

MINUTES

SPECIAL BOARD OF REGENTS' MEETING

MAY 1, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair John C. Holzman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 1, 2014, at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Information Technology Building, 1st Floor Conference Room, 2420 Correa Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822.

Quorum (13): Chair John C. Holzman; Vice Chair, James H.Q. Lee; Vice Chair, Saedene K. Ota; and Regents Jeffrey Acido, Eugene Bal, Carl A. Carlson, John Dean, Chuck Gee, Ben Kudo, Coralie Matayoshi, Barry Mizuno, Randy Moore, and Jan Sullivan.

Excused: Regents Jeffrey Portnoy and Tom Shigemoto.

Others in Attendance: Associate Vice President for External Affairs and University Relations, Lynne Waters; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents, Cynthia Quinn; and others as noted.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents, Cynthia Quinn announced that written testimony and public comment on the Presidential Selection process was received from three individuals and distributed to the Board:

1. David Mihaila, attorney and civil rights activist, submitted testimony regarding the selection of the next president and statements about perceived fraud by former administrators.
2. Conrado Valdriz, local businessman, submitted testimony about the importance of proper due diligence in the selection of the next president.
3. Garry Rechnitz, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry at UH Mānoa, expressed concern about the ability of a military professional to lead an academic institution.

Secretary Quinn announced that six people signed up to present oral testimony.

1. Stanford Yuen, incoming Regent, testified as a private citizen and provided written testimony requesting the presidential selection be postponed to September to allow faculty and student input and proper due diligence to avoid disenfranchising stakeholders, even if this causes delay.

2. Claire Yakabe, UH undergraduate student, testified that she perceived the presidential selection process rushed, and wanted more time after finals to participate as many students are very invested in the university and want to be involved and see it flourish.
3. Chris Walker, UH undergraduate student, requested the presidential search be extended another four to five months during the summer to allow students to get in touch with campus leadership and research the candidates, because they are focused on finals and job searches.
4. Matthew Ryan, UH undergraduate student, requested the presidential selection process be extended to allow time for the student body representative to speak to students and student organizations about the candidates.
5. Abby Schroeder, UH undergraduate student, testified that students wanted more time for the candidates to go out into the campus community and interact with students and that there was not enough time for students to participate during finals.
6. Dr. Maenette Benham, Dean Hawai'i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge and member of the Regents' Committee on Presidential Selection, testified in favor of the presidential selection process and noted that the university is at a period of time that they can create great transformational programs on Mānoa campus and across the system. She believed that the Search Committee marched with a real sense of urgency over the past year, noted the commitment of both non-Regents and Regents on the committee to get the word out and get out into the public, and the extraordinary courage it took to sit in public neighborhood meetings and to listen and respond. She indicated they learned a lot about the system in their community and in their conversations together they took apart the topic and looked at it from so many different perspectives and viewpoints like every good university committee would do. She noted that they did not always agree, but the committee was very respectful of one another and supportive of the process. She said she heard and honored the comments made by the students and soon to be Regent Stanford Yuen about time, but urged the Board to move forward because the university is in deep need of having leadership to help take the university into the 21st century and meet the transformational opportunity that they have right now. She said she was honored and privileged to serve on the committee and had the highest respect for those people she worked with. She added that while she did not want any more work to do, she was willing to serve in any capacity that is asked of her.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Regent Gee, seconded by Regent Carlson, the Board unanimously approved convening in executive session, pursuant to HRS §92-5(a)(2)-(4), to discuss personnel matters. The Board convened in executive session at 9:13 a.m. Following a motion to come out of executive session by Regent Lee, seconded by Regent Gee, which was unanimously approved, executive session was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Chair Holzman then called the meeting to resume. He announced in Executive Session the Regents received and reviewed the final report from the Regents' Committee on Presidential Selection

He said the Board had discussed at great length the very thorough report by the Regents' Committee on Presidential Selection. He indicated that everyone on the Board felt the committee did an extraordinary job and extended thanks to Committee Chair Carl A. Carlson and every individual member of the committee. He stated that the Board has voted to accept the recommendations of the committee and plans to go forward with the process in the same spirit they started this search, which is to make it as open and transparent as possible and get the feedback from the public. He said that as many as people as possible will get the opportunity to meet the candidates, listen to them, and make their own judgment about their suitability to be the president of the university.

Chair Holzman emphasized that some people have focused on there being only two candidates and explained that the Board focused on the quality of the candidates. He said that each candidate in their own right is an extraordinarily talented and accomplished individual and each is qualified to lead the university. He noted the question now is who would be the best fit and the best president for the university at this time and it was a judgment the Board would make after getting input from the public and other stakeholders who are interested in the future of the university and love the university dearly. He said they look forward to hearing from the candidates, listening to the public, and then making their decision sometime probably in the first half of June.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Holzman announced that the two finalists for the position of the president of the University of Hawai'i System are Interim President David Lassner and Lieutenant General Francis Wiercinski, U.S. Army, Retired.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2014 at the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, upon motion by Regent Dean and seconded by Regent Sullivan, and unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cynthia Quinn', written in a cursive style.

Cynthia Quinn
Executive Administrator and
Secretary of the Board of Regents