

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING**  
**MAY 21, 2020**

**Note:** On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern, subsequently declaring it a pandemic on March 11, 2020. On March 16, 2020, Governor David Y. Ige issued a supplementary proclamation that temporarily suspended Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to public meetings and records, “to the extent necessary to enable boards to conduct business in person or through remote technology without holding meetings open to the public.”

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Ben Kudo called the meeting to order at 10:59 a.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2020. The meeting was conducted with regents participating from various locations.

Quorum (12): Chair Ben Kudo; Vice-Chair Jan Sullivan; Vice-Chair Wayne Higaki; Regent Simeon Acoba; Regent Kelli Acopan; Regent Eugene Bal; Regent Michael McEnerney; Regent Randy Moore; Regent Alapaki Nahale-a; Regent Michelle Tagorda; Regent Robert Westerman; and Regent Ernest Wilson Jr.

Others in attendance: President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Administration Jan Gouveia; VP for Community Colleges Erika Lacro; VP for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; VP for Academic Planning and Policy Donald Straney; VP for Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos; VP for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; VP for Advancement/UH Foundation (UHF) Chief Executive Officer Tim Dolan; UH-Mānoa (UHM) Provost Michael Bruno; UH-Hilo (UHH) Chancellor Bonnie Irwin; UH-West O’ahu (UHWO) Chancellor Maenette Benham; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Kendra Oishi; and others as noted.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 16, 2020 MEETING**

Vice-Chair Sullivan moved to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2020, meeting, seconded by Regent Wilson, and the motion carried, with all members present voting in the affirmative.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Board Secretary Oishi announced that the Board Office received numerous written testimony offering comments relating to the Maunakea management restructuring plan. While most of the written testimony received was in opposition to the management restructuring plan agenda item, there appeared to be confusion as to the action that was scheduled to be taken by the board as comments generally were directed at the issue of the overall governance of Maunakea, which was not under consideration for board action, rather than the internal restructuring of various university entities that currently

have oversight and management responsibilities for Maunakea. Written testimony offering comments on the Maunakea management restructuring plan agenda item may be found on the board website as follows:

[Written Testimony Comment Received](#)

[Written Testimony Comment Received2](#)

[Written Testimony Comment Received3](#)

[Late Written Testimony Comment Received](#)

[Late Written Testimony Comment Received2](#)

Board Secretary Oishi further noted that two individuals had registered to provide oral testimony. Mr. Hank “Hanalei” Fergerstrom and Rev. M. Kalani Souza.

Noting that he represented Na Kupuna Moku O Keawe, Mr. Fergerstrom stated that the organization opposed the approval of the Maunakea management restructuring plan. Mr. Fergerstrom commented that the process used to develop the proposed management restructuring plan appeared to lack transparency and openness as Na Kupuna Moku O Keawe, a Maunakea stakeholder, had neither been consulted on, nor received any draft of, the proposed plan and as such was unaware of its contents. Mr. Fergerstrom remarked that consultation and inclusion of all Maunakea stakeholders in any management issue regarding Maunakea is crucial and should be given utmost consideration by the board.

Chair Kudo clarified that there were two separate reorganization issues involving Maunakea management. The first issue, which is the agenda item under consideration by the board at this meeting, deals with administrative, organizational, and internal restructuring of the various entities of the university that currently are in existence and have oversight and management responsibilities for Maunakea. The second topic addresses the broader issue of the governance and management of the totality of Maunakea, which is not being considered at this meeting. Overall management and governance of Maunakea is an issue that will be subject to a lengthy process involving more than the board, including numerous government entities and stakeholders, and will include opportunities for input from a number of sources, including the community. Although the ultimate decision on the overall governance of Maunakea is not one that the board will make, he stated that the board initiated a process to begin understanding, assessing, and discussing various management governance alternatives, some of which were proposed to address criticisms raised regarding the governance of Maunakea. Chair Kudo noted the importance of these discussions to allow the board to advocate for changes in an informed manner.

Rev. Souza commented on the approval of the Maunakea management restructuring plan noting the lack of transparency and involvement of indigenous peoples in the process. He stressed that lack of transparency erodes public confidence and trust and that it would be in the board’s best interest to be as transparent and forthright as possible, particularly with this contentious issue.

