

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONAL SUCCESS MEETING

OCTOBER 5, 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 Gabriel Lee called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. on Thursday, October 5, 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 Gabriel Lee; Vice-Chair Lauren Akitake; Regent Neil Abercrombie; and Regent Wayne Higaki.

Committee members excused: Regent Diane Paloma.

Others in attendance: Board Chair Alapaki Nahale-a; Regent William Haning; Regent Laurel Loo; Regent Abigail Mawae; Regent Ernest Wilson (ex officio committee members); President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Academic Strategy Debora Halbert; VP for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; VP for Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos; VP for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; Interim VP for Community Colleges Della Teraoka; UH-Mānoa (UHM) Provost Michael Bruno; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Yvonne Lau; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Lee inquired if there were any corrections to the minutes of the September 7, 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.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Request for Board Approval of the University of Hawai'i Kapi'olani Community College (KapCC) and Leeward Community College (LeeCC) Mission Statements

Interim VP Teraoka explained that Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) accreditation standards require the periodic review of campus mission statements. As such, each of the community colleges underwent a process to reexamine their campus mission statements over the past year. After receiving input from faculty, staff, and students via their respective authorized campus governance groups, only two campuses, KapCC and LeeCC, elected to revise their campus mission statements and seek board approval for these changes. Interim VP Teraoka presented the current and revised versions of KapCC's and LeeCC's campus mission statements; reviewed the campus mission statements for the remaining five community college campuses that were not altered; and briefly went over the shared governance process used by the community colleges. She also stated that, while the campus mission statement for UH Maui College was reviewed by the campus and provided in the committee materials packet, this particular institution is subject to a different accreditation process and cycle.

Noting that each of the community colleges has unique and independent mission statements with some referencing the community in which the campus resides, Regent Nahale-a asked if there was a reason for the lack of an overarching mission statement for the community college system particularly given the notion that the university consists of an integrated system of campuses. Interim VP Teraoka replied that each of the community colleges was established independently and has a unique identity, hence the varying campus mission statements. Nevertheless, the campuses have worked well together and continue to collaborate on a number of educational initiatives. She also noted that the community college system does have its own mission statement, which is currently being reviewed, and stated that, to her understanding, this is something that will need to be brought before the board for approval at a later date.

Regent Higaki moved to recommend board approval of the mission statement revisions for KapCC and LeeCC, seconded by Regent Abercrombie, and noting the excused absences of Vice-Chair Akitake and Regent Paloma, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

B. Research Presentation: “University of Hawai’i Research and Innovation at a Glance” Presentation by Vassilis Syrmos, VP for Research and Innovation

VP Syrmos remarked that the intent of this presentation was to provide regents with a better understanding of extramural funding in the context of research enterprise endeavors, as well as information on various research and strategic innovation activities that are occurring at the university. He provided a synopsis of the university's research and innovation mission stating that it was primarily focused on nurturing and cultivating a knowledge-based enterprise in the State of Hawai'i; went over the core elements of research and innovation at the university; highlighted several areas of key research in which the university is engaged, along with some of their associated projects; discussed several initiatives related to research and innovation that are being conducted by offices situated within the Office of the VP for Research and Innovation; noted several startups that were created at the university; and spoke about some of the economic and social impacts that research conducted at the university has both locally and globally.

Vice-Chair Akitake arrived at 9:20 a.m.

Regent Abercrombie asked if geothermal research was a priority for the university since it was not listed as one of the key areas of research that the university is engaged in. VP Syrmos replied that, while the university does conduct geothermal research, it is not a large component of its renewable energy research portfolio which largely consists of research in the areas of solar, wind, wave, and hydrogen energy development.

In view of global, national, and local efforts to eliminate the need for fossil fuels to supply the world's energy needs, Regent Abercrombie opined that it would be prudent for the university to make the development of geothermal energy, a known renewable energy resource, one of the institution's prime objectives and suggested that a report on the possibilities for geothermal research and development in Hawai'i be provided to the board. President Lassner stated that the administration can prepare a brief on the subject of geothermal research and development in Hawai'i and provide this information to regents. He also noted that one of the big elements of this issue is whether or not there are funding agencies willing to commit financial resources to this area of research and development.

Regent Abercrombie inquired as to whether there was a breakdown of the joint research appointments, programs, and projects that have been initiated in partnership with the East-West Center. VP Syrmos replied in the affirmative and stated that a list could be provided to regents.

Citing the statistic provided that more than 13,000 jobs have been created through research enterprise activities at the university, Regent Abercrombie asked if there was a listing of the types of jobs that were created. VP Syrmos responded that a breakout of the jobs created by research enterprise activities at the university can be provided to regents although he cautioned that the jobs created were not all full-time equivalent positions.

Board Chair Nahale-a commended the administration for balancing short-term opportunities with long-term strategies and goals.

C. Extramural Research & Innovation Funding Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Year-in-Review and FY 2024 Outlook

VP Syrmos reported that the university received a record \$515.9 million in extramural awards for FY 2023. He provided a breakdown of trends, significant awards, and award amounts by campus; summarized data pertaining to various research and innovation metrics; reviewed the number of invention disclosures made, the number of patents applied for, and the number of licenses/options awarded for research projects for FY 2023; and stated that the administration remains cautiously optimistic that the university's extramural funding efforts will continue to experience success with total extramural award revenues predicted to be near \$525 million for FY 2024. He also credited administrators, faculty, staff, students, and colleagues for the achievements that have been made with respect to the receipt of extramural research funding, remarking that a feat of this magnitude is the result of years of work, and expressed his

belief that the university must continue to invest in research and development initiatives in order to sustain this success.

Regent Abercrombie asked what differentiated the work performed by the Vice Provost for Academic Excellence from that which was done by the Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship. VP Syrmos explained that the Vice Provost for Academic Excellence is responsible for ensuring that the mission of the university's academic units is achieved while the Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship is primarily responsible for oversight of the research portfolios contained within the academic units.

Citing federal research and development funds received from the United States Department of Defense and the United States Department of Energy, Regent Abercrombie requested that a listing of the research projects funded by these monies be provided to regents. VP Syrmos confirmed that this information will be provided to regents.

Referencing the FY 2023 Monthly Report of Awards (Monthly Report) that was contained within the committee materials, Regent Abercrombie inquired as to why extramural monies received by the School of Cinematic Arts (SCA) at UHM was not included in these figures. VP Syrmos and President Lassner explained that the Monthly Report only contained information about extramural funding received by the university. SCA receives state and institutional funding in the operating budget but these funds are not from extramural sources and would not be recorded within the Monthly Report.

Regent Abercrombie sought clarification about the role of the Outreach College at UHM. President Lassner replied that, among other things, UHM's Outreach College administers non-credit coursework, online and distance learning education programs for off-campus students, the university's summer sessions, and various arts, cultural, and community programs.

D. Annual Report on Short-Term Investments for the FY Ended June 30, 2023

VP Young stated that a report on short-term investments for FY 2022-2023, which summarizes the performance of invested funds in the university treasury during the previous fiscal year, was provided in the committee materials in accordance with annual reporting requirements contained within Section 36-21, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, as well as Regents Policy 8.207 and explained that this item was being transmitted for informational purposes only.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Yvonne Lau
Executive Administrator and Secretary
of the Board of Regents