

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS MEETING

FEBRUARY 3, 2022

Note: On January 26, 2022, Governor David Y. Ige issued a proclamation related to the COVID-19 emergency that temporarily suspended Section 92-3.7, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), "only to the extent necessary to suspend the requirement to have at least one meeting location that is open to the public".

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ernest Wilson called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. on Thursday, February 3, 2022. The meeting was conducted virtually with regents participating from various locations.

Committee members in attendance: Chair Ernest Wilson; Vice-Chair Kelli Acopan; Regent Simeon Acoba; and Regent William Haning.

Committee members excused: Regent Eugene Bal.

Others in attendance: Board Chair Randy Moore; Regent Wayne Higaki; Regent Benjamin Kudo; Regent Alapaki Nahale-a; Regent Diane Paloma; Regent Robert Westerman (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 Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos; UH Mānoa (UHM) Provost Michael Bruno; UH Hilo (UHH) Chancellor Bonnie Irwin; UH West O'ahu (UHWO) Chancellor Maenette Benham; Leeward Community College (LeeCC) Chancellor Carlos Peñaloza; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Kendra Oishi; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Wilson stated that the minutes of the October 7, 2021, committee meeting had been distributed and inquired as to whether committee members had any recommended corrections. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Academic Program Actions

1. Review and Recommend Board Approval of the Following UHM Programs:

a. Establishment of a Provisional Bachelor of Arts in Marine Biology (BA MB)

Prior to providing information on UHM's educational program requests, Provost Bruno explained that UHM strives to provide efficient and effective academic programming at its campus through strategic program investments. In keeping with these efforts, he noted that a total of 12 academic programs have been terminated or stopped out since spring 2020. While requests were being made to provisionally establish or make permanent four programs, it has been determined that these programs respond to a community need, address student demand, and capitalize on the university's existing strengths.

Provost Bruno provided an overview of the request to establish a provisional BA MB program at UHM that will provide students with a degree option that would prepare them for a diverse array of non-research ocean-related careers. The BA MB program will be offered alongside an existing Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology (BS MB) program which had an enrollment census of 516 students as of fall 2021 but involves a more rigorous, scientific aspect of this field of study. It is anticipated that the flexibility in course offerings and career options upon degree completion provided by the BA MB program will not only increase enrollment but will also result in greater student retention rates. UHM also is continuing its efforts to establish seamless articulation pathways for this program with the community colleges.

Chair Wilson asked for examples of the types of diverse career options that would be available to students upon completion of the BA MB degree program. Provost Bruno replied that BA MB graduates will have a broad set of skills applicable to diverse professional options including careers in teaching, sustainability, conservation, management, and community outreach. A BA MB degree can also serve as a pathway to other careers including those in the medical field.

Noting the current existence of a BS MB program, Chair Wilson inquired as to whether overall enrollment in marine biology programs is expected to increase despite the addition of the BA MB program. Provost Bruno responded that a large number of students have expressed interest in pursuing a marine biology degree that involves less scientific rigor, is more user friendly, and provides broad career options. As such, UHM expects to see an increase in enrollment and degrees awarded in marine biology.

Citing data provided in the packet of materials that appears to contradict UHM's expectations, Regent Acoba requested clarification on enrollment in the BA MB program. Provost Bruno replied that while UHM does expect the BA MB program to siphon off some students from the BS MB program, it believes that many of these students may have underestimated the rigorous scientific expectations of the BS MB program and would have dropped out of the marine biology program altogether. Creation of the BA MB program will more than likely result in the retention of those individuals. Additionally, the BA MB program is expected to attract a significant number of new students over time given the interest expressed in the program to date. Hence, UHM expects that there will be an enrollment increase as well as a net increase in degrees earned in these two combined degree programs.

Regent Acoba inquired as to whether the establishment of the BA MB program would result in increased transfers to UHM from the community colleges. Provost

Bruno responded in the affirmative stating that the BA MB program is much better suited for articulation pathways from the community colleges and reiterated that UHM intends to continue to work on establishing and promoting these pathways.

