MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I BOARD OF REGENTS

March 15, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Board of Regents was called to order by Chairperson Patricia Y. Lee on Monday, March 15, 2004 at 1:15 p.m. in Bachman Hall, Conference Room 113, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

Attendance:

Present were Regents Byron W. Bender, Trent K. Kakuda, Charles K. Kawakami, Kitty Lagareta, Walter Nunokawa, Alvin A. Tanaka, Jane B. Tatibouet and Myron A. Yamasato; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board David Iha; and Executive Assistant Carl H. Makino. Regents James J. C. Haynes II and Ted H. S. Hong were excused.

Also present were: Mr. Walter Kirimitsu, University General Counsel; David McClain, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mr. Sam Callejo, Chief of Staff; and the team from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC): Ms. Lindsey Desrochers, Ms. Diane Cordero de Noriega, Mr. James Lyons, Mr. George Pernsteiner, and Dr. Ralph Wolff.

Report of the University of Hawai‘i System Office to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission (WASC) for Senior Colleges and Universities

Following introductions by Chairperson Lee, Dr. Desrochers inquired about the Regents’ views on the orientation of new Regents.

Regent Tatibouet stated that as one of the new Regents, she felt she had been provided a very good orientation by the University administration and Board staff. She expressed that the institution is so complex that more details and background materials are needed. The Chair has since appointed a task group to come up with a package for new Board members.

Regent Bender stated that new Regents are encouraged to visit the various campuses which is very helpful.
Dr. Desrochers inquired if the role of the Regent was clear to everyone. Regent Yamasato stated that in his opinion, the Board’s role is made clear, even with minimal orientation. All Regents realize that the Board is a policy and decision-making body and not management. Chairperson Lee added that despite the role, there is still a natural tendency for Regents to offer their own expertise that they bring to the Board. Regent Lagareta concurred and explained that in personnel, for example, their role is not to question the names being recommended but to ensure that the process was correct and that appointments are consistent and fair.

Dr. Lyons asked if the Regents felt comfortable that the Board understands the various missions of the system. Chairperson Lee stated that this was clearly understood. Regent Yamasato concurred, stating that the Board meets at all campuses and this helps to understand the special mission that each of them play.

Dr. Pernsteiner inquired about the financial management of the University. Regent Yamasato stated that it is still hard to understand some of the reporting but things are moving in the right direction. Dr. Desrochers followed about the budget process. Regent Lagareta said that the Board had asked for a new budget preparation process. Regent Tatibouet commented that one of the problems in resolving some of the budget and financing processes has been the absence of the Chief Financial Officer from Board meetings. General Counsel Kirimitsu advised that the Regents were getting into a personnel area. Regent Kakuda therefore moved and Regent Tatibouet seconded to discuss the personnel related matter in executive session. The meeting was recessed at 1:35 p.m. to enter into executive session.

The meeting was reconvened in open session at 2:26 p.m. at which time Mr. Wolff explained that a draft would be sent to the President and the Board should request that a copy be provided. He informed about the probable timetable and that the University would make a response. WASC would then issue a report some time around July 2004.

II. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Iha, Executive Administrator
and Secretary of the Board