Housing’s responsibility.

Mr. Ross responded that Regent Dahilig is describing two situations: a disaster, and their normal weekends. In the earthquake situation, Housing staff and Campus Security were there throughout the day and night. The problem was that several hundred non-residents came over and congregated in a darkened area of Hale Noe’lani. Housing staff tried to identify their residents, and Campus Security patrolled the crowd, which exacerbated the tense situation. The officers were pulled back, and Housing staff calmed down the crowd. Regarding the normal weekends, Mr. Ross suggested increasing Campus Security’s budget to allow for additional officers.

Regent Dahilig said that it would be helpful to have Campus Security explain their responsibility to Housing’s security needs, since it appears that they are not consistent in their support. This issue of responsibility also affects other campus evening events. He commended Campus Security for their efforts after the earthquake, but added that there needs to be a clearly-defined interface between Security and Housing. He requested Vice Chancellor Hernandez’ assistance in obtaining information from Campus Security.

In response to Regent de la Pena, Mr. Ross said that they have an outside architect who will assess the buildings, but there was no obvious damage, not even broken windows. Most of the damage was done by the dorm residents.

Regent de la Pena asked if Housing has their own security, to which Mr. Ross replied in the negative. He said that Housing relies on their student staff, who know their residents and are very good at controlling situations and providing support. They have a bigger influence on the residents than a uniformed security officer at times. However, security is called to handle inebriated students.

Regent Hapai asked if Housing was confident in the immediate response team and procedures for emergencies. Mr. Ross expressed confidence in the professional staff who reside in the residence halls who are trained to handle emergencies. However, they are not trained to deal with catastrophic disasters, which he feels is beyond Housing’s responsibility.

Vice Chancellor Hernandez assured the Committee that Housing would not be billed for anything that occurred. He said that all the planning and practice will never actually prepare us for disasters, but we can come close. The Campus follows the
general guideline that whomever arrives first will provide necessary assistance. He said that the Housing staff is trained and able to handle most situations. He commented that no one in the State thought that the power outage would last so long. He indicated that the experience has taught them that they need to be self-sufficient for a much longer period of time; they need to have generators; they need to plan for alternative activities for the students, such as opening up study areas.

He noted that there was minimal disruption; the residents were fed, and were able to stay in place. Housing will take stock of equipment needs, such as more walkie-talkies, and examine each building.

**Information Briefing and Testimony: Student Activity Fees to Support Campus Center Improvements**

Sean Burke, president of the Campus Center Board (CCB), said that the CCB is one of six Chartered Student Organizations (CSO) recognized by the Board of Regents, and charged with governing the Campus Center Complex. The Complex is over 30 years old, in need of renovation and expansion. The CCB believes this project will change how services are delivered to students, and how the student union is envisioned as the campus community center.

The CCB wants the Campus Center to provide students with study and meeting areas, dining services, and a fitness facility, all available throughout the day into late night. Currently students are forced to go off campus for these services at night, or, in the case of a fitness facility, students cannot always be accommodated in the overcrowded existing campus facility.

The CCB is proposing to increase the Campus Center Operations Fee and to also rename that fee to Campus Center Operations and Recreation Fee.

Ms. Summer Chun of the CCB described the support for this project. She explained that every year, the CCB is mandated by their charter to survey students to determine if the Board is properly serving the students. In the 2005 and 2006 surveys, students were asked if they would be in favor of extensive renovation, a fitness center, and a fee increase to support a fitness center. The majority of the respondents supported the initiatives.

The CCB then consulted with the occupants of the Center: the chartered student organizations; faculty; staff; and student employees. One outcome of these discussions was that child care support needs to be included in the plans, since many graduate students with children use the facilities.

The Board has gathered over 2,000 student signatures in support of the fee. It has also held three public hearings, with no opposition to the fee increase, and received the support of ASUH via a resolution passed in fiscal year 2006.

Ms. Chun reviewed the design plans, providing handouts of a slide show. She described the Campus Center as one of the most energy-inefficient buildings on
campus, so the renovated complex will be a model for future energy use. The planned complex will provide more lounge and study spaces, a need annually expressed by students; a work area for the CSOs to meet and work together towards more effective leadership; and a full-service coffee and juice bar for late night.

A recreational facility is also planned, with state-of-the-art strength and cardio equipment, showers, locker rooms, multi-purpose studios and courts.

Ms. Chun allowed that although all of the planned facilities are currently available on campus, they are spread between upper and lower campus, and not available at night. The intent is to have these facilities concentrated in one complex in the center of campus, enabling students quick and easy access, from Monday through Sunday.

Mr. Brandon Yamamoto discussed costs, projecting a $28 million cost, based on a 50 percent inflation rate of the 2001 master plan. One million has already been received from State appropriations, and a request is in the CIP budget, with $14 million financed through GO bonds and the other $14 million through revenue bonds. UH Manoa students pay activity fees of $45 per semester, compared to $120 to $180 semester fees charged by universities with comparable student unions with recreational centers. To finance the $28 million themselves, the CCB needs a $26 fee increase every fall for five years. On the other hand, the $14 million investment is a much more feasible increase for students, since it means an $18 increase every fall for five years.