Referencing the current existence of a Bachelor of Arts in Marine Sciences (BA MS) at UHH, Regent Acoba questioned the need for establishing a BA MB program at UHM. Chancellor Irwin stated that, while a BA MS program currently exists at UHH, this program is substantially different from the BA MB program in that it offers a much broader degree without a focus on marine biology and the two programs do not overlap.

Regent Acoba moved to recommend board approval of the establishment of a provisional BA MB program at UHM, seconded by Vice-Chair Acopan, and noting the excused absence of Regent Bal, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

b. Change from Provisional To Established Status: Bachelor of Science in Molecular Cell Biology (MCB BS)

Provost Bruno provided an overview of the request to change MCB BS program from provisional to established status. He also expounded on some of the reasons for the delay in moving forward with this request, including the major reorganization of the College of Natural Sciences (CNS) in 2019. UHM anticipates that the popularity of, and enrollment in, this program will increase because of the heightened interest in this field of study due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The MCB BS program has proven to be extremely successful throughout its existence as a provisional program with an average cohort of 65 students per year, an 80 percent retention rate - the highest among all programs in the life sciences, and a 95 percent completion rate within five years.

Noting that the plan to provisionally establish the BA MB program was authorized in 2019 and that the MCB BS program was given provisional status in 2011, Regent Acoba inquired about the reasons for the administration's delay in bringing these types of requests before the board. Provost Bruno stated that the administration performs a thorough analysis of programs requesting provisional or established status which at times requires that additional information be gathered and may cause delays in bringing these efforts before the board. Dr. April Quinn, Director of Program Development and Review at UHM, added that the forms used to request provisional or established status were revamped and some programs were required to resubmit paperwork despite completion of the original forms in a timely manner. Additionally, required reviews by the UHM Faculty Senate experienced interruptions due to time constraints which also contributed to delays in submitting this particular request.

Citing data showing a decline in MCB BS enrollment figures in 2018, Regent Acoba asked whether the cause of this decrease was understood. Dr. Howard Shen, a Molecular Biology Instructor with the School of Life Sciences (SOLS), replied that the drop-off experienced in 2018 and thereafter was largely due to the way in which students are exposed to the program. Most students enrolled in life sciences programs become aware of the MCB BS program upon meeting with academic advisors during their second year at UHM. In 2018, CNS, which encompasses SOLS, experienced a

shortage of academic advisors. This decrease in academic advising caused a decline in the number of students being made aware of the program and ultimately resulted in decreased enrollment. However, he stated that CNS is addressing this staffing shortage and fully expects enrollment in the MCB BS program to return to its initial trajectory in the next year or two. He also stated that initiatives are being undertaken to increase awareness of the MCB BS program among first and second-year students which should help to increase enrollment.

Regent Acoba asked if there were instances of other programs experiencing declines in enrollment due to staffing issues with academic advising. Dr. Shen stated that he could only speak to what is being experienced by the MCB BS program and was unaware of other programs experiencing this issue.

Chair Wilson asked whether there has been an increase in demand for individuals with a background in molecular cell biology in general. Dr. Shen responded in the affirmative noting the increased interest in immunology, biomedical design, and biomedical research spurred on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Chair Wilson remarked that, besides the medical aspects of this degree, he is also aware of interest in this field with respect to its application to the food industry and food security.

Regent Haning moved to recommend board approval to change the MCB BS program at UHM from provisional to established status, seconded by Vice-Chair Acopan, and noting the excused absence of Regent Bal, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

c. Change from Provisional to Established Status: Bachelor of Environmental Design (BEnvD)

Provost Bruno provided an overview of the request to change the BEnvD degree program from provisional to established status. The BEnvD program was given provisional status in spring 2014 and serves as a pre-professional undergraduate degree, either as a terminal degree to enter the work force or as the foundation for graduate study in any number of fields, notably architecture, planning, landscape architecture, or construction management. The career flexibility provided by this program makes it a popular course of study among undergraduate students which is underscored by its current enrollment of 218 students. The BEnvD program also has a well-established articulation agreement with the architectural drafting program at Honolulu Community College (HonCC), which adds to its popularity.

