After introductions, Vassilis Syrmos (UH VPRI) talked about the expectations of the new Research Advisory Board. The RAB was formed to provide advice to the UH Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation, aimed at facilitating the success of the research enterprise.

A near-term request is for the RAB to review previous committee reports about UH research to determine which recommendations have either not been addressed to date, or are still not yet completed. These might be viewed as "low-hanging fruit" for rapid follow up. Additionally, it would be useful to identify significant challenges that have been solved. The primary reports (Raleigh Task Force; Forrester; Hashimoto; UHARI memo to Greenwood) have been distributed to the committee. [12/17/13 - a draft spreadsheet of recommendations distilled from the reports by Kellie Terada was distributed to the RAB by Dave Duffy, asking the board members to help assess progress ahead of the next meeting.]

Another near-term request from Vassilis is to review the annual 2013 VPRI report (when available) and provide any feedback.

Longer term, Vassilis will seek RAB advice on

- clarifying the relationship between RCUH – UH;
- clarifying the OTTED – UH system relationship;
- refreshing the HI² initiative ;
- the research administrative infrastructure needed going forward;
- an innovation piece to be determined – How to restructure the VPR office?

Objectives for the HI² refresh are

- to set realistic and manageable expectations for the initiative
- refresh what we have at UH already, make it more efficient
- review areas of interest / clusters in the initiative
- identify achievable goals and methods to sustain/increase federal revenues
- involve existing and newly recruited faculty

Vassilis described the current effort to develop the new NSF EPSCoR grant proposal, focused on data intensive science. UH is requesting $3.5 million from the legislature for 15 faculty positions and 25 federally-funded positions. These hires could be faculty at any point in their career. The RAB wanted to receive more information about the EPSCoR proposal plan.

General discussion centered on the need to make sure that we recognize and highlight what works and UH’s excellent research accomplishments. The importance of research in academics, and to the University as a whole needs to be recognized more widely. The community colleges are putting more focus on research and stressing/integrating research in their teaching and in their positions, and this requires explicit support. The economic and service roles of the UH research enterprise more broadly in the State of Hawaii need to be highlighted.

The topic of research infrastructure received considerable discussion. Funds are being requested for research infrastructure (so far, a little successful, i.e. money for Pharmacy school in Hilo. Manoa buildings are next). Perhaps Manoa doesn’t need more space, just better equipped space/better use of space we already have? The new IT building should provide additional research infrastructure. The concern was expressed that it is hard to make space more effective when working with Facilities Management, which is frustrating/difficult. It seems unlikely to change the system/facilities. Research enterprise needs to try to partner with them. Is it possible for RCUH to take over improvements (not maintenance, but improvements)? Research is heavily dependent on infrastructure and the capacity to improve.

OTTED is under evaluation and will fall under office of VPR. Aiming to change model / restructure in 2-3 months. Proof-of-concept accelerators are being discussed with a plan for $1M initial funding ($500K from the State, $500K discovery and innovation fund). The idea is to actively fund projects in seed phase then provide more funding for bigger projects (growth phase). Someone needs to facilitate and be the judge of who gets funded. Potential role of a patent review committee composed of faculty members? Vassilis working to change BOR and executive policy to allow for an IP committee to be formed (currently against policy for an organized committee due to commercialization aspect). An historical footnote: OTTED used to receive 4% of all research indirect costs a discovery and innovation fund, but the law changed and OTTED then was supposed to be a self-sustaining operation.

**Action items / Next Meeting (December?) / Future topics to be discussed**

a. Request for (prioritized) categorized list
   i. Successes in last 10 years / Tasks that have been completed already
   ii. Easy-to-fix tasks (“low hanging fruit”)
   iii. Hard-to-fix tasks

b. Morale
   i. Important to address how we can improve morale where possible

c. Demographics
i. How do we sustain quality, quantity, and character of research?

ii. Which research areas have older researchers (close to retirement) with large/active research projects?
   1. This is where growth needs to happen to sustain present capacity and capabilities
   2. Request raw data information from Institutional Research Office so we can analyze data

d. Assess the UH Applied Research Laboratory – How can it play a role going forward?

Roger created an email listserv for RAB members only: UH-RAB@lists.hawaii.edu