

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS MEETING

MARCH 20, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Jeffrey Portnoy called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Information Technology Building, 1st Floor Conference Room 105A/B, 2520 Correa Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822.

Committee members in attendance: Committee Chair Jeffrey Portnoy; Committee Vice Chair Stanford Yuen; Board Vice Chair Wayne Higaki; Regent Robert Westerman.

Committee members excused: Regent Kelli Acopan.

Others in attendance: Board Chair Lee Putnam; Regent Simeon Acoba; Regent Eugene Bal; Regent Randy Moore; Regent Ernest Wilson Jr. (ex officio committee members); President/UH-Mānoa (UHM) Chancellor David Lassner; Vice President for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Kendra Oishi; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2018, MEETING

Regent Westerman moved to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2018, meeting, seconded by Regent Yuen, and the motion carried unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Coaches Corner: Gene Okamura, University of Hawai'i at Hilo Women's Soccer Coach

A talk story session was held with UH Hilo's Women's Soccer Coach Gene Okamura. Coach Okamura, a former Waiakea High School and UHH soccer player, discussed the changes made to the culture of the soccer program by focusing on what the student-athlete can do to be more competitive, academics, and community service. Coach Okamura also highlighted academic and athletic achievements, including a 3.42 team grade point average and finishing second in the PacWest Conference, the highest finish ever. Additional funding for scholarships would help them be more competitive in recruitment.

Regent Acoba arrived at 9:06 a.m.

Regent Westerman asked what is being done to attract and keep local talent. Coach Okamura responded that tuition costs less here and he uses his personal experience to make a case for staying here and emphasized the people, culture, and environment as a positive influence on student athletes.

Board Chair Putnam asked whether there are students from Hawai'i in the incoming class of recruits. Coach Okamura explained that there is a contingency of local talent with two in the current incoming group and six out of nine in the last recruiting class. He noted that this year was more challenging because there was a change in the signing day to November from February. Eleven players graduated and it was necessary to recruit more mature players. Chair Putnam asked how recruiting is conducted. Coach Okamura explained that they attended an event in Las Vegas and that travel is leveraged to conduct recruiting activities while also building pipelines with other programs.

Board Vice Chair Portnoy asked if there are special challenges as a Division II school that the board should consider. Coach Okamura noted that facilities are a challenge, but noted that a new facility is being built and expected to be complete for 2020, which should help with recruiting and the athlete experience. He added that scholarship funding would help, as one of the challenges is competing with schools offering full scholarships. The UHH team currently has 3.5 scholarships averaging approximately \$1,500 - \$2,000 per player.

Regent Yuen asked if the schedule for men's and women's soccer is concurrent. Coach Okamura affirmed and noted that they try to travel together to make logistics more efficient. He further noted that conferences are always in the same location.

B. Update on Title IX and Gender Equity

UHM Associate Athletic Director for Student Services (AAD) Lois Manin provided an update on gender equity at UHM. Improvement has been made on participation and scholarship expenses for women compared to men, which are currently within 1.32%; the goal is to move closer to within 1%. Improvements have also been made to a number of facilities, including investments in the Rainbow Wahine Softball Stadium and Duke Kahanamoku Aquatic Complex.

Committee Chair Portnoy asked whether the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) conducts regular audits and whether there are required reports. AAD Manin doesn't believe there are audits, but that they need to be prepared to answer questions and expressed she is comfortable with the current status and progress. UHM Athletics Director (AD) David Matlin added that they report on all metrics, but they are not specific to NCAA, and that these issues are more about civil rights.

Committee Chair Portnoy asked whether there is a specific plan to reduce the 1.32% in scholarship expenses. AD Matlin noted that there is a facility plan and that there is continuous monitoring of recruiting budgets and meals for students, and that there is an

intentional focus on various areas. He also noted that the Legislature has provided funds.