#### **IV. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: COVID-19 UPDATE**

President Lassner updated the board on the university's current situation with regard to the COVID-19 public health crisis noting that the situation remains dynamic which requires the university to continue to maintain flexibility. He stated that the ability of faculty, staff, and students of the university to rise to the occasion and adapt to unexpected challenges amidst a new teaching and learning environment allowed the educational mission of the university to move forward.

Despite numerous challenges, the university was able to successfully complete the spring semester and fulfill its obligations to its students. The success in the use of online and distance learning that allowed completion of the spring semester was not only experienced by the university itself but also by the university's early college programs. Through a collaborative partnership between the various campuses of the university system and the State Department of Education, 231 early college education courses were offered during the spring semester, 228 of which were successfully completed and 3 of which required cancellation for various reasons.

As expected, the university's graduating class of 2020 will be entering a job market that has been dramatically altered by the COVID-19 crisis. As university graduates face one of the most difficult job markets in modern history, serious consideration may be given to pursuing further educational opportunities through enrollment in graduate school which would increase a graduate's qualifications when the employment market improves. The administration is hoping that many of UH's graduates consider this track.

Similarly, Hawai'i's class of 2020 high school graduates will be facing extremely challenging times. The administration is viewing this as an opportunity to encourage the 45 percent of high school graduates who do not pursue higher education to consider changing their plans and attend a college or university in the fall. To this end, the community colleges have partnered with Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education in developing the Next Steps to Your Future program (Next Steps) which is specifically designed to engage public high school graduates on all islands with higher education and career options. Mainly supported through private philanthropy, Next Steps is a summer onramp program that connects graduating high school seniors to available post-secondary education, training, and employment opportunities. Next Steps also includes the Hawai'i P-20 Summer Advising Initiative which links high school graduates with both general and personal advising to allow them to make informed decisions and take the critical steps needed to achieve their post-high school education plans. The Next Steps program has received tremendous interest from public high school graduates from the class of 2020 with over 580 students signed up for advising.

As part of the Next Steps program, the community colleges are also offering free, online Next Step: Career Exploration classes to Hawai'i's public high school graduates. Through these summer classes, students can learn how to navigate college; discover the education and training available at UH; determine whether to enroll in college, seek employment, or both; explore career options; develop career plans; and identify next steps toward their career and life goals. Enrollment in these classes will also allow students to begin earning credits towards a college degree. Interest in this program has

been strong with over 700 students registering for the program to date and 660 students scheduled to attend classes.

The university is forging ahead with plans to reopen campuses this fall and continues to take actions to ensure the health and safety of returning students, faculty, and staff. Since a safe return to campus can only take place when measures for physical distancing and hygiene are in place to lessen the risks of exposure, working teams have been assembled on each campus as part of the planning and preparation process. These working teams will address essential areas critical to meeting the unique needs of each campus for their anticipated fall reopening and will be using recently updated public health guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that is specific to the reopening of institutes for higher education (IHE).

The university's first summer session is slated to begin on May 26 with all courses being conducted online. Enrollment for the first summer session is strong with enrollment in both undergraduate and graduate level courses experiencing increases over the same period in 2019. The second summer session will provide the university with the opportunity to begin testing plans for a hybrid form of instruction which integrates both safe on-campus teaching with online instructional activities, a plan which the university is anticipating to fully implement in the fall.

As the world begins to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is expected that society will be facing a new normal until a vaccine or adequate treatment modalities are developed or herd immunity is achieved. Components of this new normal such as screening, testing, and contact tracing, as well as possible quarantining of individuals, are fundamental to any recovery efforts being undertaken and the university's intellectual, research, and instructional capacity is key to Hawai'i's recovery efforts. President Lassner announced that UHM and UHWO have partnered with the State Department of Health to provide training for an initial cohort of 200 individuals in contact tracing that will allow the state to meet its workforce needs for this effort. The community colleges will also be training more community health workers to assist individuals in the most disadvantaged communities which have tended to experience greater public health impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, JABSOM and the City and County of Honolulu have created a partnership to establish a testing lab which will serve multiple purposes including helping to increase testing among disadvantaged communities, driving innovation in the rapidly changing field of coronavirus testing and allow for pioneering of new testing methods that will assist Hawai'i and beyond, assisting with the university's requirements for testing within the UH community, and serving as a platform to enable the university to compete for federal research funding anticipated with regard to coronavirus and other infectious diseases.

