July 30, 2014

TO: UHM Faculty

FROM: UHM Faculty Senate Executive Committee (SEC)

SUBJECT: Hiring Freeze and the Chancellor’s Future

The Manoa Faculty SEC has been carefully monitoring the situation involving the budget crisis, the hiring freeze, and rumors about the impending firing of Chancellor Apple. On July 29th the SEC sent the attached letter to President Lassner and BOR Chair Randolph Moore, expressing our continued support of the Chancellor.

Transparency is an issue here. Despite our best efforts, we have found it difficult to obtain sufficient information to determine the causes of the current problems. One thing that we can say with certainty is that there is a genuine budget crisis at UHM. When opportunities for revenue enhancement are limited, controlling expenditures is the only practical option in resolving this situation. Unfortunately, any viable approach to dealing with such a problem has painful consequences.

The presence of a knowledgeable chancellor, with proper authority and a collegial relationship with faculty and students, is vital if we are to equitably resolve the budget issues we face. It is destabilizing and demoralizing to fire academic leaders when it is not clear that significant errors have been made. Such actions undermine our ability to attract qualified leadership for the university in the future.

We have many other questions for which we are seeking accurate information from the administration. As it becomes available, we will communicate further.

Att.