

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS MEETING

MAY 5, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Kelli Acopan called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m. on Thursday, May 5, 2022, with regents participating from various locations.

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

Committee members excused: Chair Ernest Wilson.

Others in attendance: Regent Wayne Higaki; Regent Diane Paloma; Regent Robert Westerman (ex officio committee members); President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Community Colleges (CC) Erika Lacro; VP for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; VP for Academic Strategy Debora Halbert; 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; Leeward CC Chancellor Carlos Peñaloza; Windward CC Chancellor Ardis Eschenberg; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Kendra Oishi; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Chair Acopan inquired if there were any corrections to the minutes of the February 3, 2022, committee meeting which had been distributed. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Board Secretary Oishi noted the following:

Two individuals provided written testimony in support of granting established status for the PhD degree program in Nutritional Sciences at UHM.

Several individuals provided written testimony in support of granting established status for the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Astronomy and Bachelor of Science (BS) in Astrophysics at UHM.

Two individuals submitted written testimony in support of establishing a Master of Architecture (MArch) degree at UHM.

United States Senator Mazie Hirono; State Representative Amy Perruso; UNITE HERE Local 5; the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1260; the Hawai'i State Teachers Association; and the Labor Education Advisory Council

submitted written testimony in support of the establishment of a new provisional Certificate in Labor Studies at UHWO.

Late written testimony in support of the establishment of a new provisional Certificate in Labor Studies at UHWO was received from the Hawai'i State AFL-CIO and one individual.

Written comments may be viewed at the Board of Regents website as follows:

[Written Testimony Comment Received](#)

[Late Written Testimony Comment Received](#)

Oral testimony was received from Hershel Weiner in support of granting established status for the BA in Astronomy and BS in Astrophysics programs; Dr. Chloe Lozano in support of granting established status to the PhD degree program in Nutritional Sciences at UHM; and Teora Morris and Chantelle Matagi in support of granting established status for the BA in Pacific Island Studies at UHM.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Recommend Board Approval of Established Status for the PhD Program in Nutritional Sciences at UHM

Provost Bruno provided an overview of the request to grant established status to the PhD degree program in Nutritional Sciences within the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) at UHM. The PhD program in Nutritional Sciences is an interdisciplinary program that encompasses a multifaceted topic and addresses a need for nutritional professionals in Hawai'i and the Pacific region. He noted that interest in this program continues to grow and spoke about the success of the program stating that many of its graduates currently work for the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as institutions of higher education around the globe.

Regent Acoba requested clarification about the program's operating costs with respect to a 0.25 Administrative, Professional and Technical (APT) position. Professor Rachel Novotny, Director of the Children's Healthy Living Center of Excellence at CTAHR, replied that the original request for provisional establishment of the program in 2015 envisioned one, full-time APT position to provide administrative support. However, support is currently provided by a 0.25 APT position. Regent Acoba asked how the program was able to accomplish its work with only a 0.25 APT position when the projected need was for a full-time APT position. Professor Novotny responded that program faculty and other support staff have been assisting in addressing administrative duties to make-up for the personnel shortfall. Ania Wieczorek, Associate Dean of CTAHR, concurred with Professor Novotny's assessment adding that the interdisciplinary nature of the program allows it to leverage faculty from other departments and colleges to provide administrative assistance. She also stated that program faculty are awarded approximately \$20 million in annual research grant funding that also helps to provide program support for both the faculty and students.

Regent Acoba moved to recommend board approval of established status for the PhD Program in Nutritional Sciences at UHM, seconded by Regent Bal, and noting the excused absence of Chair Wilson, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

B. Recommend Board Approval of Established Status for the BA in Astronomy (ASTR-BA) and the BS in Astrophysics (ASTP-BS) at UHM

Provost Bruno provided an overview of the request to grant established status to the ASTR-BA and ASTP-BS programs which are both contained within the College of Natural Sciences (CNS) at UHM. Granted provisional status in 2014, the ASTR-BA and ASTP-BS programs offer UHM students a career pathway to one of Hawai'i's signature fields of scientific research and bridge the gap between K-12 education and UHM's Astronomy PhD program. Both programs have experienced steady growth in enrollment as well as academic success with graduates often seeking advanced degrees in their field of study. The programs also have increased the availability of courses in astronomy, which is an added benefit for all UHM students.

