

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS MEETING

MAY 21, 2020

Note: On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern, subsequently declaring it a pandemic on March 11, 2020. On March 16, 2020, Governor David Y. Ige issued a supplementary proclamation that temporarily suspended Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to public meetings and records, “to the extent necessary to enable boards to conduct business in person or through remote technology without holding meetings open to the public.”

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ernest Wilson called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2020. The meeting was conducted virtually with regents participating from various locations.

Committee members in attendance: Chair Ernest Wilson Jr.; Vice-Chair Robert Westerman; Regent Alapaki Nahale-a; Regent Jan Sullivan; and Regent Michelle Tagorda.

Others in attendance: Board Chair Ben Kudo; Regent Simeon Acoba; Regent Kelli Acopan; Regent Eugene Bal; Regent Michael McEnerney; Regent Randy Moore (ex officio committee members); President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Community Colleges Erika Lacro; VP for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; VP for Academic Planning and Policy Donald Straney; VP for Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos; VP for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer Garret Yoshimi; UH-Mānoa (UHM) Provost Michael Bruno; UH-Hilo (UHH) Chancellor Bonnie Irwin; UH-West O’ahu (UHWO) Chancellor Maenette Benham; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Kendra Oishi; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2020 MEETING

Vice-Chair Westerman moved to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2020 meeting, seconded by Regent Nahale-a, and noting the excused absence of Regent Tagorda, the motion carried, with all members present voting in the affirmative.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Board Secretary Oishi announced that the Board Office did not receive any written testimony and no individuals signed up to provide oral testimony.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Wilson announced that he would be taking up agenda item C immediately after agenda item A as both of these agenda items dealt with programs at UHM.

A. Review and Recommend Board Approval to Change from Provisional to Established Status: Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Health, UHM

Chair Wilson noted that Regent Tagorda would not be participating in the discussion on this agenda item because she is a faculty specialist within the Office of Public Health and that she would be joining the meeting after the agenda item has concluded.

UHM Provost Bruno provided an overview of the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health (BAPH) at UHM. The BAPH program is designed to provide undergraduates in public health with professional training that primarily focuses on improving health and quality of life through population-based prevention and treatment of disease and other physical and mental health conditions. It also educates students in the surveillance of health outcomes and promotion of healthy behaviors. While the public health workforce in the United States has continued to dwindle over the last few years, the rising incidence of chronic disease, rising health care costs, increased need for research in the area of disease prevention, the aging work force, technological advances, and increased demand for consultants will increase the need for public health promotion professionals in the near future and the BAPH program educates and prepares students to meet these needs. In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the education and training contained in the BAPH program, as well as the graduates it produces, are critically important to meeting the public health needs of the community. He noted that the BAPH program was given provisional status in 2014 and that approval was being sought to change the program's status to established.

Provost Bruno stated that interest in the BAPH program has increased considerably since its inception. Upon the granting of provisional status, the BAPH program had projected enrollment for years 3, 4, and 5 of the program would be cohorts of 50 students per year. Actual enrollments for those years were 149, 170, and 165 students respectively. Students in the BAPH program have also experienced extremely high post-graduation employment with over 80 percent of BAPH graduates being offered employment upon graduation. It is anticipated that program graduates will continue to experience high employment rates for the near term as public health is one of the fastest growing sectors in the health care field.

Chair Kudo asked why the BAPH program was a bachelor of arts (BA) program and not a bachelor of science (BS) program given its subject matter. Provost Bruno replied that the main differences between a BS and BA are often in their general education requirements. It was his understanding that the requirements for a BA in this program were more consistent with the mixture of science-based and experiential requirements associated with other public health programs across the country. A BA degree also provides greater flexibility for students entering the program and upon graduation.

