

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS MEETING

MAY 4, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at the University of Hawai'i (UH) at Mānoa, Information Technology Building, 1st Floor Conference Room 105A/B, 2520 Correa Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822.

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

Committee members excused: Regent Abigail Mawae

Others in attendance: Board Chair Randy Moore; Regent Wayne Higaki; Regent Laurel Loo; Regent Alapaki Nahale-a (ex officio committee members); Vice President (VP) for Academic Strategy Debora Halbert; VP for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; 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 Chancellor Maenette Benham; Leeward Community College (LeeCC) Chancellor Carlos Peñaloza; Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs for the UH Community College System (Interim UHCC AVPAA) Della Teraoka; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Yvonne Lau; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Wilson inquired if there were any corrections to the minutes of the February 2, 2023, committee meeting which had been distributed. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Board Secretary Lau announced that the Board Office received written testimony from Amy Brown, Monica Esquivel, Jean Butel, Marie Kainoa Fialkowski Revilla, and Amy Tousman in support of granting established status for the Bachelor of Science in Dietetics at UHM.

Zeus Gean Paul Miguel and Bryceson Tugade provided written and oral comments in support of granting established status to the Associate of Science in Sustainable Agriculture degree program at LeeCC.

Rin Kusaka provided written and oral comments, and Jaclyn Lau provided late written and oral comments, in support of granting established status to the Associate of Science in Integrated Industrial Technology degree program at LeeCC.

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

[Written Testimony Comment Received](#)

[Late Written Testimony Comment Received](#)

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Recommend Board Approval of Provisional Status for the Bachelor of Science in Data Science (BS-DSCI) at UHH

Chancellor Irwin provided an overview of the request to grant provisional status for the BS-DSCI degree program within the College of Natural and Health Sciences at UHH. She stated that the BS-DSCI degree is designed to be an interdisciplinary major to account for the broad subject matter encompassed by the field of data science; will provide students with core competencies needed to effectively work with data of various kinds and complexity; and consisted of four major areas of study including business, astronomy, computational, and statistical tracks in which students will receive more in-depth training needed to tackle data science problems in a particular domain. She also highlighted some of the benefits of locating the BS-DSCI degree program at UHH; discussed the program's potential for diversifying Hawai'i's economy; went over projected enrollment given the high demand for individuals versed in data science both in Hawai'i and across the country; spoke about the ripple effect UHH's existing data science course offerings have had on enrollment in other academic departments; and noted the broad support received for the establishment of this degree program.

Referencing the EPSCoR Data Science project noted in the materials, Chair Wilson requested clarification about the meaning of this acronym. John Burns, Associate Professor of Marine Sciences at UHH, replied that the acronym EPSCoR stood for the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, which is a National Science Foundation program intended to enhance the research competitiveness of targeted jurisdictions by strengthening science, technology, engineering, and math educational capacity and capability through financial and institutional support.

Chair Wilson inquired about current and projected marketing efforts for the BS-DSCI degree program. Chancellor Irwin stated that several avenues exist for marketing this program, but that marketing cannot begin until the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission approval is obtained. It is anticipated that UHH students who are already pursuing data science concentrations will seek to transition to the BS-DSCI degree as a major. Additionally, lower division general education classes being taught at UHH can serve as gateway courses to the field of data science. Promotion of the BS-DSCI degree program is also expected to occur at events on community college and high school campuses, as well as through the standard UHH admissions materials provided to prospective students.

Regent Haning moved to recommend board approval of provisional status for the BS-DSCI degree program at UHH, seconded by Regent Bal, and noting the excused

absence of Regent Mawae, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

B. Recommend Board Approval to Change the Advanced Professional Certificate in Hospitality Operations Management (APC-HOM) from Provisional to Established at Kapi'olani Community College (KapCC)

Interim UHCC AVPAA Teraoka spoke about the APC-HOM program at KapCC which was granted provisional status in 2015. She stated that seismic shifts in the tourism and lodging industries created a global need for individuals trained in the dynamic field of hospitality management, a demand which remains unmet; discussed some of the unique aspects of the program, underscoring that it is a third-year advanced professional certificate program that builds upon the two-year Associate of Science in Hospitality and Tourism degree program; pointed out its articulation with the Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration Degree Program with a concentration in Hospitality and Tourism at UHWO; and reviewed enrollment statistics to date. She also provided an explanation for the delay in submitting this proposal.