The university also continues planning and developing strategies to prepare for and address multiple financial scenarios arising from the COVID-19 crisis and the impacts these scenarios will have on the university. While the full-scale impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the State's general fund is not yet known, all indications are that it will be significant and the university is anticipating budget shortfalls since general fund appropriations account for approximately half of the university's operating dollars.

Although deposits for fall enrollment have increased at some campuses, actual enrollment and associated tuition revenue remain uncertain as students and families, both in Hawai'i and abroad, are weighing their options and making their higher education decisions later than usual. Uncertainty also exists on whether the federal government will provide additional stimulus funding and, if so, how these funds will be distributed to IHEs.

Citing reports that universities are contemplating various changes to their operations to mitigate possible COVID-19 outbreaks such as adjusting academic calendars to shorten the academic year or requiring reconfigurations to student housing, Regent McEnerney asked whether similar plans were being considered by the university. President Lassner replied in the affirmative. He noted that IHEs across the country have been sharing experiences and ideas on ways to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 but that different conclusions are being reached on a number of issues. While the university is not contemplating changing its semester dates, it is considering changing the ways in which classes are offered including a mix of online and in-person course instruction and adjusting class times. Additionally, every classroom on every campus throughout the system is being assessed to determine maximum capacity when taking into consideration CDC guidance and recommendations which will probably result in smaller class sizes.

Regent McEnerney noted that many students may not be returning to IHEs that they were attending in the spring semester, opting instead to attend local colleges and universities, and asked how the university planned to address the transfer of credits with other institutions for these students. President Lassner replied that he recently signed an agreement between higher education institutions across the country that deals with general education learning outcomes known as the interstate passport system. This agreement will allow for easier transfer of general education credits/requirements for students. Discussions between IHEs are still ongoing with regard to major coursework requirements as these are unique to each institution.

Regent Wilson commented that while much of the focus on the health and well-being of individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic has been on physical health, it was important to also consider the impacts the pandemic has had on the mental health of individuals and commended the university administration for not overlooking this issue. President Lassner assured the board that the importance of the mental health of individuals, particularly those associated with the university, is a constant topic of discussion among members of the administration.

## **V. REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I FOUNDATION**

VP/UHF CEO Dolan provided a brief report on the fundraising efforts of UHF stating that he was optimistic about UHF's direction and effort in supporting the ten campuses of the UH System. He cautioned, however, that UHF will face challenges in its fundraising efforts and in fulfilling its mission over the next fiscal year due to economic and financial uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

UHF began the fiscal year with a goal of raising \$75 million. UHF has raised slightly over \$70 million to date and fully expects to surpass its \$75 million goal by the end of this fiscal year. VP Dolan noted that it was encouraging that the high-volume, low-dollar donations that are usually garnered by UHF's annual fund drive through efforts such as phone calls, e-mails, and donation requests sent through the mail, experienced an increase of 15 percent over last year despite these fundraising efforts being hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic. He reiterated, however, that UHF is expecting fundraising during the next fiscal year to be difficult, particularly among major gifts donors where UHF acquires a majority of its funds. UHF also is continuing its efforts to capture the attention of ultra-high net-worth individuals and organizations that have not experienced as great a financial impact from the COVID-19 pandemic and may serve as a source of philanthropy for the university.

Mr. John Han, Chief Operating Officer for UHF, presented an overview of the finances for UHF as of March 31, 2020. He reported that UHF's net assets totaled \$540 million, which was a decrease of approximately \$3 million in comparison to the same period last year, and that net operating revenues for UHF were approximately \$11.2 million, which was an increase of approximately \$1 million over the same period in 2019. Mr. Han explained that much of the increase in net revenues resulted from an increase in fee revenue as a result of a 17 percent increase in non-specific, cash donations made to UHF. UHF incurred \$8.9 million in expenses, approximately \$800,000 less than last year, but it was stressed that the decrease in expenses was primarily due to 11 unfilled vacancies at UHF.

