

MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS
MEETING

MARCH 5, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Simeon Acoba called the meeting to order at 12:48 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2020, 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: Chair Simeon Acoba; Regent Kelli Acopan; Regent Eugene Bal; and Regent Robert Westerman.

Committee members excused: Vice-Chair Michael McEnerney.

Others in attendance: Board Chair Ben Kudo; Regent Wayne Higaki; Regent Randy Moore; Regent Alapaki Nahale-a; Regent Jan Sullivan; Regent Ernest Wilson Jr. (ex officio committee members); President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; VP for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; UH Hilo (UHH) Chancellor Bonnie Irwin; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Kendra Oishi; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2020 MEETING

Regent Westerman moved to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2020, meeting, seconded by Regent Acopan, and noting the excused absence of Vice-Chair McEnerney, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

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: Elliot Ptasnik, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Head Swimming and Diving Coach

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) Athletic Director (AD) David Matlin introduced Elliot Ptasnik, the UHM head coach for men's and women's swimming and diving noting that Coach Ptasnik is a first year head coach but has been with the swimming and diving program for four years.

Coach Ptasnik spoke on the rise and success of the men's and women's swimming and diving team at UHM noting that he and his staff have adopted a three-part philosophy for themselves and the athletes. The philosophy stresses the importance of

academics, ethics and values, and a supportive team mentality and has an ultimate goal of developing good character that will last a lifetime. He highlighted some of the team's academic successes noting that the team achieved a 3.47 grade point average last year and was named a Scholar All-American Team by the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association, and that several student athletes have been named Academic All-Americans by the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA). Finally, Coach Ptasnik stated that he and his staff believe that success in the development of good character and academics makes it easier to attain athletic success which has been demonstrated by the program winning four consecutive Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) women's championships and two consecutive MPSF men's championships and the program being recognized as one of the best in the nation. He remarked that UH is the only team to achieve successive titles in both men's and women's swimming and diving. Athletic success has allowed UH to attract the best swimming and diving athletes from local high schools as well as nationally and internationally.

Coach Ptasnik stated that there is excitement around swimming since this is a very popular Olympic sport and that several of the swimming and diving program's student athletes are vying for spots to compete at the Olympic Summer Games in Tokyo later this year.

Chair Acoba asked how the 2020 season was progressing. Coach Ptasnik reiterated that the program has won both the men's and women's MPSF championships and stated that UH has numerous student athletes who are individual qualifiers for the NCAA national championships which will be held in a few weeks.

Regent Higaki inquired about the number of scholarships for the program. Coach Ptasnik replied that the swimming and diving program had 14 scholarships for women and 9.9 scholarships for men and that there were 50 student athletes currently in the program (25 women/25 men).

Noting that surfing competitions will be held at the Olympics for the first time, Regent Westerman asked whether any of the UH student athletes were attempting to qualify for that event. Coach Ptasnik responded that he was not aware of any UH athletes trying to qualify for surfing at the Olympics.

Regent Sullivan left at 12:59 p.m.

Regent Higaki left at 1:02 p.m.

Regent Nahale-a asked Coach Ptasnik to elaborate on his philosophy that if you develop good character and academic success that it becomes easier to attain athletic success. Coach Ptasnik replied that having confidence in oneself and possessing a positive attitude, strong work ethic, and sense of teamwork, as well as the time management skills and discipline to garner academic success, makes it easier to succeed in athletics.

Chair Acoba inquired as to whether the program recruits locally, nationally, or internationally. Coach Ptasnik responded that the program recruits from all three of

those areas. While student athletes in the program represent 13 different countries, the program focuses primarily on retaining local athletes before recruiting nationally and internationally.

Chair Acoba asked how the program was connected to the Olympics. Though the program itself was not directly connected to the Olympics, Coach Ptasnik replied that the program pushes its student athletes to achieve their highest potential through training and hard work. He reiterated that swimming is one of the premiere events in the Olympics and remarked that simply making it into the Olympic trials and having the opportunity to be a part of an Olympic team is a tremendous achievement in itself.

Mentioning an interview given by Coach Ptasnik in which he stated that two things the swimming and diving teams needed to continue their success was a sufficient budget and the latest training equipment, Chair Acoba asked Coach Ptasnik if he thought this statement was still relevant. Coach Ptasnik responded in the affirmative. He also stated that the program initiated fundraising efforts this year raising close to \$20,000, which will help the team with travel, training, and equipment needs.

