

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS MEETING

JANUARY 11, 2018

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Jeffrey Portnoy, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2018, at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Information Technology Building, 1st Floor Conference Room 105A/B, 2420 Correa Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822.

Committee members in attendance: Committee Chair Jeffrey Portnoy; Regent Brandon Marc Higa; Regent Wayne Higaki; Regent Stanford Yuen.

Committee members excused: Committee Vice Chair Simeon Acoba.

Others in attendance: Board Chair Jan Sullivan; Board Vice Chair Randy Moore; Regent Michael McEnerney; Regent Lee Putnam; Regent Douglas Shinsato; Regent Michelle Tagorda (ex officio committee members); President/Interim UH-Mānoa (UHM) Chancellor David Lassner; Vice President for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; Vice President for Academic Planning & Policy Donald Straney; Interim UH-Hilo (UHH) Chancellor Marcia Sakai; Executive Administrator and Secretary to the Board of Regents Kendra Oishi; and others as noted.

#### II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2017 MEETING

Regent Yuen moved to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2017 meeting, seconded by Regent Higaki and the motion carried unanimously.

Regent Higa arrived at 9:02 a.m.

#### III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Executive Administrator and Secretary to the Board Kendra Oishi announced that the Board Office received no written testimony, and no individuals had signed up to give oral testimony.

#### IV. AGENDA ITEMS

##### A. Coaches Corner – Mike Trapasso

A talk story session was held with Head Baseball Coach Mike Trapasso, who is in his 17th year as coach. He talked about how proud he was of the conference and non-conference schedule they had put together; the culture changes that took place when UH joined the Big West Conference; and the academic record of the baseball team. He felt it was their job as coaches, administrators, boosters, etc., to create an atmosphere/culture where greatness can be pursued. The support network student-

athletes have through the Nagatani Academic Center is outstanding and this is the seventh consecutive year that baseball has graduated all seniors, excluding juniors who sign pro contracts. The team has a cumulative 3.0 GPA, and the APR for 2017 was a perfect 1000, with the 4-year APR average of 982 being significantly higher than the national average. Servant-leadership of student-athletes is what we all are here to do. He tells his players that their two jobs are going to class and being the best teammate they can be. He works with them to understand they are part of something special and bigger than themselves, and it is a privilege and honor to be part of the UH athletics department. It is more important to him that the university develop student-athletes who are better husbands, fathers, and citizens than baseball players, but he also believes they can do both.

Regent McEnerney arrived at 9:11 a.m.

The committee discussed the plan to keep certain aspects of the Les Murakami Stadium facilities up to par; the unique way scholarships are awarded and the impact of the major league draft on recruitment; the challenges that baseball players face because the season lasts through the end of semester, finals, and graduation; how the baseball program is doing with recruiting local players, and the number of players who are Hawai'i residents, or are from the mainland or international; the majors players are pursuing; the percentage of players who go directly into jobs or graduate school; and the number of UH students who attend games.

Coach Trapasso explained that Les Murakami Stadium is still one of the nicest venues to watch a college level baseball game. Upgrades have been made in recent years, and this summer a new locker room will be built and the club house will be renovated and moved, which will help with recruitment.

UH is awarded 11.7 scholarships by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), and mandated to have no more than 27 players on scholarship, with a minimum 25% scholarship. The majority of UH scholarships are 25% to 50%, and it is extremely rare to have a full scholarship in baseball. Student-athletes can also get academic scholarships like other students, and the athletics department works to identify other areas of financial aid. High school or junior college players can sign a professional contract and forego college, which can impact recruiting classes for college teams if players are lost to the draft. The numbers show that a player is twice as likely to make it to the major leagues signing out of college instead of high school, so they work on educating kids about the draft and the advantages of getting a college education.

UH is doing better with recruiting local players. The team has signed 2 players for next year, and has 3 commitments for the following year. Over the past 7 to 8 years, 5 local players were signed that did not qualify academically, and 3 players signed professional contracts out of high school. Every high school recruit has to have character, academics, and skillset to be a baseball player at the Division I level, and UH will actively recruit them. The amount of Hawai'i residents on the team varies every year, and there have been times when up to 1/3 of the team was made up of local

players. They also recruit internationally, and have had players from Australia, Japan, and Canada.

Historically baseball players gravitate towards majors in business, education, or communications, and there are also sociology, chemistry, and engineering majors. After graduation, most players get jobs in the real world, a small percentage pursue graduate school, and some players go into the minor league system.

It can be challenging to get more students to attend games. UH has been fortunate to be in the top 20 for NCAA baseball attendance every year, but could do better and is working on programs to increase attendance.

**B. Review & Approval of Consolidated & Revised Goals 1 & 2: Board should exercise appropriate oversight over the integrity of the athletics program and its alignment with the academic mission of UH**

Committee Chair Portnoy noted that the committee previously discussed developing a policy statement regarding the role of the board with regard to athletics. Three goals were proposed, and the committee adopted one (“The Board must educate itself about its policy role and oversight of intercollegiate athletics.”) at a previous meeting, and the remaining two goals were consolidated and revised into one goal (“The Board should exercise appropriate oversight over the integrity of the athletics program and its alignment with the academic mission of UH.”) that is before the committee for approval. The goals were combined to emphasize the board’s responsibility is for oversight and ensuring the program is in alignment with the university’s mission. Administration was comfortable with the proposed language.