Regent Acoba asked about the development of BEnvD curriculums at the community colleges to facilitate the transfer of students to UHM as well as the number of community college students transferring into the BEnvD program; the reasons for the establishment of a 2+2 articulation pathway with Hoa Sen University in Vietnam and whether such agreements have been sought with other foreign universities; and the meaning of the reference to funds awarded by formula and tradition in reference to income for the School of Architecture (SOA). Dr. William Chapman, Interim Dean of SOA, responded that SOA is working with the community colleges, in particular HonCC and Hawai'i Community College, to develop curriculums for the easier transfer of

students into the BEnvD program. However, while the BEnvD program itself is a broad and general degree in design studies, it consists of a sequence of rigorous design studios which is making the development of articulation pathways challenging. With respect to the articulation agreement with Hoa Sen University, this initiative was faculty driven by individuals with connections to both SOA and Hoa Sen University. Finally, Dr. Chapman relayed that, due to the complexity of the integration of the BEnvD program, SOA needed to develop a formula that reflected income and costs as accurately as possible and that was the formula referenced in the statement mentioned.

Referencing comments alluding to the BEnvD program curriculum being future-focused, Chair Wilson asked for an example of the program curriculum's attention to future demands in this field. Dr. Chapman replied that the BEnvD course of study has several labs and programs that work with state and local government agencies, as well as a number of groups in the building professions, to assess and address future environmental impacts, such as climate change, on architectural design needs in both Hawai'i and the Pacific-Asia region.

Regent Haning moved to recommend board approval to change the BEnvD program at UHM from provisional to established status, seconded by Vice-Chair Acopan, and noting the excused absence of Regent Bal, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

d. Establishment of a Provisional Bachelor of Education in Special Education (Bed SPED)

Provost Bruno provided an overview of the request to establish a provisional BEd SPED program stating that this program is intended to fill a gap in avenues for teacher licensure by creating an undergraduate option for licensure tracks in the areas of Mild/Moderate Disabilities Secondary Education and Severe Disabilities/Autism PreK-12. He noted that licensure in these areas is only available through post-baccalaureate or Master of Education programs and that neither of these specialized instructional areas are currently available anywhere in the university system. Providing this new opportunity for licensure is critical because there is a chronic and persistent shortage of licensed SPED teachers throughout the United States, including the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE). While the BEd SPED program is full-time, courses will be offered during after school hours and online to make the program as user friendly for working professional students as possible. Students will also be provided with an option to receive a stipend from the DOE to cover the cost for 60 of the 63 credits required for graduation in return for agreeing to teach in SPED at a DOE school for three years upon degree completion.

Regent Acoba agreed with the importance of the BEd SPED program but questioned the delay in establishing this program given the exigency of the situation. Nathan Murata, Dean of the College of Education, replied that part of the delay in implementing this program was due to resource challenges faced by the college with respect to ensuring the adequacy and statewide availability of specialized courses to meet relevant national standards in SPED. Development of a nouveau approach that allowed

for students to be admitted into the BEd SPED program without first having subject or content area certification also added to the delay.

Regent Haning asked whether a sufficient desire existed to enter the SPED field of study given the demanding nature of the profession. Professor Jenny Wells from the College of Education replied that the recruitment specialist within the SPED Department at UHM has received over 92 unsolicited requests for information on the availability of a BEd SPED degree program over the past five or six years which indicates a substantial interest in this field of study.

Vice-Chair Acopan was encouraged by the online and after school course options being offered by the BEd SPED program and praised UHM for its efforts in expanding complete degree online course offerings.

Vice-Chair Acopan moved to recommend board approval of the establishment of a provisional BEd SPED program at UHM, seconded by Regent Acoba, and noting the excused absence of Regent Bal, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

2. Review and Recommend Board Approval to Change from Provisional to Established Status: Advanced Professional Certificate in Special Education PK-12 (APC SPED), LeeCC

Chancellor Peñaloza provided an overview of the request to change the APC SPED program at LeeCC from provisional to established status stating that the program was developed in response to a request by the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board to increase pathways leading to SPED licensure in an effort to address the critical need for SPED-licensed instructors. He stated that the program focuses on individuals who are currently employed in a school setting as substitute teachers, emergency hire teachers, or educational assistants and is the State's first and only multi-track, self-paced, and fully online program option with a 100 percent tuition stipend provided through the DOE. Enrollment in the APC SPED program has exceeded expectations and resulted in the licensure of over 100 SPED teachers to date.