Chair Wilson asked about enrollment forecasts for the APC-HOM program. Dave Evans, Chair of the Hospitality and Tourism Education Department at KapCC, responded that the COVID-19 pandemic hampered enrollment in the APC-HOM program. However, it is anticipated that the post-pandemic normalization of campus life and college operations will result in a corresponding increase in APC-HOM program enrollment. Additionally, several strategies to increase the robustness of enrollment in the APC-HOM program such as efforts to support incumbent hospitality and tourism industry employees in continuing their education and the development of career and technical education pathways for hospitality and tourism in Hawai'i's high schools via the State Department of Education are being discussed.

Citing the existence of the School of Travel Industry Management (TIM) in the Shidler College of Business at UHM, Chair Wilson inquired about the difference between TIM programs and the APC-HOM program. He also requested clarification on how the APC-HOM program had evolved to meet the major changes within the hospitality and tourism industry. Department Chair Evans replied that the TIM School emphasizes a broader tourism perspective of the hospitality industry while the APC-HOM program is focused more on specific hospitality operations such as asset management. He also provided further details on what had been done to anticipate, and more importantly how to stay ahead of, the major changes occurring in the hospitality and tourism industries. Chair Wilson applauded this effort and stated that all programs needed to take similar action.

Regent Bal moved to recommend board approval of established status for the APC HOM program at KapCC, seconded by Regent Haning, and noting the excused absence of Regent Mawae, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

C. Recommend Board Approval to Change the Associate of Science in Sustainable Agriculture (AS-SA) Degree from Provisional to Established at LeeCC

Interim UHCC AVPAA Teraoka presented information on the request to grant established status to the AS-SA degree program at LeeCC which was created to provide educational opportunities in the critical workforce shortage areas of Hawai'i's evolving agricultural industry and support state and federal strategies for increasing food security and self-sufficiency. She reviewed collaborations occurring between the AS-SA degree program and other programs at LeeCC such as culinary arts; highlighted the AS-SA degree program's growth in enrollment, which is expected to continue for the foreseeable future; talked about the AS-SA degree program's articulation with the Bachelor of Applied Science in Sustainable Community Food Systems degree program at UHWO; and noted the creation of a Certificate of Completion in Agriculture-based Product Development and Entrepreneurship within the AS-SA degree program that will be offered through the Wahiawa Value-Added Product Development Center once the facility becomes operational.

Regent Haning moved to recommend board approval of established status for the AS-SA degree program at LeeCC, seconded by Regent Bal, and noting the excused absence of Regent Mawae, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

D. Recommend Board Approval to Change the Associate of Science in Integrated Industrial Technology (AS-IIT) Degree from Provisional to Established at LeeCC

Interim UHCC AVPAA Teraoka provided information on the request to grant established status to AS-IIT degree program at LeeCC stating the program was developed to address current and future workforce needs of an emerging industrial technology industry in Hawai'i and provide students with the education and skills required for a variety of automation and control related occupations. She emphasized that program enrollment remains steady and is expected to grow; noted increases in course completion and graduation rates; and spoke about the program's alignment with the needs of local industry in this field, particularly Hitachi Rail Honolulu, which is looking to hire over 100 individuals with electronic and electro-mechanical technician and systems integrator skillsets.

Regent Bal asked the LeeCC administration to elaborate on the association between the AS-IIT degree program and the AS-SA degree program that was mentioned in the supporting documentation for this request. Bill Labby, AS-IIT degree program coordinator, replied that agriculture is a sector where farming processes are being automated with technologies that either have been, or are being, adapted to farming. As such, the AS-SA degree program has been collaborating with the AS-IIT degree program to develop a FarmBot, a practical, engaging, and hands-on tool that uses automation and artificial intelligence to improve the farming process.