Regent Yuen moved to recommend board approval of the consolidated and revised goals 1 and 2: Board should exercise appropriate oversight over the integrity of the athletics program and its alignment with the academic mission of UH, seconded by Regent Higa, and the motion carried unanimously.

**C. Academic Update regarding UH Mānoa and UH Hilo Student-Athletes**

UHM AD Matlin prefaced by noting that in the 1990s a decision was made to remove academics from the jurisdiction of the athletic director, which prevented conflicts of interest. The department has come a long way, but is continuously working on improvements. He introduced Dr. Ron Cambra (Associate VC Office of Undergraduate Education), Dr. David Ericson (Faculty Athletics Representative), Courtney Tsumoto (Academics Advisor & Chair, Nagatani Academic Center), and Amanda Paterson (Assistant AD for Compliance & Eligibility) who provided an update on the academic performance rate (APR), graduate success rate (GSR), UHM graduation success rate, Federal graduation Rate (FGR), student-athlete origin, academic progress chart, missed class days of UHM student-athletes; and the student-athlete academic services (SAAS), the Nagatani Academic Center, SAAS student support programs, student-athlete academic outcomes, and information on the GradesFirst web-based early-alert student management system that helps engage students in their education and the support services offered in SAAS, and future plans for the Nagatani Center and SAAS.

The committee discussed whether there were any programs in danger of falling below a 930 APR in the next two years; how UH compares with Big West and Mountain West conference peers; the percentage of the total number of student-athletes that are scholarship students; the role/interaction of the coach and academic advisor; areas where continued improvement is needed or goals that still need to be met; the cost per student-athlete of the SAAS program; and whether the success in the SAAS program could be transferred to upper campus.

Administration explained that UH was comparable to conference peers, and was 3<sup>rd</sup> in APR for the Mountain West Conference last year and GSR is right in the middle. Approximately 350 student-athletes (three-fourths) have some form of athletic scholarship, of which 256 have full scholarship. The relationship between the coach and the academic advisor is collaborative partnership. Advisors work closely with coaches to discuss student progress or to schedule extra time with students if needed, if extra time needs to be scheduled with students, or if students need to get out of practice early to attend classes or get counseling. There are no current issues or concerns regarding the relationship between academic advisors and coaches, and administration has been very supportive.

It was noted that some say the numbers are skewed because student-athletes are allegedly directed towards easier majors/courses, and get more academic assistance than the non-athletics student. It was explained that student-athletes are selected from a wide range of majors, just as the rest of campus. While there is some clustering in certain majors, it has not been problematic. UHM has used the GradesFirst model in a limited fashion at upper campus, and it has become the impetus for a Hub system (aka "Galaxy"), which takes aspects of GradesFirst to develop a processing system and software package that can be used on all campuses. Performance funding is being used to develop the system, with pilot testing targeted for spring semester. Galaxy will integrate the STAR degree audit system to identify students who are having difficulties early on and move them into services to assist them.

UHH Associate AD Kula Oda provided an update on the academic performance of UHH student-athletes, including the overall GPA measured by semester and cumulative, sport-by-sport GPA comparison, retention of student-athletes, and graduation rate.

Regent Tagorda arrived at 10:28 a.m.

The committee discussed the reason for the improvement in men's basketball GPA between fall and spring semester; the GPA of men versus women campus wide; the recruitment efforts for the new academic advisor for athletics and the success lab; and the academic challenges facing UHH student-athletes.

Associate AD Oda explained an incoming student-athlete had a 4.0 GPA, which improved the men's basketball GPA. Administration agreed to provide the committee with the GPA of men versus women campus wide. UHH is currently recruiting for the first academic advisor for student-athletes, something that was being done by the

women's basketball coach on a part-time basis. UHH is creating a student success lab this semester that will house the academic advisor and be an area for student-athletes. Since UHH is a smaller school, there are less class sections to choose from, and it can be challenging to balance academics and athletics, particularly as student-athletes move toward their junior and senior years. The new academic advisor will be very helpful in addressing that issue.

The meeting ended with a discussion about who is responsible for bringing up character issues involving student-athletes. AD Matlin explained that character begins with head coaches and coaching staff, who notify the athletic director of any issues, and then the appropriate university process is followed. Committee Chair Portnoy added that from what he has read and given the present climate, there is some suggestion that trustees/regents need to be more collaboratively involved in character issues to the extent those issues rise to the level that may require trustee/regent involvement. The board has a role, but one that is secondary to the athletic department, chancellor, and president.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Regent Higaki moved to adjourn, and Regent Yuen seconded, and with unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Kendra Oishi  
Executive Administrator and Secretary  
to the Board of Regents