Board Chair Moore expressed his delight in the success of these programs and conveyed his appreciation to both UHM and LeeCC for rising to the challenge to address the need for SPED teachers in Hawai'i.

Vice-Chair Acopan moved to recommend board approval to change the APC SPED program from provisional to established status, seconded by Regent Haning, and noting the excused absence of Regent Bal, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

Chair Wilson thanked the administration for their efforts in developing programs that meet the need for high demand areas. He encouraged the administration to display a greater sense of urgency and act with expediency in moving programs forward.

B. Recommend Board Approval of Revisions to Regents Policy (RP) 6.208, Board Exemptions to Non-Resident Tuition

President Lassner stated that the revisions to RP 6.208 were non-substantive and mainly housekeeping in nature. He introduced Hae Okimoto, Associate Vice President (AVP) for Student Affairs, who would provide the report on this agenda item.

AVP Okimoto discussed the proposed update to RP 6.208 with respect to exemptions to non-resident tuition as it relates to veterans, Pacific Island students, students participating in national and international exchange programs, and graduate assistants. She stated that some of these modifications were necessitated by changes to federal policy, especially around the educational benefits for the military connected community, while others were being offered to better align the policy with current university practice. The administration requested a clarifying amendment to address additional situations regarding tuition exemptions for visiting students in the university's national and international exchange programs.

Regent Acoba moved to recommend board approval of the amendments to RP 6.208 with inclusion of the additional requested amendment, seconded by Regent Haning, and noting the excused absence of Regent Bal, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

C. Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education (Hawai'i P-20) Update

Stephen Schatz, Executive Director of Hawai'i P-20 and State Director for Career and Technical Education, provided background information on Hawai'i P-20, reviewing its mission, role in development of educational policy, and goals. He also reviewed the processes used to create educational pathways that align with college and career outcomes, discussed various strategies being used to promote collaboration and integration with respect to educational pathways to ensure success, and provided an example of an existing educational pathway that leads from a student's senior year in high school through post-high school employment.

Referencing the data sharing agreements mentioned in the materials provided, Regent Acoba asked if Hawai'i P-20 has the ability to perform data comparisons with other countries or states, or smaller areas such as counties and districts. Executive Director Schatz replied that some data comparisons can be done, particularly regionally in Hawai'i, and mentioned the College and Career Readiness Indicator Report, which can be used to compare various high school data metrics related to student performance and post-high school activity. Hawai'i P-20 has not done comparative analyses outside of Hawai'i, except for broad comparisons such as those involving data related to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Regent Acoba asked how the 25 high schools taking part in a shared, online, early college course program were chosen. Executive Director Schatz stated that the high schools chosen to participate in this program for the current semester were selected based upon their status as an academy in the DOE. Regent Acoba asked for

clarification on what constituted a DOE academy. Executive Director Schatz stated that high schools designated as DOE academies have organized themselves to provide specialized classes and training in a particular field such as construction or healthcare.

Regent Acoba questioned if there has been an increase in students applying for FAFSA. Executive Director Schatz responded that the FAFSA trend was on an upward trajectory until the start of the COVID-19 pandemic which impacted the number of individuals seeking a post-secondary education, thus decreasing FAFSA applicants.

Noting Hawai'i P-20's work-based learning website, Regent Acoba asked if monitoring the use of this site by schools, colleges, or employers was possible. Executive Director Schatz replied that he was unsure of how usage of this website could be monitored but could provide more information to regents at a later date.

D. General Education (Gen Ed) Redesign Update

Debora Halbert, AVP for Academic Programs and Policy, provided an update on the efforts to examine and revamp the GenEd curriculum stating that the draft GenEd curriculum redesign proposal has been undergoing formal consultation and highlighted a number of activities that have engaged and solicited feedback from the general university community. She outlined the schedule for further revisions, consultation, and development of an implementation plan, and noted that a formal vote is anticipated to occur in spring 2023.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Kendra T. Oishi
Executive Administrator and Secretary
of the Board of Regents