B. Aloha Stadium Update

Mr. Ross Yamasaki, Chair of the Stadium Authority (Authority), updated the committee on the redevelopment plans for Aloha Stadium which is presently being referred to as the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED). NASED encompasses all 99 acres of property under the jurisdiction of the Authority. He noted that Act 268, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2019 (Act 268), addressed NASED governance issues and provided funding for the stadium project to move forward with entertaining a public-private partnership (P3) venture to delve into the first phase of redevelopment. Since that time, some jurisdictional issues have arisen with regard to NASED and a bill is currently moving through the Legislature to make clarifying amendments to Act 268 to better define agency roles and responsibilities. Mr. Yamasaki stated that this action is not slowing the overall project, as funding has allowed processes to move forward, including the execution of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), community outreach, and various historical, cultural, and archaeological studies that are required by the EIS.

At present, a consultant is developing a programmatic master plan which is helping to guide the crafting of requests for qualifications (RFQ) and requests for proposals (RFP) which are expected to be published in the near future. Upon publication of the RFQ and RFP, parties interested in working on the NASED project can submit their proposals. Mr. Yamasaki remarked that the Authority has also just retained the services of a financial consultant (Goldman Sachs) who will be working in conjunction with the master architect, P3 consultant, master plan developer, and legal advisers currently working simultaneously on projects involving NASED so that the project could move forward in an expeditious manner.

Remarking that UH is one of the larger users of Aloha Stadium and that the facility is necessary to maintain its football program, Chair Kudo asked whether the university has a seat at the table with regard to the NASED development process. Mr. Yamasaki

replied in the affirmative noting that the Authority has a close working relationship with the university and members of the Authority have a vested interest in the university's success. He also stated that university officials attend all Authority meetings and that the Authority has been engaging all tenants and users of Aloha Stadium in the development process.

Chair Acoba asked if the university has a formal role on the Authority. Mr. Yamasaki responded that President Lassner is an ex-officio member of the Authority. President Lassner added that while the President of UH is an ex-officio member of the Authority as provided by statute, he has delegated that responsibility to AD Matlin. Chair Acoba inquired further as to whether UH had input into the design of the facilities and amenities included in the development as well as the operations of the facility. Mr. Yamasaki replied in the affirmative remarking that visions and plans released by the media were not finalized designs and that the scope of the RFP is currently being developed. The RFP process will result in developers submitting design and amenity proposals for consideration. The Authority is compiling as much information as possible to provide potential developers with the structural and operational needs of the State, as well as stadium users and tenants, in order to develop a modern, world-class facility.

Chair Kudo opined that the university is more than just a tenant of Aloha Stadium and has a keen interest in this development initiative as the success of the football program, and in essence all of the university's athletics programs, is dependent on proper development of this facility. Noting that NASED appeared to be a mixed-use type of development with possible commercial, retail, and residential activities, he asked whether the Authority has considered possibly setting aside a portion of the revenues generated by NASED into a perpetual fund that could be used by the university to support its athletic programs, more specifically to supplement the head football coach's salary. Mr. Yamasaki replied that all things are being considered and that he will take this suggestion back to the Authority. He remarked that the Authority is hopeful in creating numerous financial opportunities with the NASED development.

Chair Acoba asked whether sports other than football could be accommodated by the new venue. Mr. Yamasaki answered that the plan is for the facility to be able to host events for all field sports such as football, soccer, and rugby. Chair Acoba inquired further if there were any similarly sized facilities as that which is being envisioned for NASED that has been financially successful. Mr. Yamasaki replied that he could not point to specific examples at the moment but that the Authority is working with consultants to determine the most fiscally sound plan for the NASED development.

Chair Acoba questioned whether the university has presented a list of their needs for NASED to the Authority. Mr. Yamasaki stated that the consultants have been in discussions with all stakeholders including the university. AD Matlin added that the consultants have been provided with a list of items the university desires to be included in the NASED.

C. Facilities Update

UHH AD Patrick Guillen presented an update on UHH athletic facilities highlighting several ongoing projects including a softball/soccer field project and athletic training room project. The softball/soccer field project includes the construction of a \$4.2 million softball/soccer field, as well as ancillary facilities including a concession stand, storage and team rooms, and restrooms, and is intended to address Title IX compliance issues, as well as, improve field conditions for both men's and women's soccer and women's softball. This project has already proceeded through the design phase and UHH is expecting to send the project out for bid in April with an anticipated start date for construction this summer. The athletic training room project will double the size of the existing athletic training room, as well as increase the number of treatment tables and the size of rehabilitation and taping areas, which will allow athletic trainers to expand the use of various treatment modalities and elevate their ability to care for student athletes.