Chair Kudo inquired further as to whether a BS degree was more marketable among employers in the public health field as opposed to a BA. Provost Bruno responded that he did not have statistics readily available on this particular issue. President Lassner

added that the university does have programs that offer both a BS and BA degree and that the different programs prepare students for slightly different employment opportunities. For example, a BS would be more preferable for scientific research type of employment or for graduate studies in some of the more scientific fields.

Regent Sullivan arrived at 8:53 a.m.

Given the large enrollment numbers for the BAPH program, Regent Acoba asked about the demographics of the cohorts and the attractiveness of this program to Hawai'i residents as opposed to non-residents. Provost Bruno stated that while current enrollment in the BAPH program is a mix of residents and non-residents, cohorts in the program contain primarily local students and consists of a large percentage of first generation college students and underrepresented populations. However, given the increased interest in the public health sector due to the COVID-19 pandemic and growing concerns about a rise in future public health issues and needs, the program is anticipating a possible influx of non-resident applicants.

Vice-Chair Westerman moved to recommend board approval to change the status of BAPH in the Office of Public Health Studies at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at UHM from provisional to established, seconded by Regent Sullivan, and noting the excused absence of Regent Tagorda, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

C. Review and Recommend Board Approval to Change from Provisional to Established Status: Marine Biology Graduate Program for Doctoral (Ph.D) and Master of Science (MS) Degrees in Marine Biology, UHM

Provost Bruno noted that the Marine Biology Graduate Program (MBGP) for Ph.D. and MS degrees in Marine Biology was given provisional status in 2012 and stated that the administration was requesting board approval to change MBGP from provisional to established status. He gave a brief description of MBGP saying that it was jointly administered by the College of Natural Sciences (CNS) and the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) at UHM. MBGP serves as a primary example of a successful integrated interdisciplinary program that nurtures and educates graduate students in marine sciences, providing innovative research opportunities through the collaborative and cooperative use of the facilities, resources, faculty, and expertise of CNS and SOEST. As such, MBGP serves as a catalyst and resource for shaping the future of marine biology with the goal of preparing students to be research and development leaders in marine biology, conservation, and resource management with the ability to transcend disciplinary boundaries and apply leading-edge research techniques to challenging fundamental and applied problems. MBGP has a current enrollment of 65 students and produces approximately 10 graduates per year, both of which are considered high in comparison to similar programs across the country.

Regent Tagorda arrived at 8:55 a.m.

Regent Acoba asked if it was correctly stated that MBGP produces approximately 10 graduates per year and that this graduation rate was considered high in comparison to

similar programs across the country. Provost Bruno responded in the affirmative. Regent Acoba inquired further if the number of graduates produced justifies the cost of MBGP. Provost Bruno replied that the cost for MBGP remains much lower than originally projected. Since MBGP utilizes existing faculty to serve as instructors for the program, no new faculty have been hired and thus no faculty costs have been incurred by MBGP. He stated that the only costs experienced by MBGP are for resources needed to support hands-on training and research but that those costs are well under \$100,000, and are more on the level of \$50,000 to \$60,000.

Regent Acoba questioned why the percentage of individuals accepted into MBGP was low in comparison to the number of individuals applying for the program. Provost Bruno stated that MBGP is very popular as noted by the number of individuals applying for the program, particularly for the PhD degree, which has resulted in increased competition for acceptance into the program. However, the research-intensive nature of MBGP requires that it be conducted with an almost one-to-one student to teacher ratio. A limited faculty capacity to provide this concentrated approach has required that admissions to the program be constrained.