The CCB intends to also increase revenue by increasing retail services, food choices, conference facilities, and comprehensive recreational programs and services.

Regent de la Pena asked if the surveys were conducted campus-wide or only at the Campus Center. Ms. Chun replied that only students at the Campus Center were surveyed, but the surveys were taken during events that drew students to the Center.

Regent de la Pena asked if the expansion involved working with the administration to expand the existing buildings or move to another building. Ms. Chun indicated that they worked with Campus Planner Jack Sidener and the project is part of the LRDP.

Regent Albano commented that the survey resulted in 300 to 400 of the 500 respondents who favored the increase. The total Manoa student population numbers about 20,000. He said that if the students want this project, the BOR will support the CCB, but he wanted that assurance, since they haven’t heard from the majority of the students. Ms. Chun replied that the CCB is doing its best to reach all students.

Jan Javinar, Director of the Campus Center facilities management and student organizations department, explained that the master plan began in fall of 2000. All surveys were taken at the facility, but they were taken at times when students were validating their IDs, to get the most responses. He said that in 2002, about 10 percent of the students supported the fee increase.

Regent Hapai asked who uses the present facilities in the lower campus; how many are served there, and how many more would be served with the planned facility.
Lloyd Hisaka, Interim Director of Intramural Sports, explained that the fitness center has 6,500 sq. ft. of space, and served 100,000 duplicated count of students during the 67 hours a week of operations (counts are done hourly); approximately 3,000 to 4,000 students are served weekly. Sharing the facilities with Physical Education classes limits their operational hours; the earliest they can open is 11:30 a.m., closing at 10:30 p.m.

Regent Albano asked if 50 percent of the students use the facilities. Mr. Hisaka replied that he would like to think that at least 50 percent used the facilities. He explained that they also have gyms, a pool, courts, and playing fields. Students using these facilities are not counted. Regent Albano asked if students have been turned away due to overcrowding, which Mr. Hisaka confirmed. The maximum number of persons in the facility is limited to 114. There is a waiting list between 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. The 114 maximum is due to the small footage and the spacing out of the equipment for safety.

Regent Hapai asked if the needs vary between dorm students and off-campus students. Vice Chancellor Hernandez responded that the surveys didn’t distinguish the two. The intent of the CCB is to increase services later into the evening to accommodate more dorm residents as well as allow off-campus students to remain on campus longer. The facility is aimed at serving both populations simultaneously.

Regent Albano asked if CCB is requesting first a fee increase, then later requesting approval of a conceptual plan. Vice Chancellor Hernandez replied that the fee increase approval will allow them to provide information sessions to the legislators; if all of those approvals are received, they will return to the BOR with conceptual design, then permission to renovate and construct.

Regent Albano asked if CCB has the authority now to obtain revenue bonds, or are they seeking legislative approval. Vice Chancellor Hernandez responded that they will seek approval. In response to Regent Albano’s questions, Vice Chancellor Hernandez said that the plan is to seek 50 percent in GO bonds and 50 percent in revenue bonds, but the worst case scenario would be 100 percent revenue bonds, which requires legislative approval. Vice President Sam Callejo clarified that the CIP budget approved by the BOR was 50 percent revenue bonds and 50 percent GO at $14 million each. Regent Albano asked if the University is requesting authority to float those bonds independent of legislative approval in the future. Vice President Callejo replied that the University is introducing a bill that will give the BOR full authority over all bonds, without legislative or governor’s approval.

In response to Regent Hapai’s question about the timeline, Sarah Yap, Campus Center Director, said that they hope to break ground in 2009, with completion anticipated by 2011. With the $1 million already received, they’re scheduling the renovation phase to begin spring of 2007. Since the students entering in 2007 would not be able to take advantage of the facilities, they would be allowed use of the facilities for as many semesters as they paid the fees. Regent Hapai suggested that the funds be
used for renovations that could affect current students, to which Ms. Yap agreed, indicating that increased space and late night programming would be the first priorities.

Regent Dahilig summarized that there is a progression of the fee as renovation begins, and students will be paying more as more things are added online, which Ms. Yap confirmed.

Grant Teichman, ASUH President, said that ASUH deliberated over this fee increase, and it was unanimously supported except for one senator. ASUH agrees that this project is important to students and is part of a bigger vision of creating a college atmosphere.

Regent Albano commented that a worst case scenario results in net decreases in assets of over a million dollars in the first year. Mr. Javinar responded that the Campus Center has about $1.8 million in operating reserves and about $2.3 million in voluntary reserves, which they intend to sustain to offset any projected deficits. He also requires his staff to vigorously look at ways to cut costs. He said that the actual indebtedness won’t need to be paid until the second or third year.

Regent Albano suggested that the Regents be provided a balance sheet. He commented that in the private sector, net revenues equal to 1.2 percent at coverage ratio of the debt service is the norm.

Regent Dahilig thanked the students for their presentation and encouraged the student leaders to continue to voice their concerns and to continue to determine student support for this project.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Regent de la Pena moved to adjourn the meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Presley Pang, Esq.
Interim Executive Administrator
and Secretary of the Board