UHH AD Guillen also spoke on the current condition of a number of athletic facilities at UHH and reviewed several future priority projects for UHH athletics such as a gymnasium and locker room repair and renovation project to address health, safety, and structural issues for the facilities which were built in 1978; a \$500,000 renovation of the UHH tennis courts; and a \$400,000 weight room project to update the facility, increase capacity, and modernize weight training equipment.

Regent Acopan asked if the installation of the new spectator area being planned for the UHH tennis courts will affect its current layout or reduce the amount of courts currently available. UHH AD Guillen replied that it will not affect the layout or number of tennis courts, explaining that the spectator area will consist of outdoor bleachers for about 100 spectators and will use existing space that is currently undeveloped.

Regent Nahale-a left at 1:32 p.m.

UHM AD Matlin presented an update on UHM athletic facilities reviewing a number of ongoing projects which include:

- A \$3.4 million softball stadium project that is scheduled for completion by August, 2021, and is intended to address Title IX compliance and gender equity issues, as well as enhance the fan experience;
- Projects to address health, safety, and structural issues at Les Murakami Stadium including \$600,000 in spall repair work, the installation of \$60,000 in safety netting, and \$1.48 million in public restroom renovations, all of which are expected to be completed between March 2020, and January 2021;
- An \$800,000 project to replace the sound system at the Stan Sheriff Center with more up-to-date and technologically advanced audio and communications equipment which is anticipated to be completed by August 2020;
- A \$750,000 project to resurface and replace the net system for all 12 tennis courts which is anticipated to be completed by July 2020; and

- An \$800,000 project to design and build a multi-purpose strength and conditioning and golf short game performance facility which is currently at the stage of accepting RFPs with an expected completion date of July 2021.

UHM AD Matlin stated that the design-build process used for a number of these projects has worked well for the athletic department and has resulted in shorter project completion times and lower costs. He also remarked that the UHM athletic department was beginning preparations for projects next year including installation of new field turf at the Clarence T.C. Ching Field, construction of new batting cages, additional structural work at Les Murakami Stadium, and improvements to the general strength and conditioning facility.

Regent Acopan left at 1:38 p.m.

D. Title IX Update

UHH AD Guillen provided an update on Title IX issues at UHH briefly reviewing the three-pronged approach used by the UHH athletic department to address potential Title IX inequities. Improvement has been made on participation, with more female students (111) participating in UHH athletics than male students (88). The awarding of athletic scholarships to female student athletes has also remained steady in relation to the percentage of female students participating in athletics at UHH. The UHH athletic department continues working towards a goal of awarding a percentage of female scholarship dollars that is within less than one percent of the female participation percentage. UHH AD Guillen also spoke on the UHH gender equity plan, noting that a Gender Equity Committee has been established to review and update gender equity plans, policies, and procedures, and reviewed current and ongoing Title IX training for all coaches, staff, and student athletes.

Regent Moore requested the breakdown of the female undergraduate student population at UHH compared to male undergraduate students. AD Guillen replied that the current undergraduate population at UHH is made up of approximately 62 percent female students and 38 percent male students.

Chair Acoba announced that, due to time constraints, the update on Title IX from UHM would be discussed at the next committee meeting.

E. Update on Legislation Related to Postsecondary Student Athlete Compensation for the Use of Name, Image, or Likeness (NIL)

President Lassner noted that one bill is continuing through the legislative process and is currently being considered by the State House of Representatives. On the federal level, the United States House of Representatives (U.S. House) is considering two different pieces of federal legislation relating to NIL but the United States Senate does not appear to be taking action on the NIL issue, although it has identified the subcommittee that would address this issue should the U.S. House pass NIL legislation. The subcommittee has also held an informational briefing on the NIL issue.

Stating that the NCAA realizes that a patchwork of individual state laws that are unique to each state would result in the NCAA, and collegiate athletics in general, having difficulty functioning on a national level, President Lassner explained that the NCAA is currently engaged in the process of creating NIL policies and regulations with its member institutions. The NCAA is hopeful to have concepts for NIL policies and regulations submitted over the summer and formal proposals completed by this fall, with adoption of the new NIL policies and regulations occurring by January 2021.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Regent Bal moved to adjourn, seconded by Regent Westerman, and noting the excused absences of Vice-Chair McEnerney and Regent Acopan, and with all members present voting in the affirmative, the meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Kendra Oishi
Executive Administrator and Secretary
of the Board of Regents