

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS MEETING

OCTOBER 6, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair William Haning called the meeting to order at 10:19 a.m. on Thursday, October 6, 2022, 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, with regents participating from various locations.

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

Others in attendance: Board Chair Randy Moore; Regent Wayne Higaki; ; Regent Alapaki Nahale-a (ex officio committee members); President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Academic Strategy Debora Halbert; VP for Community Colleges Erika Lacro; VP for Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos; VP for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer Garret Yoshimi; VP for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; UH Mānoa (UHM) Provost Michael Bruno; UH Hilo (UHH) Chancellor Bonnie Irwin; UH West O'ahu Chancellor Maenette Benham; Associate VP for Legal Affairs Gary Takeuchi; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Kendra Oishi; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Haning inquired if there were any corrections to the minutes of the August 4, 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.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Coaches Corner: Michael Stephens, UHM Swimming and Diving Head Coach

UHM Associate Athletic Director (AAD) Lois Manin introduced Michael Stephens, who is in his first year as the head coach of the swimming and diving team, noting his previous nine years of coaching experience at Boston College.

Coach Stephens spoke about his coaching career at Boston College where he served a four-year stint as the swimming and diving team's assistant coach before being named its head coach, a position he held for five years. He cited some of the factors taken into account when he applied for and accepted the head coaching position at UHM including Hawai'i's unique lifestyle and rich swimming history, as well as the

UHM Athletic Department's student-athlete-centered mindset and commitment to an established set of values that closely aligned with his coaching philosophy. He also expressed his excitement to be coaching at UHM noting that the commitment to, and passion for, the sport that has been exhibited by the swimming and diving student-athletes thus far speaks volumes about the team's potential success for the upcoming season and beyond.

Although achievements in the pool are noteworthy and something that the team will strive for, Coach Stephens stressed the importance of providing student-athletes with the tools to become successful in life. He briefly discussed his coaching philosophy, communicating his desire to build upon and strengthen the existing water sports culture and feeling of 'ohana at UHM which he believes will go a long way to ensuring that UHM swimming and diving remains one of the top programs in the country.

Referencing previous discussions about student-athlete mental health, Chair Haning asked for Coach Stephen's opinion on the parity of addressing mental health needs of student-athletes across the spectrum of intercollegiate sports programs at UHM. Coach Stephens replied that there has been greater emphasis placed on student mental health needs throughout higher education, including intercollegiate athletics, over the last few years. While this issue has always been present, individuals are beginning to feel more comfortable speaking about it. He stated that the university, as well as UHM Athletics, have done a good job of providing resources to address the mental health challenges facing students and student-athletes and that they continually stress the importance of using these resources. Nevertheless, he opined that there will be a constant need to work on this matter for the foreseeable future.

B. Student-Athlete Corner: Darren Williams, UHH Men's Basketball Student-Athlete

UHH Athletic Director (AD) Pat Guillen introduced UHH senior men's basketball standout Darren Williams, highlighting his numerous academic and athletic achievements including being named to the Pacific West Conference Scholar-Athlete team and twice selected for the all-conference team. He also noted Mr. Williams' community service work stating that he serves as an excellent ambassador for the UHH Athletic Department.

Mr. Williams shared information on his personal background, stating that he was originally from Rancho Cucamonga, California, playing basketball for two seasons at Chaffey College; spoke about his journey to playing basketball at UHH; and offered insights into his experiences as both a student and athlete since arriving on the UHH campus in 2020 saying that the sense of community he has felt at UHH will be one of his most cherished memories.

Regent Nahale-a thanked Mr. Williams for bringing his talents and character to UHH and for embracing Hawai'i's culture.

Regent Higaki asked Mr. Williams for his thoughts as to whether there was a need for any facility improvements at UHH. Mr. Williams replied that he would like to see

improvements made to UHH's on-campus gym floor noting that there are times when it becomes unusable after it rains.

Regent Acopan stated that it was uplifting to hear about Mr. Williams' experiences beyond the campus, the basketball court, and the classroom noting that she was impressed with his positive outlook on life, as well as the welcoming nature of UHH and the Hawai'i Island community.

C. Athletic Facilities Update

AD Guillen reviewed several recently completed athletic facilities projects at UHH including the soccer field/softball field/multipurpose building project, as well as renovations to the outdoor tennis courts and the athletic training room. He also spoke about future priority projects for UHH Athletics which consist of improvements to the on-campus gymnasium, along with associated locker rooms and team rooms, the baseball field, and the weight room/fitness facility. It was noted that upgrading facilities at UHH will be beneficial to the recruitment and retention of top-tier student-athletes and the improvement of the overall campus-life experience.

AAD Manin presented an update on UHM athletic facilities emphasizing that well-designed and maintained amenities not only benefit UHM Athletics and its student-athletes, but are also important to the overall success of UHM as most of the facilities on the lower campus serve multiple users and are often utilized for community events that aid in promoting the university. She discussed the reasoning behind the recent expansion of, and improvements made to, the Clarence T.C. Ching Athletics Complex and reviewed plans for further expansion of the Complex which will have the added benefit of providing an on-campus competition venue for UHM Women's Soccer.

AAD Manin also talked about the uncertainty surrounding the Aloha Stadium project which is having an impact on UHM Athletics; reviewed several other athletic facilities projects, including the recently completed upgrades to the Rainbow Wahine Softball Stadium and upcoming renovations to the Alexander Waterhouse Strength and Conditioning Center; noted that approximately \$4 million in improvements to the Les Murakami Baseball Stadium and baseball team's batting practice facility are needed; and discussed UHM Athletics' aspirations to develop a high performance center that would serve as a multi-purpose athletic facility to provide more efficient and impactful services to student-athletes.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Haning adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

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