Mr. Han briefly reviewed UHF funds expended by various UH programs for the 2020 fiscal year highlighting the reasons for the slight increase in spending witnessed by the faculty and academic support program and capital projects program.

Given the number of vacancies at UHF and that Hawai'i is currently experiencing a high rate of unemployment, Regent McEnerney asked whether UH graduates were being recruited to work at UHF. VP Dolan responded in the affirmative but explained that a number of the vacancies are in roles that require particular skills and UHF is being very methodical in its approach to hiring individuals for these positions.

Regent McEnerney inquired as to how the relocation of UHF offices from Bachman Hall to facilities located on King Street has impacted its development. VP Dolan replied that, although UHF is currently located at off-campus facilities, most of its major fundraising activities are already embedded in academic programs located on campus. The main impact of being located at off-campus facilities for UHF is in increased expenses caused by rent payments.

## **VI. COMMITTEE AND AFFILIATE REPORTS**

### **A. Report from the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**

Committee Chair Wilson gave a brief report on actions taken by the Committee on Academic and Students Affairs at its recently concluded meeting noting that the committee met and considered recommendations made by the administration to change

three programs: Bachelor of Arts in Public Health at UHM; Bachelor of Arts in Pharmacy Studies at UHH; and Graduate Program for Doctoral and Master of Science Degrees in Marine Biology at UHM, from provisional to established status and to establish one new program, Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity at UHWO. The committee recommended approval of these actions by the board.

Chair Wilson also noted that the committee had been provided information from the UH Student Caucus for its spring 2020 update, as well as a video presentation. While the student caucus could not provide their presentation in person due to present circumstances, he recognized and acknowledged their outstanding work and thanked the students for sharing their thoughts and ideas with the committee and the board. He also thanked Regent Acopan for all her efforts and hard work with the UH Student Caucus.

## **B. Report from the Committee on Personnel Affairs and Board Governance**

Committee Chair Tagorda provided a brief recap of actions taken by the Committee on Personnel Affairs and Board Governance at its recently concluded meeting. She reported that the committee met and considered two items including amendments to Regents Policy (RP) 9.212 with regard to Executive and Managerial (EM) Personnel Policies and amendments to RP 4.201, Mission and Purpose of the University, RP 4.202, Strategic Planning, and RP 4.203, Unit Academic Plans.

Committee Chair Tagorda stated that the proposed amendments to RP 9.212 would provide the board with greater oversight over salary adjustments for EM positions in excess of the usual percentage range of adjustments. She highlighted that the proposed policy changes would differentiate annual salary adjustments from other salary adjustments and require board approval for adjustments in excess of 5 percent of the base salary for EMs reporting to a position that reports directly to the board and for all EM appointments exceeding the maximum of the range in the salary schedule. She stated that the committee recommended approval of the proposed policy amendments.

The committee also reviewed and discussed proposed policy changes to RP 4.201, RP 4.202, and RP 4.203, as a follow-up to discussions that occurred during the February board meeting. Chair Tagorda stated the changes will conform these policies to the Integrated Academic and Facilities Plan that was previously adopted by the board and which the administration has already been using to guide its activities. However, she noted that changes to policies related to strategic planning may be subject to consultation. Accordingly, the committee recommended board approval of amendments to these policies subject to the administration conducting the necessary consultation by September 30, 2020.

A review and discussion on the committee's activities for the year also took place.

## **C. Affiliate Reports**

There were no affiliate reports.

## **VII. AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. Consent Agenda**

1. **Approval to Change from Provisional to Established Status: Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Health, UHM**
2. **Approval to Change from Provisional to Established Status: Bachelor of Arts in Pharmacy Studies, UHH**
3. **Approval to Change from Provisional to Established Status: Marine Biology Graduate Program for Doctoral and Master of Science Degrees in Marine Biology, UHM**
4. **Approval for the Establishment of a Provisional Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity, UHWO**
5. **Approval of Amendments to Regents Policy 9.212, Executive and Managerial Personnel Policies**

Prior to voting on the consent agenda, Chair Kudo stated that Regent Tagorda had recused herself from voting on agenda item A.1, relating to the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Health at UHM.