Regent Nahale-a questioned whether the economic aspects of the FarmBot's development has been proactively integrated into the two degree programs given the significant amount of capital investments being made in emerging technologies across the globe. Mr. Labby replied that the two degree programs are currently focusing on the FarmBot's technical and farming aspects and have not yet begun to address its economic aspects especially since such a device does not currently exist in Hawai'i. He also stated that, in the future, the two degree programs will probably utilize the Wahiawa Value-Added Product Development Center to study the FarmBot's economic benefits.

Referencing the abovementioned collaborative effort, Chair Wilson inquired as to whether the AS-IIT degree program had similar associations with other programs. He also asked if the possibility existed for the creation of an integrated program with the Maui Food Innovation Center (MFIC) and questioned whether the AS-IIT degree led to a living wage career. Mr. Labby replied that the AS-IIT degree program is multi-disciplinary due to the increasing use of industrial automation across multiple workforce sectors. In addition to the FarmBot project, AS-IIT students have worked on several projects involving students from other programs such as Information and Computer Science. Additionally, the types of industries beginning to foray into IIT is growing and now include businesses involved in the food and beverage, hospitality, medical equipment, building automation, and wastewater treatment sectors. He stated that the development of an integrated program with the MFIC was possible and noted that salaries for individuals with AS-IIT degrees ran the gamut from an annual compensation of \$55,000 on the low end to over \$100,000 on the upper scale.

Regent Bal moved to recommend board approval of established status for the AS-IIT degree program at LeeCC, seconded by Regent Haning, and noting the excused absence of Regent Mawae, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

E. Recommend Board Approval of Established Status for the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Dietetics at UHM

Provost Bruno provided an overview of the request to grant established status to the BS in Dietetics degree program within the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) at UHM. He stated that the BS program in Dietetics provides didactic education for students who wish to become Registered Dietician Nutritionists (RDNs); spoke about the crucial role that the BS program in Dietetics has played in meeting the needs for dieticians in Hawai'i's healthcare industry; and went over program enrollment data and RDN employment statistics for Hawai'i.

Chair Wilson inquired about the anticipated future demand for RDNs in Hawai'i and asked if any program graduates were from areas within the Pacific Basin other than Hawai'i such as American Samoa. Provost Bruno replied that the RDN profession is expected to grow by seven percent over the next few years. Monica Esquivel, Associate Professor at CTAHR and the Dietetics Program Director, stated that a number of extramurally funded training initiatives have been established by the Dietetics

Program to attract program applicants from the United States Affiliated Pacific Islands. However, to date, only two individuals from Guam have graduated from the program.

Regent Higaki remarked that, in his professional experience as a healthcare administrator, he has witnessed firsthand the need for RDNs in Hawai'i and applauded the establishment of this program.

Regent Haning moved to recommend board approval of established status for the BS in Dietetics at UHM, seconded by Regent Bal, and noting the excused absence of Regent Mawae, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

F. Recommend Board Approval of Established Status for the Master of Asian International Affairs (MAIA) at UHM

Provost Bruno provided information about the request to grant established status to the MAIA degree program within the Department of Asian Studies at UHM. He noted the MAIA degree program was granted provisional status in 2019 after conversations with officials from the United States Department of State and the United States Indo-Pacific Command pointed to a need for professionals with a solid understanding of Asian geopolitics as well as the multifaceted determinants and impacts of Asian nations' engagement with their neighbors and the world. He also stated that the MAIA degree program has met or exceeded projected enrollment and graduation numbers since its inception and has nearly doubled the size of the Asian Studies graduate program.