Regent Haning asked about the divergent tracks of the ASTP-BS and ASTR-BA programs and whether this impacted the ability of students in each program to acquire any necessary coursework. Alison Sherwood, Associate Dean of CNS, replied that, while there is some overlap between the coursework of the two programs, the ASTR-BA is geared towards students matriculating into a wider range of disciplines whereas the ASTP-BS degree involves much greater scientific rigor. As such, students enrolled in the ASTR-BA program have greater flexibility to take a broader variety of courses as opposed to those in the ASTP-BS program. Professor Joshua Barnes, Chair of the Undergraduate Astronomy Program at the Institute for Astronomy (IfA), added that students are not precluded from taking courses in either program regardless of their program enrollment status.

Regent Bal inquired about the sizeable discrepancy between the projected and actual number of graduates from the ASTP-BS and ASTR-BA programs, and asked whether the COVID-19 pandemic affected graduation rates. Professor Barnes replied that the statistical model used to craft program graduation projections assumed program persistence rates of 100 percent which was an incorrect supposition. Given the number of students currently entering the program, it is anticipated that the actual number of program graduates will be comparable with these projections in the future. He also stated that the COVID-19 pandemic did impact graduation rates noting that students faced difficulties in attaining completion of advanced coursework via remote learning.

Citing differences between the projected and actual number of students registered in the ASTP-BS and ASTR-BA programs, Regent Acoba questioned the basis for these disparities and whether they had any impacts on the allocation of faculty resources for each program. Professor Barnes stated that the aforementioned discrepancies can be attributed to the use of program enrollment projections that were based upon data collected from various course interest assessments, including student surveys, which can be imprecise. With respect to the allocation of faculty resources, Professor Barnes

noted that budgetary and other hiring considerations have resulted in IfA experiencing a shortfall in faculty. While this has complicated some of the teaching assignments, the lack of faculty has not resulted in the cancelation of courses or a decrease in the number of students graduating from each of the respective programs.

Regent Acoba inquired as to whether the data provided regarding graduates was in reference to program graduates or graduate students. Professor Barnes replied that the figures provided denoted undergraduate students who have earned an ASTP-BS or ASTR-BA degree.

Vice-Chair Acopan asked about the student advising model used for these programs. Professor Barnes replied that advising is mandatory for both programs and described the two-tier advising approach used noting that CNS provides initial advising to incoming students. Advising furnished by IfA assists students in determining whether to pursue an ASTP-BS or ASTR-BA degree and is continually provided through completion of the chosen pathway. He also stated that IfA is currently developing a mentoring program for students enrolled in each of the programs.

Regent Haning questioned whether it was possible for a student to double-major in ASTR-BA and ASTP-BS. Professor Barnes replied that this combination as a double-major is not authorized due to the high redundancy of coursework involved. However, students enrolled in either program can accomplish a double-major with other programs such as mathematics.

Regent Haning moved to recommend board approval of established status for the ASTR-BA and ASTP-BS programs at UHM, seconded by Regent Bal, and noting the excused absence of Chair Wilson and the abstention of Regent Acoba, the motion carried with all other members present voting in the affirmative.

C. Recommend Board Approval of Provisional Status for the MArch Degree at UHM

Provost Bruno provided an overview of the request to grant provisional status for a MArch degree program within the School of Architecture at UHM. The MArch degree was developed to provide architecture students with a pathway to attain a National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) accredited degree that qualifies them to become a licensed architect. While the School of Architecture currently offers a NAAB accredited Doctorate in Architecture (DArch) which similarly qualifies students to become a licensed architect, the MArch degree requires two years of full-time study in contrast to three years for the DArch degree. It was noted that the MArch degree program is the most common professional degree program in schools of architecture throughout the United States; enrollment in the program is projected to increase to 60 by year six; the program meets an expressed community need; and development of the program has received extensive support from Hawai'i's local architectural firms.

Regent Acoba asked about impacts the MArch program will have on the DArch and Bachelor of Environmental Design (BEnvD) programs currently offered by the School of Architecture. William Chapman, Dean of the School of Architecture, replied that

students who attain a BEnvD can obtain licensure in Hawai'i through a five-year process that involves working at an architectural firm over that time period but noted that this type of licensure is not transferrable to any other state in the United States. The MArch program, which will require applicants to possess a BEnvD prior to acceptance, offers a pathway to licensure that is less time-consuming and cumbersome. While licensure can also be attained through the DArch degree, this pathway is research intensive which has proven to be a disincentive for a number of students. As such, it is expected that increasing numbers of BEnvD students will opt to enroll in the MArch program. It was also noted that high interest in pursuing a MArch degree has been expressed by BEnvD alumni and that overall enrollment in the School of Architecture has steadily increased over the last four years which bodes well for all of the programs. Regent Acoba questioned whether this indicated that more students will be pursuing a MArch degree in the future as opposed to a DArch degree. Dean Chapman responded in the affirmative.

