

## **MINUTES**

### **BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS MEETING**

**AUGUST 4, 2022**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. on Thursday, August 4, 2022, at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Information Technology Building, 1st Floor Conference Room 105A/B, 2520 Correa Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822, with regents participating from various locations.

Committee members in attendance: Chair Ernest Wilson; Regent Eugene Bal; Regent William Haning; and Regent Laurie Tochiki.

Committee members excused: Vice-Chair Kelli Acopan.

Others in attendance: Board Chair Randy Moore; Regent Alapaki Nahale-a; Regent Diane Paloma (ex officio committee members); President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Community Colleges (UHCC) Erika Lacro; VP for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; VP for Academic Strategy Debora Halbert; VP for Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos; UH Mānoa Provost Michael Bruno; UH Hilo Chancellor Bonnie Irwin; UH West O'ahu Chancellor Maenette Benham; Leeward CC (LeeCC) Chancellor Carlos Peñaloza; Kaua'i CC (KauCC) Chancellor Joseph Daisy; Windward CC (WinCC) Chancellor Ardis Eschenberg; Interim Honolulu CC (HonCC) Chancellor Karen Lee; Kapi'olani CC (KapCC) Chancellor Louise Pagotto; Hawai'i CC (HawCC) Chancellor Rachel Solemsaas; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Kendra Oishi; and others as noted.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Wilson inquired if there were any corrections to the minutes of the May 5, 2022, committee meeting which had been distributed. 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. She also explained that, in accordance with new statutory requirements, public testimony would be accepted during the meeting should an individual sign-up to provide testimony on a specific agenda item.

#### **IV. AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **A. Committee Work Plan**

Chair Wilson referenced the Committee Work Plan (Work Plan) noting that it would be used as an outline of the work to be performed by the committee during the coming year. He stated that it was a living document that may be modified as needed and asked committee members if they had any questions or comments about the Work Plan. None were raised.

**B. Review of the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges Midterm Accreditation Reports to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) for the following campuses:**

- 1. Hawai'i Community College**
- 2. Honolulu Community College**
- 3. Kapi'olani Community College**
- 4. Kaua'i Community College**
- 5. Leeward Community College**
- 6. Windward Community College**

VP Lacro provided background information on the ACCJC midterm reports explaining that they were routine assessments submitted half-way through the seven-year accreditation cycle to apprise the ACCJC on the work that has been done to meet the recommendations that arose during comprehensive campus visits that occurred in 2018. These reports also include information on the progress individual campuses have made on their ACCJC Quality Focus Essays (QFE) which provide the opportunity for institutions to be innovative and to propose new ideas and projects that will improve student-learning and student-achievement. She emphasized that all six colleges are fully accredited by ACCJC in good standing; that the midterm reports were tools to ensure that each institution maintains its excellence in education and remains on a path of continuous improvement with respect to ensuring student success; and that UHCC, as a system, received one recommendation from the ACCJC that focused on improving institutional effectiveness and assessment which is currently being worked on but appears in each midterm report. It was noted that UH Maui College is accredited by a different body – the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Regent Nahale-a arrived at 11:19 a.m.

The Chancellors of the six community colleges presented a synopsis of their respective campus' midterm reports focusing on recommendations made by the ACCJC's comprehensive peer review evaluation team in 2018 and actions undertaken to address these recommendations; efforts to improve institutional performance, such as student learning outcomes, and the results of these efforts; and progress made in attaining goals that were identified in each campus' QFE. More specifically, the following highlights were noted:

- HawCC received two recommendations related to improving institutional performance with respect to student learning outcomes and institution-set standards, both of which have been addressed; included two action projects within its QFE aimed at improving the college's integrated planning process and student first-year experience with the ultimate goal of increasing student learning and achievement; and has completed ten of the sixteen action plans identified in its 2018 Institution Self-Evaluation Report.
- HonCC received four commendations, as well as four recommendations to improve institutional effectiveness, including suggestions relating to policy communication, the facilities master plan process, and distance education, all of which have been addressed.
- KapCC received four commendations in addition to two compliance recommendations related to the regular evaluation of institutional policies, procedures, and processes to ensure their effectiveness and the analysis and documentation of learning assessment outcomes. A follow-up report regarding steps taken to address these recommendations was accepted by the ACCJC in 2020. Along these lines, KapCC included two action projects within its QFE focusing on improving assessment of student learning outcomes and engagement for student success.
- KauCC received two recommendations for institutional improvement including better utilization of student learning outcome results to improve student learning and achievement and the use of best practices to increase the effectiveness of distance education courses. KauCC has also undertaken two projects as part of its QFE that involve course scheduling and the effective integration of career and academic services.
- LeeCC received a compliance recommendation in its 2018 review that was related to the establishment of a clear cycle to regularly evaluate and update its policies and procedures. A report on actions taken to deal with this issue was provided to, and accepted by, the ACCJCC in 2020. Feedback received on the follow-up report identified two general recommendations for institutional improvement, including enhancement of efforts to analyze, disseminate, and discuss assessment results and the development of a mechanism to inform the college community of its governance structure, both of which have been addressed. Additionally, LeeCC has identified two action projects in its QFE that focus on increasing student retention and persistence and making outcomes assessment more meaningful for faculty and staff.
- WinCC received several commendations, as well as three recommendations to improve institutional effectiveness, including suggestions to improve public accessibility to student learning outcome and student achievement data; formalize planning and processes for distance education offerings; and increase professional development, technological support, and infrastructure to expand the distance education program. All recommendations have been

fully met. Two initiatives were also identified in its QFE that focus on Native Hawaiian and distance education parity.

Regent Paloma left at 11:22 a.m.

VP Lacro reviewed the next steps in the midterm accreditation reporting process stating that the board chair and committee chair are being requested to acknowledge the receipt of each campus's midterm report. It is anticipated that these reports will be submitted to the ACCJC in mid-October of this calendar year.

Regents thanked the chancellors for their comprehensive reports and presentations and congratulated them for understanding and addressing the issues contained in the comprehensive peer review evaluations conducted in 2018.

Noting that each campus appears to be using different computer software to conduct their assessments, Board Chair Moore asked whether a systemwide agreement existed or could be initiated to allow for uniformity across all campuses. VP Lacro replied that each campus has chosen to select and purchase assessment software tools that best suit their individual needs. However, tools such as Lulima are available systemwide.

Board Chair Moore asked whether achievement gaps, as emphasized in WinCC's presentation, were being measured systemwide. VP Lacro stated that while each campus analyzes data on achievement gaps, particularly when conducting deeper dives into the rationale for trends at their individual institutions, UHCC also conducts collection and analysis of this data on a systemwide level.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

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