Regent Moore moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Regent Wilson, and noting the excused absence of Regent Acopan and the recusal of Regent Tagorda on agenda item A.1, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

**B. Approval of the Maunakea Management Restructuring Plan**

Prior to the presentation, Chair Kudo reiterated that this agenda item involved the administrative, organizational, and internal restructuring of the various entities of the university that currently are in existence and have oversight and management responsibilities for Maunakea and did not address the overall governance of Maunakea. Given some of the confusion surrounding this agenda item, he stated that he would be recommending the deferral of this matter until the board's June meeting to allow for further consultation with stakeholders.

Dr. Greg Chun, Executive Director of Maunakea Stewardship, stated that the administration was requesting approval of the internal management restructuring and reorganization plan for Maunakea (Plan) and provided a brief summary of the report on the Plan presented to the board at its meeting on April 16, 2020, noting that the development of the Plan, as well as the report presented, was a required action under Board Resolution 19-03. He repeated that the Plan merely encompassed administrative, organizational, and internal restructuring of entities of the university that currently are in existence and have oversight and management responsibilities for Maunakea and did not address overall governance issues.

Dr. Chun stated that the Plan was developed using a systematic approach to gather information that was collected across a broad swath of stakeholder groups including government agencies, elected officials, private landowners, other stakeholders, and numerous interested parties. The process to gather this information involved over 89 meetings, presentations, and conversations between November 6, 2019, and April 16, 2020; stakeholder meetings conducted by consultants working on the Maunakea Master Plan (Master Plan) update which are ongoing; and feedback received over the course of eight public hearings which were held as part of the administrative rulemaking process regarding Maunakea. As a result of this methodical approach to gathering information and input on the management of Maunakea, the administration developed six key objectives that were used as a guide in the establishment of the Plan. These objectives included improving transparency and lines of authority and accountability across management units; organizing management functions around mission-critical activities; clarifying the university's regulatory, stewardship, and advocacy roles by separating these functions within the university organization; leveraging and optimizing existing networks and partnerships to maximize resources and expertise; broadening, diversifying, and elevating stakeholder input in decision making; and maintaining governance continuity to minimize disruption to the maximum extent possible.

Through this analysis and information gathering process, the administration learned that one of the major issues of the current internal management structure for Maunakea is its multijurisdictional nature which has created vagueness and confusion with regard to management policy, responsibility, and authority. To address this issue, the Plan seeks to take a more unified approach to the management of Maunakea. Under the Plan, the Office of Maunakea Management (OMKM), which is currently under the jurisdiction of UHH, and Maunakea Support Services (MKSS), which is currently under the jurisdiction of the Institute for Astronomy at UHM, would be combined into a single entity to be known as the Center for Maunakea Stewardship (Center) that would be placed within UHH and led by an Executive Director who would be directly responsible for oversight of all the operations of the Center and report directly to UHH. It was noted that the Plan seeks to execute a merger strategy for OMKM and MKSS that was called for in the 2000 Master Plan which is currently in effect and was developed with broad community input and vetted and approved by the board. While the Plan does not contain every concern, suggestion, or idea received during the information gathering process, it seeks to accomplish what is in the best interest of the overall mission of the university while achieving the right balance between stakeholder interests, the responsibility to properly steward Maunakea, the responsibility to the community, and legal commitments and requirements.

Chair Kudo mentioned that the internal restructuring and reorganization of university entities charged with management of Maunakea is a dynamic situation and that adjustments will need to be made as circumstances change. However, it is important that the university continue efforts to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of its management responsibilities regarding Maunakea and the Plan is an effort to accomplish this goal. While decisions on the broader issue of the overall governance of Maunakea may ultimately impact the university's management role, he stated that action on the internal restructuring and reorganization efforts needed to be taken now

because of the unknown timeframe for decisions regarding this broader governance issue which could possibly take years to complete.

Vice-Chair Higaki commented that he supported Chair Kudo's decision to defer this agenda item until the next board meeting and reported that MKMB and Kahu Kū Mauna were in the process of scheduling meetings to discuss this issue, as well as other issues involving Maunakea, and that he and Regent Nahale-a, who both serve on MKMB, can obtain feedback on the Plan from both groups.

