

MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE
MEETING

NOVEMBER 2, 2023

A video recording of this meeting may be viewed at the Board of Regents website as follows:

[Meeting Video](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Laurel Loo called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 2, 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, with regents participating from various locations.

Committee members in attendance: Chair Laurel Loo, Vice-Chair Ernest Wilson, Regent William Haning, Regent Wayne Higaki, and Regent Gabriel Lee.

Others in attendance: Board Chair Alapaki Nahale-a; Regent Neil Abercrombie; Regent Lauren Akitake; Regent Abigail Mawae; Regent Diane Paloma; Regent Laurie Tochiki (ex officio committee members); President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Administration Jan Gouveia; 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; VP for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; Interim VP for Community Colleges Della Teraoka; UH-Mānoa Provost Michael Bruno; UH-Hilo Chancellor Bonnie Irwin; UH-West O'ahu Chancellor Maenette Benham; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Yvonne Lau; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Loo inquired if there were any corrections to the minutes of the October 5, 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 did not receive any written testimony and that no individuals signed up to provide oral testimony.

Regent Abercrombie arrived at 9:02 a.m.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Board Review and Discussion on Strategic Plan Imperative - Develop Successful Students for a Better Future

Chair Loo provided the rationale for the committee's review and discussion of each imperative contained within the University of Hawai'i System Strategic Plan 2023-2029 (Strategic Plan) highlighting a lack of familiarity with the overall Strategic Plan and its imperatives among regents who were relatively new members of the board and did not take part in the current Plan's creation. She spoke about the purpose of this exercise, which was for regents to conduct in-depth discussions on each imperative and reaffirm the board's commitment to these imperatives or propose changes to them; asked more seasoned regents to share their thoughts about, and provide insight on, the development of the Strategic Plan and its imperatives; went over the goal and objectives of the imperative to Develop Successful Students for a Better Future, as well as the metrics being used to evaluate achievement of its objectives; and invited input from regents on this matter. Board Chair Nahale-a added that having these discussions at the committee level provided regents with an avenue for deeper contemplation of the Strategic Plan so as to determine whether or not the Plan should be modified and provide greater clarity to the administration about the board's expectations.

Regent Mawae arrived at 9:06 a.m.

Although he was in support of the Strategic Plan and the imperative to Develop Successful Students for a Better Future, Regent Abercrombie expressed his desire for an explicit reference to the exploration of the humanities, which was one of the fundamental premises for the establishment of universities, to be included in the Strategic Plan stressing the importance of this area of study, particularly in light of current global events.

Regent Akitake conveyed her belief that receiving contextual information on the Strategic Plan, in addition to the thought processes used to develop its imperatives, would be beneficial to regents. Board Secretary Lau remarked that the administration was scheduled to provide updates to regents on each of the Strategic Plan's imperatives at board meetings with the presentation on the imperative to Develop Successful Students for a Better Future slated to be provided in October. However, due to time constraints arising from lengthy discussions on other matters at the October meeting, the issue was deferred to a later date. President Lassner concurred with Board Secretary Lau's assessment but remarked that the administration could provide another presentation on the overall Strategic Plan at the request of the board.

Regents offered comments on the complexity involved in quantifying student success, the ability of the above-mentioned metrics to take into consideration the various factors that can impact student achievement, and the critical importance of factual, sound data when determining the types of investments the university must make to provide students with the greatest opportunity to succeed. Several regents also verbalized the need for honest self-reflection to occur on portions of the Strategic Plan where goals and expectations are not being met, the provision of candid reports on these matters, and frank conversations about areas where the university needs improvement or is underperforming. Nevertheless, regents expressed their general support for the Strategic Plan.

Chair Loo asked whether the administration could provide data on each imperative's metrics when they are presented to the board. President Lassner replied in the affirmative. Regent Akitake suggested that the administration provide context to their data when it is presented in order for it to be viewed with a proper perspective.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Loo adjourned the meeting at 9:29 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Yvonne Lau
Executive Administrator and Secretary of
the Board of Regents