Chair Wilson asked the administration to expound upon UHM's efforts in the broader field of Indo-Pacific International Affairs. Dr. Peter Arnade, Dean of the College of Arts, Languages & Letters, replied that the MAIA degree program has a strong policy focus on issues related to the broader Asia-Pacific region. He also spoke about the growing global importance of the Asia-Pacific region and discussed the MAIA program's role in the Indo-Pacific Initiative, a campus-wide effort to provide education, training, and professional development opportunities to better meet national security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region which was launched using \$1,000,000 in Congressionally directed spending received by the university. Provost Bruno added that these efforts align perfectly with UHM's Oceania Initiative.

Regent Bal moved to recommend board approval of established status for the MAIA degree program at UHM, seconded by Regent Haning, and noting the excused absence of Regent Mawae, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

G. Recommend Board Approval of Established Status for the Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) at UHM

Provost Bruno provided an overview of the request to grant established status to the MLA degree program within the School of Architecture (SOA) at UHM. He stated that the MLA degree program is designed to enrich the scope of sustainability and resilience teaching, research, and service within SOA; will meet the need for locally trained landscape architects and sustainability professionals capable of addressing complex ecological and climate challenges; and was recently granted a full six-year accreditation

by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board. He also pointed out that the MLA degree program is the only landscape architecture degree program in the state and highlighted that every graduate from its first two cohorts has successfully gained employment with leading landscape firms and organizations both locally and nationally.

Chair Wilson asked about the MLA program's emphasis on resiliency and sustainable environmental design as well as its ability to impact the broader global community given that the program is based in Hawai'i. Judith Stilgenbauer, Director of the MLA Program, stated that the MLA degree program is geared toward producing landscape architecture and sustainability professionals that can take the knowledge and experiences that they have gained in place-based design and land management practices and applying these principles to other regions around the world. She also espoused the advantages of seeking an MLA degree at UHM, especially since recent forecasts have indicated that over 50 percent of urban growth will take place in tropical and subtropical regions, and spoke about the impacts graduates of the MLA degree program are having in locations outside of Hawai'i.

Regent Haning moved to recommend board approval of established status for the MLA degree program at UHM, seconded by Regent Bal, and noting the excused absence of Regent Mawae, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

H. Academic Program Actions Report

VP Halbert explained that the Academic Program Actions Report is an annual report that provides details on various programmatic actions that have taken place at both the campus and system level over the prior academic year and briefly reviewed the current program proposal process. She stated that the administration hopes to include a prospective look at the near- and long-term programmatic needs of the university as it relates to the university's most recent strategic plan in future reports.

Alan Rosenfeld, Associate VP (AVP) for Academic Programs and Policy, provided 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 and stop outs. He also pointed out that, in accordance with the authority provided by a recent change to Regents Policy 5.201, 14 new minors, concentrations, and certificates were approved either by the university president or at the campus level.

I. Small Programs and Program Review Report

AVP Rosenfeld provided a report on the annual small program review conducted by each campus, as well as required academic program reviews for the 2-year and 4-year campuses. He discussed some of the parameters applicable to, and goals of, the small program and academic program review processes; noted the overall impact of these reports in current unit-level planning for program redesign and collaboration, as well as determining plans for future academic programming; highlighted actions being taken by

two small programs in critical need areas to meet established enrollment thresholds; spoke about future adjustments to the presentation cycle for this report, as well as the Academic Program Actions Report, that are being considered so as to increase their usefulness to the board; and noted that the small program report and a listing of program reviews that have been completed were provided in the meeting materials.

Given the wealth of information contained in the above reports, Regent Haning suggested that they be provided to regents further in advance of the committee meeting day to allow more time to review them. AVP Rosenfeld agreed with this assessment stating that this would be one of the benefits to adjusting the report presentation cycles.

Board Chair Moore expressed his appreciation for the meticulousness of the reports as well as the scrutiny involved in the program reviews.

J. Committee Annual Review

Chair Wilson referenced the committee annual review matrix provided in the materials packet stating that it sets forth the actions carried out by the committee throughout the year.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 12:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Yvonne Lau
Executive Administrator and Secretary
of the Board of Regents