Regent Nahale-a noted that much of the frustration surrounding Maunakea over the years has been the lack of clarity as to management authority and accountability and that he is confident that the new management structure contained in the Plan addresses this issue. He stated that he also supports Chair Kudo's recommendation to defer this agenda item until the next board meeting remarking that most of the criticism received on this agenda item mentioned a lack of proper engagement and consultation, as well as a lack of sufficient opportunities to provide input and feedback, on the Plan. He also stated that the one month deferral of this issue will allow relationships with stakeholders to be maintained and improved.

Regent Acoba also supported the deferral of this issue until the next board meeting. He indicated that the reorganization is not only internal. The actions taken on Maunakea are affected by the master plans. The reorganization changes the roles of the parties responsible for the management and oversight of Maunakea and also creates a new Center with an executive director and a deputy director in the future. He noted that organizations that the university was supposed to be closely working with on this issue such as MKMB, Kahu Kū Mauna, and the observatories, testified that inadequate consultation occurred and that additional time was necessary to fully vet the Plan and respond accordingly. Their letters raise matters not raised in the presentation of the reorganization plan that was made to the board at its last meeting. Process is important and the parties should have the opportunity to respond. The one month deferral will allow for such vetting and response.

Chair Kudo stated that this matter was deferred until the board's June meeting.

### **C. Legislative Update**

VP Young provided a report on the actions taken by the Legislature to address the projected impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as it reconvened on May 11 after a nearly two-month recess. He stated that the Legislature was expected to recess again on May 21 and reconvene in mid-June after the Council on Revenues presented its economic forecast for Hawai'i. It is anticipated that the economic forecast will be grim and that the State will face a serious reduction in tax revenues while also confronting new expenditure requirements to address the unanticipated consequences of the pandemic. As such, the Legislature will more than likely need to make adjustments and reductions to the State budget for the next fiscal year when it reconvenes in mid-June.

Actions taken by the Legislature since it reconvened as well as the status of a number of measures impacting the university, including budget-related bills, were briefly reviewed. VP Young noted that both the operating and capital improvement projects

(CIP) supplemental budgets were anticipated to be passed by the Legislature and sent to the governor for review and approval. While there were no dollar amount reductions to the university's general fund appropriations, the Legislature eliminated many vacant full-time equivalent (FTE) position counts from the university's budget. In total, nearly 758 FTE counts were reduced, which is equivalent to more than 11 percent of all general-funded FTEs available to UH. Although these positions were vacant, these reductions will inhibit UH's ability to hire and recruit personnel which may have an impact on services to students and the community.

The university's CIP budget request for approximately \$230 million to address capital renewal, progress on deferred maintenance, and funding for projects to modernize each of the campuses within the university system is also expected to undergo significant revisions as a result of the economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is presumed that revisions will be made to the CIP budget once the Governor and Legislature further examine revenue streams and possible uses for bond appropriations relative to federal funding or additional stimulus funding. The university, however, provided the Legislature with a list of shovel-ready projects that would stimulate the state's economy when the worst of the pandemic passes.

He noted that, prior to the start of the 2020 legislative session, the board submitted a supplemental operating budget request of \$28.1 million in general funds. However, due to the decrease in State tax revenues and the uncertainty of Hawai'i's economic recovery, statewide reductions were implemented and none of the board's requests were approved by the Legislature.

Board and commission appointments made by the Governor that require the advice and consent of the State Senate were also being acted upon. VP Young specifically highlighted boards and commissions that were administratively attached to the university such as the Center for Nursing Advisory Board and Hawaii Medical Education Council noting that the nominees had passed initial confirmation hearings and were awaiting approval by the full Senate. Notably missing from these board and commission appointments, however, were nominations for the Board of Regents which the Governor has yet to provide to the Senate but which could be acted upon when the Legislature reconvenes in mid-June should those nominations be forwarded by the Governor.

Regent McEnerney questioned the nature of a negative figure of \$1,752,000 million contained in the CIP budget for renewal, modernization, and improvement. VP Young responded that this was a reduction in the amount previously appropriated by the Legislature for those purposes.

Regent Acoba asked what the Legislature would be covering in its June session. VP Young replied that all bills that were alive prior to the Legislature's recess in March could still be acted upon. While action on a number of bills that involve individual appropriations may still take place, given the anticipated economic outlook for the State, this is unlikely to occur. He reiterated, however, that the Legislature will more than likely be making amendments and adjustments to the 2021 fiscal year budget as more information on the economic forecast for the State becomes available.