Regent Bal moved to recommend board approval of provisional status for the MArch degree program at UHM, seconded by Regent Acoba, and noting the excused absence of Chair Wilson, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

D. Recommend Board Approval of Established Status for the BA in Biochemistry (BA BC) and BS in Biochemistry (BS BC) Degrees at UHM

Provost Bruno provided an overview of the request to grant established status for the BA BC and BS BC degree programs which are both contained within CNS at UHM. It was noted that the BA BC and BS BC degree programs were granted provisional status in 2012 and has consistently experienced strong enrollment, with 120 students currently enrolled in the BS BC degree program and 40 students currently enrolled in the BA BC program. In addition, numerous graduates of these programs have been awarded admission to and/or attended outstanding graduate and professional schools including the John A. Burns School of Medicine and the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy.

Noting that the programs were provided provisional status in 2012, Regent Bal questioned the delay in seeking established status given the consistent popularity of the programs. Associate Dean Sherwood replied that administrative and faculty turnover at both the departmental and collegiate level, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, were factors responsible for the delay in pursuing established status for the programs.

Regent Bal asked if faculty turnover continues to be an issue for these programs. Professor Phillip Williams, Chair of the Department of Chemistry, replied that the full complement of faculty within these programs appear to be committed with many considering application for tenure. As such, he did not foresee faculty turnover becoming an issue in the future.

Regent Acoba moved to recommend board approval of established status for the BA BC and BS BC programs at UHM, seconded by Regent Haning, and noting the excused absence of Chair Wilson, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

E. Recommend Board Approval of Established Status for the BA in Pacific Island Studies at UHM

Provost Bruno provided an overview of the request to grant established status for the BA degree program in Pacific Island Studies within the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters (CALL) at UHM. It was noted that the Pacific Island Studies program is the only formal degree offering program of its kind in the United States and is critically important to the university's identity as an indigenous and minority serving institution, as well as retention of UHM's Center for Pacific Island Studies' (CPIS) recognition as a national resource center (NRC) by the United States Department of Education under Title VI. Given present interest, as well the collaborative work being conducted with other programs across the UHM campus, the university projects this program will witness significant growth in the future.

Regent Acoba requested clarification on the basis for the two provisional status extension requests since 2010. He also asked about the noted decrease in program faculty within the request for established status. Peter Arnade, Dean of CALL, replied that the second extension request was due in large part to the reorganization of the College of Arts and Sciences into CALL which was a major undertaking. He also stated that the faculty count decrease was due primarily to resignations and retirements, as well as the inability to fill those positions due to budget constraints and instituted hiring freezes. As for the initial extension request, Associate Professor Alexander Mawyer, Director of CPIS, stated that when the program was first granted provisional status, CPIS was engaged in applying for renewal of its NRC designation, which is a labor-intensive and time-consuming process. Due to limited staffing, CPIS was challenged with completing both tasks and thus requested a provisional status extension. He also highlighted the collaborative nature of the program stating that the program engages with over 48 affiliate faculty to support the academic development of its students.

Regent Bal moved to recommend board approval of established status for the BA in Pacific Island Studies at UHM, seconded by Regent Haning, and noting the excused absence of Chair Wilson, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

F. Recommend Board Approval of Established Status for the Master of Arts in Heritage Management (HMMA) at UHH

Chancellor Irwin provided an overview of the request to grant established status to the HMMA program within the Anthropology Department at UHH stating that the program was created to address the critical shortfall in heritage management professionals in Hawai'i and fills a clear need to provide graduate training in the specific issues of Oceanic heritage. She spoke about some of the early challenges faced by the program; the numerous successes of the program including the attainment of employment in government agencies and private consulting firms by its graduates; the programs cultivation of extensive extramural support and partnerships; and efforts to improve the program including the creation of avenues to internships.

Given enrollment and graduation rates, Regent Acoba inquired as to how the program would be able to meet the critical need for heritage management professionals in Hawai'i. Professor Peter Mills, Director of the Heritage Management Program at UHH, replied that the program has already produced 10 program graduates. He stated that, while the program does not boast large numbers of graduates, those who have already completed the program are making significant impacts in their communities and spoke about some of the work being conducted by these graduates. Chancellor Irwin added that discussion is already occurring on efforts to increase program enrollment and graduation rates.