Regent Sullivan moved to recommend board approval to change the status of MBGP from provisional to established, seconded by Vice-Chair Westerman, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

B. Review and Recommend Board Approval to Change from Provisional to Established Status: Bachelor of Arts in Pharmacy Studies, UHH

Chancellor Irwin stated that the Bachelor of Arts in Pharmacy Studies (BAPS) at UHH was given provisional status by the board in 2010 and the administration was requesting board approval to change BAPS from provisional to established status. Originally proposed to provide pharmacy students with an undergraduate degree to accompany the professional Doctorate of Pharmacy Degree (PharmD), the BAPS program is unique in that it is embedded entirely in the PharmD program. Typically, students entering the PharmD program will attain a doctoral degree after six years of study without earning a bachelor's degree. While most students who enter the PharmD program ultimately complete their course of study, some students decide on a program or career change after the first few years of enrollment in the program. The BAPS program prepares students with a strong foundation in liberal arts and basic sciences, as well as upper division work concentrated in the essentials in the science and practice of Pharmacy, which allows them greater flexibility to transition to other fields of study or graduate programs should they make that choice. Without BAPS, it would be difficult for a PharmD student to make such a change as they would not possess a degree after four years or more of course study.

Chancellor Irwin noted that the BAPS program has grown well beyond the projected interest. Greater than expected student interest has resulted in total enrollment in the BAPS program ranging from 155 to 175 students in any given year with over 119 majors currently in the program. She stated that the BAPS program has a very high graduation rate, with approximately 631 BAPS degrees being awarded to date, and that the BAPS program continues to provide critical healthcare professionals to Hawai'i's workforce.

Regent McEnerney questioned whether BAPS classes were being held at UHM or UHH. Chancellor Irwin responded that PharmD students are located at UHM and UHH and, as such, BAPS classes are held on both campuses. Regent McEnerney continued, asking whether BAPS classes were conducted online or through in-person classroom instruction. Chancellor Irwin responded that prior to this past semester the majority of classes were provided in a classroom setting. Regent McEnerney inquired further as to whether the BAPS program could operate on a completely online basis. Chancellor Irwin stated that the majority of BAPS classes could probably be completed online except for lab courses which would require in-person instruction. As BAPS students move further along in the PharmD program, solely online instruction would be difficult as much of the upper division coursework involves lab coursework.

Regent Acoba asked whether students who apply to the BAPS program have to apply for the PharmD program as well. Chancellor Irwin responded in the negative stating that the opposite was true. Only students admitted into the PharmD program would be eligible to attain a BAPS degree after completing the requisite coursework. Regent Acoba questioned the necessity of the BAPS program if students would ultimately attain a PharmD degree. Chancellor Irwin responded that, unlike a typical graduate degree program where students complete an undergraduate course of study prior to applying for admission to a graduate program, students who apply for the PharmD program are, in essence, already enrolled in a graduate program in pharmacy studies. These students would therefore not attain a traditional bachelor's degree upon completion of their six years of studies. The bachelor's degree granted through the BAPS program is awarded as student continues their education toward a PharmD degree. It is simply a certification that a student has essentially completed the first two years of the PharmD program. BAPS also provides students with a safety net and greater flexibility to transition to other fields of study or graduate programs should they decide to enter another program or field of work.

Regent Acoba stated that it appeared that BAPS was a two-year bachelor's degree and asked if this was accurate. Chancellor Irwin clarified that BAPS was not a two-year degree but rather a four-year degree. She explained that PharmD students take what is considered the pre-pharmacy course of study, including general education requirements, during their first two years in the PharmD program. After the second year of pre-pharmacy courses, PharmD students begin instruction in specific coursework in pharmacy studies in the College of Pharmacy and continue to do so for the next four years. PharmD students would only become eligible for the BAPS degree after completing the first two years of specific major coursework study. Thus, when pre-pharmacy instruction requirements are included, the BAPS degree is similar to a traditional four-year degree. Regent Acoba questioned further if other institutions have this type of degree system. Chancellor Irwin responded in the affirmative but noted that the number of institutions offering a bachelor's degree in pharmacy studies is low.

Noting that headcount enrollment in the College of Pharmacy in 2010 was 340 students but has since leveled out to about 150 students, Regent Bal asked why enrollment was so high in 2010. Chancellor Irwin responded that the 2010 figure was a result of the comingling of all students enrolling in the program at that time and included

enrollment numbers for the classes of 2011, 2012, and 2013, resulting in the high headcount enrollment noted for that year.