Regent Acoba asked about the relationship between undergraduate enrollment and participation in sports, as provided in Prong I (Substantial Proportionality) of the Title IX Equitable Participation Opportunities. AD Matlin said the enrollment of female students is 55.4% and participation is within 1%. Regent Acoba asked whether we were only required to focus on one prong and why Prong I was chosen. AD Matlin said it was selected before his tenure and they chose to continue as it was the right thing to do.

UHM Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Athletics Amanda Paterson provided an update on Title IX education and training for student-athletes and athletic department staff that is mandated by the NCAA.

Chair Putnam asked about the procedures for transgender athletes. Ms. Paterson responded that they comply with NCAA policy and there have been no complaints.

Committee Chair Portnoy questioned how incidents between male and female athletes are handled. Ms. Paterson explained that it depends on how the incident is reported and that they are typically referred to the Title IX office for handling. She noted that it is a small number, particularly compared to the student population.

UHH AD Patrick Guillen provided an update on Title IX and gender equity at UHH, which included an emphasis in the importance of training. UHH faces some challenges with regard to scheduling, facilities needs, and coaches salaries.

Regent Bal asked about travel and per diem as a noted area of progress in the presentation. AD Guillen replied that per diem was increased for students and that coaches are encouraged to stay at properties that provide breakfast and to look for other efficiencies to save on travel costs.

Committee Chair Portnoy asked what needs to be done about coaches' salaries. AD Guillen suggested that when the new UHH chancellor arrives, that they should consider an increase to at least \$30,000, although that is still not adequate.

Board Vice Chair Higaki recalled the issue of the gym floor being raised in the past and asked whether it has reached a level of risk. AD Guillen said that they clean the floor three times a day, depending on the weather. Board Vice Chair Higaki noted that the building is at least 42 years old with ventilation and humidity issues, and that the solution might be to fully enclose the gym and install air conditioning. A suggestion was made that UHH should seek a capital improvement project appropriation request in the future.

Regent Westerman asked whether there are public-private partnerships for athletics, such as advertising opportunities to generate revenue. AD Guillen said that some events take place at county facilities where corporate sponsorships are sold and signs are put up before and taken down after every game since county guidelines do not allow for signs to be left up.

C. Association of Governing Boards Statement and Articles on Governing Boards' Responsibilities for Intercollegiate Athletics and Regents Policy 7.208, Intercollegiate Athletics

The committee reviewed possible revisions to RP 7.208. The committee discussed definitions, financial integrity and management, whether regents should have authority over conference affiliation, and the handling of funds or gifts. Administration will revise the policy based on feedback received and bring the final version back to the committee.

The committee discussed the draft RP 7.208 that was provided for discussion purposes, including the provisions relating to the board's authority relating to athletic conferences or associations and whether it is an authority that should be retained by the board or administration. AD Matlin noted that some agility is needed when negotiating agreements. Discussion ensued on the role of the board and the issue of governance and management. Some regents felt that it should be delegated but that the president is ultimately accountable to the board for the decision, while others raised the issue of financial integrity.

Committee Chair Portnoy raised the issue of fundraising and expressed that neither the UH Foundation (UHF) nor 'Ahahui Koa Ānuenue (AKA) have adequately raised funds for athletics, although he understands that there have been recent changes in leadership at both organizations. President Lassner noted that there is a separate policy that designates UHF as the university's philanthropic arm and that AKA has special status as noted in the draft RP 7.208. He added that concerns relating to AKA have been reduced in recent years, as costs have been reduced and revenues have increased. AD Matlin noted that there are discussions with UHF on a possible agreement and that the new leadership at AKA has been outstanding.

Committee Chair Portnoy requested that President Lassner and AD Matlin work on revising the draft RP 7.208 that was provided for discussion and return to the committee in the future.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Board Vice Chair Higaki moved to adjourn and Regent Westerman seconded, and with unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Kendra Oishi
Executive Administrator and Secretary
of the Board of Regents