Regent Bal moved to recommend board approval of established status for the HMMA program at UHH, seconded by Regent Acoba, and noting the excused absence of Chair Wilson, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

G. Recommend Board Approval of a New Provisional Certificate in Labor Studies at UHWO

Chancellor Benham provided an overview of the request to establish a provisional Certificate in Labor Studies in the Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR) at UHWO stating that the distance-delivered certificate will provide a convenient opportunity for working adult learners seeking a course of study focused on the conditions of work from a labor perspective. This certificate will also offer traditional students an opportunity to enhance their major course of study with knowledge and experience in the field of labor that may prove helpful to draw upon in their future employment. It was noted that the establishment of a provisional Certificate in Labor Studies duly responds to a statutory requirement that CLEAR at UHWO develop and implement a labor studies degree program or programs in the university system.

Regent Haning asked if his assessment that the Certificate in Labor Studies program offered an innovative curriculum of study was correct. Chancellor Benham responded in the affirmative and stressed the importance of this program given the changing landscape of labor across the globe. Leslie Lopez, Associate Specialist for CLEAR, spoke about some of the program's coursework noting that it is a transdisciplinary program that consists of a wide range of instruction in areas such as labor history, employee-management relations and negotiation, and economics.

Noting the interdisciplinary nature of the certificate program, Regent Haning questioned whether any collaboration was occurring with the William S. Richardson School of Law. Ms. Lopez responded in the affirmative stating that the program works closely with the law school with respect to educating students in labor law. William Puette, Director of CLEAR, added that CLEAR faculty are also invited to speak to law school students about the practical applications of and experiences with labor law.

Regent Haning moved to recommend board approval of a provisional Certificate in Labor Studies program in CLEAR at UHWO, seconded by Regent Bal, and noting the excused absence of Chair Wilson, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

H. Academic Program Actions Report

VP Halbert stated that the Academic Program Actions Report is an annual report that provides details on programs granted established or provisional status by the board; provisional programs that were extended; authorizations to plan for new academic programs; and program terminations. She clarified that the report reflected actions taken for the prior academic year.

Regent Acoba remarked that this was a very helpful report but opined that it would be more beneficial to regents if they were provided prior to actions being taken. He also suggested that an overview of the program proposal process be provided by the administration at a future meeting for the edification of newly appointed regents. VP Halbert stated that the administration will be returning to the academic master plan which provides an overview of programs on a prospective basis and can provide regents with information on the program proposal and approval process after the strategic planning process is completed.

I. Small Programs and Program Review Report

VP Halbert stated that, under Regents Policy, the administration is required to provide two reports related to academic programs. The first report is the review of programs with a small number of graduates and the second is the overview of academic program reviews conducted at each campus during the prior academic year. She spoke about the overall impact of these reports on unit level planning for program redesign and collaboration, as well as determining plans for future academic programming. She also noted a correction to the report since its initial publication stating that the CA in Architectural Engineering & CAD Tech at Honolulu Community College was removed from the list of programs currently undergoing campus-level review to develop strategies for improving enrollment.

Regent Westerman expressed his appreciation for the administration's reconsideration of using minimum graduate requirements as a factor in determining whether a program will continue to exist particularly with program areas that meet prevailing community needs.

J. Recommend Board Approval of Revisions to Regents Policy (RP) 5.201, Instructional Programs

VP Halbert reviewed and discussed proposed revisions to RP 5.201 stating that the changes were intended to streamline the approval process of new minors, concentrations, and certificates that do not require significant resources as well as align it with proposed amendments to Executive Policy (EP) 5.201 that are intended to accomplish the same goal.

Questions were raised about, and discussions ensued on, the nuances of the proposed revisions including terminology used within both the RP and EP, as well as the applicability of that terminology. As a result of these discussions, regents requested further amendments to the revised documents including the insertion of a definition for

the term “minor” in the RP; clarification of the term “significant resources” in both the RP and EP and the meaning of “credentials” in the EP; and clarifying the board’s role in the approval of programs and delegation of authority.

Regent Haning moved to recommend board approval of the amendments to RP 5.201, subject to changes as proposed by the committee, seconded by Regent Bal, and noting the excused absence of Chair Wilson, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

K. Committee Annual Review

Vice-Chair Acopan referenced the committee annual review matrix and asked for comments from committee members. Chair Wilson and committee members were thanked for all of their efforts over the past academic year.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice-Chair Acopan adjourned the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

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