Regent Bal stated that enrollment in the BAPS program for fall of 2019 was 126 students but that the target enrollment for that semester, and future semesters, was 50 to 70 students. He inquired as to whether the BAPS program enrolled more students than its target enrollment. Chancellor Irwin clarified that the enrollment figure for fall of 2019 was total enrollment and that the target enrollment figure was for annual enrollments.

Vice-Chair Westerman expressed concerns that the BAPS program may intentionally be used to attain a bachelor's degree in two years. Chancellor Irwin reiterated that students could not earn a bachelor's degree in two years through the BAPS program. Students would still be required to take their general education and science requirements during their pre-pharmacy course of instruction which equates to two years. After the first two years of general requirements are fulfilled, the BAPS student would then begin taking upper division, pharmacy study courses. In order to attain a PharmD degree which is a six-year program taking into account the first two years of pre-pharmacy coursework, the student would need to complete an additional four years of pharmacy course study. Those attaining a BAPS degree essentially complete the first two years of their upper division, pharmacy study coursework in addition to their pre-pharmacy coursework and earn a bachelor's degree that still meets the credit requirements for any other bachelor degree program.

Board Chair Kudo asked whether students at other campuses that may not be able to attend UHH would be able to participate in the program and obtain a BAPS degree from UHH. Chancellor Irwin responded that students can complete pre-requisite coursework at any university campus and apply to the PharmD program but that once pharmacy coursework studies begin, students must attend UHH. Board Chair Kudo suggested that UHH look at possibly rethinking this policy as it might allow the pharmacy program to gain more students. Chancellor Irwin stated that UHH can look into the possibility of allowing students to earn a BAPS or PharmD degree from UHH while attending other campuses but noted that, at present, it has not been a challenge in enrolling students into the PharmD program.

Regent Sullivan moved to recommend board approval to change the status of the BAPS program in the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at UHH from provisional to established, seconded by Regent Nahale-a, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

D. Review and Recommend Board Approval for the Establishment of a Provisional Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity, UHWO

Chancellor Benham stated that the administration was seeking board approval for the establishment of a provisional Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity (BS-CYBR) program at UHWO and provided a brief overview of the program. The proposed BS-CYBR program is designed to provide students with an advanced cybersecurity education that will expand their knowledge of, and increase their skills in, information

security, mathematics, computer science, and computer engineering to prepare them to meet the leading cybersecurity workforce requirements of public sector agencies and private sector enterprises. BS-CYBR will address the demand and urgent need for highly skilled professionals to deal with ever-increasing cybersecurity threats in an age where information technology systems and cyber work environments are prevalent across all industries.

The BS-CYBR program builds on the success of the current Bachelor of Applied Science, Information Security & Assurance (BAS-ISA) concentration which has been highly successful. BAS-ISA enrollment continues on a positive trajectory and it is expected that BS-CYBR will experience similar growth as well as attract BAS-ISA students and graduates who wish to move beyond cyber protection and defense into the realm of cyber analysis, collection, operation, and investigations. An initial enrollment of 34 students in BS-CYBR is projected with a subsequent average projected enrollment of 65 students per year until 2025 when enrollment is projected to increase to 81 students.

Vice-Chair Westerman questioned how much of the BS-CYBR program could be conducted online. Chancellor Benham replied that approximately 45 percent of UHWO courses are offered online and much of the BS-CYBR program is tailored for online instruction. UHWO is currently working with Kaua'i Community College, as well as other community colleges in the university system, to establish online articulations for this program.

Remarking that one of the core curriculums of cybersecurity programs is mathematics, Regent McEnerney asked whether outreach was being conducted at the high schools to inform students that a strong foundation in mathematics is necessary for any student contemplating entering the BS-CYBR program. Chancellor Benham replied in the affirmative. UHWO is currently working with Kapolei High School and Campbell High School, as well as several middle schools, on educational pathways that encourage students to study mathematics to better prepare for college and programs such as the BS-CYBR.

Regent Acoba inquired as to what the budget for the BS-CYBR program was since this was a new program slated to start in the fall of 2020. Chancellor Benham responded that there is no expected additional cost to UHWO for the BS-CYBR program since many of the same facilities, equipment, and faculty currently being used for the BAS-ISA program can be utilized for the BS-CYBR program although the BS-CYBR program is a little more technical in nature. She also noted that the BS-CYBR program is expected to increase external funding to UHWO in the form of grants and contracts from various federal organizations including the United States Department of Defense (DOD). Regent Acoba stated that the action memo notes that the BS-CYBR program anticipates incurring costs in a few areas and asked whether UHWO could furnish the board with information on the estimated financial requirements of the BS-CYBR program as well as any projected revenues. Chancellor Benham reiterated that, at the moment, UHWO is not anticipating any costs to be experienced over the next few years and that the costs mentioned in the action memo were for costs anticipated with the expansion of the BS-CYBR program in later years. However, she stated that as the

BS-CYBR program is being established as a provisional degree program, UHWO can monitor any incurred costs over the next three years and report back to the board. Regent Acoba indicated that if the action memo refers to incurring costs then the costs should be set out in supporting documents. This is necessary in order for the Regents to be fully informed of a provisional proposal and to properly evaluate the course if it is subsequently proposed for permanent establishment.

Chair Wilson asked what types of external funding UHWO is anticipating with the creation of the new BS-CYBR degree. Chancellor Benham stated that the BAS-ISA program has been successful in generating external funding for UHWO in the form of grants and scholarships. It is anticipated that the BS-CYBR program will experience similar success particularly in the forms of grants and scholarships, as well as funding for equipment, from federal agencies such as DOD and the National Security Agency, and other private and public information technology and cybersecurity entities.

Chair Wilson inquired about the anticipated employment opportunities for graduates of the BS-CYBR program. Chancellor Benham replied that the cybersecurity sector continues to grow and there are a myriad of job opportunities that will be available to future graduates of the program, many of which have high annual salaries. She noted that a fairly large number of students in the BAS-ISA program are accepted into internship programs during their final year of study which often leads to future employment opportunities and it was anticipated that students in the BS-CYBR program would be afforded similar opportunities.

Chair Wilson noted that it was his understanding that very few degree programs dedicated to cybersecurity, such as the proposed BS-CYBR program, exist and asked whether this was accurate. Chancellor Benham responded in the affirmative.

Mentioning an interview of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff conducted on National Public Radio which highlighted the critical need for individuals well-versed in the cybersecurity field and that opportunities in the cybersecurity field were expanding, Chair Wilson opined that the establishment of the BS-CYBR program at UHWO was a step in the right direction and deserved approval. President Lassner commented that cybersecurity programs are one of the fastest growing degree programs in the country and that UHWO has done an excellent job in remaining at the forefront of this issue in Hawai'i.

Vice-Chair Westerman moved to recommend board approval to establish a provisional BS-CYBR program at UHWO, seconded by Regent Sullivan, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

E. Committee Annual Review

Chair Wilson referenced the committee annual review matrix provided in the materials packet. He noted that in the interest of time, committee members should review the matrix and provide the Board Office with any suggested amendments.

F. University of Hawai'i Student Caucus Spring 2020 Update

Chair Wilson remarked that the committee had been provided information and a video presentation produced by the UH student caucus for its spring 2020 update. While the student caucus could not provide their presentation in person due to present circumstances, he wanted to recognize and acknowledge their outstanding work and thanked the students for sharing their thoughts and ideas with the committee. He also thanked Regent Acopan for all of her work with the student caucus.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Regent Sullivan moved to adjourn, seconded by Vice-Chair Westerman, and with all members present voting in the affirmative, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Kendra Oishi
Executive Administrator and Secretary
of the Board of Regents