**D. Appointment of a Permitted Interaction Group to Investigate Issues and Make Recommendations Related to the University of Hawai'i's Strategic Response and Economic Recovery From COVID-19**

Chair Kudo requested that the board approve the appointment of a permitted interaction group to be known as the COVID-19 Strategic Response and Economic Recovery Task Group (Task Group) whose purpose is to support and monitor the university's strategic response to the impacts engendered by COVID-19 upon the health and safety of the university community, the continuation of academic education and programs, research and technology infrastructure, revenues, operating costs and expenses, and the overall present and future viability of the university system. He stated that the magnitude and nature of the impacts of COVID-19 upon public and private IHEs throughout the United States is both significant and unprecedented and that the uncertainties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic have reshaped the higher education landscape across the nation. While the COVID-19 situation remains dynamic, it is not anticipated that a sense of normalcy will be returned to until a vaccine is developed. As such, it is important that the board engage more actively in the strategic planning by the university administration to better inform key board and administration decisions in the near- and long-term. The Task Group is intended to assist the board in this regard.

Vice-Chair Higaki moved to approve the appointment of the Task Group, seconded by Regent McEnerney, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

**E. Approval of the Establishment of the Lakshmi Devi and Devraj Sharma Endowed Chair II in Women's Health at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) at UHM**

President Lassner provided information on a financial commitment received from Santosh D. Sharma, MD, a distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Women's Health (OBGYN) at JABSOM, in the amount of \$2,000,000 to establish the Lakshmi Devi and Devraj Sharma Endowed Chair II in Women's Health in recognition and honor of the parents of Dr. Sharma for their commitment to her education and personal growth as a young female in Kenya, Africa, at a time when young women had little access to higher education. He noted that this was the second such gift bestowed upon OBGYN by Dr. Sharma with the first donation of \$2,000,000 being provided in 2015.

Regent McEnerney moved to approve the establishment of the Lakshmi Devi and Devraj Sharma Endowed Chair II in Women's Health at JABSOM, seconded by Regent Moore, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

**F. Approval of the Establishment of the Joanna Lau Sullivan Distinguished Endowed Professorship at the UH Cancer Center**

President Lassner provided information on a financial commitment for the establishment of the Joanna Lau Sullivan Distinguished Endowed Professorship at the UH Cancer Center in recognition of the generous philanthropic support of the late Maurice and Joanna Lau Sullivan to various causes and organizations, particularly

those related to education, medical care, cancer research, and the arts. He stated that interest earned as of March 31, 2020, from the J and M Sullivan Endowed Cancer Fund (Fund) would be used to support a distinguished endowed professorship at the UH Cancer Center, noting that the Fund was created from a previous gift from the Maurice and Joanna Sullivan Family Foundation to support an endowed chair in cancer research.

Regent McEnerney moved to approve the establishment of the Joanna Lau Sullivan Distinguished Endowed Professorship at the UH Cancer Center, seconded by Regent Moore, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

**G. Approval of Awarding of Title of Professor Emerita of Economics to Marcia Sakai**

President Lassner spoke about former faculty member Professor Marcia Sakai and provided a brief background of the long and illustrious career of Professor Sakai, highlighting a number of her accomplishments and giving a brief synopsis of her outstanding scholarly achievements and contributions to the university, most notably, serving as Interim Chancellor at UHH. He noted that Professor Sakai had been unanimously recommended for the title of professor emeritus by faculty of the College of Business and Economics at UHH but that she did not meet all of the necessary criteria – mainly that she had not served as a full professor for the requisite number of five years. As such, the administration is requesting board approval of the professor emerita status for Professor Marcia Sakai.

Regent Nahale-a moved to approve the awarding the title of Professor Emerita of Economics to Professor Marcia Sakai, seconded by Vice-Chair Higaki, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

**H. Approval of Resolution in Appreciation and Recognition of Michael McEnerney**

Chair Kudo noted that this agenda item would be deferred to the June board meeting.

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Kudo announced that the next board meeting was scheduled for June at a date and location to be determined.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Vice-Chair Sullivan moved to adjourn, seconded by Regent Moore, and the motion carried, with all members present voting in the affirmative, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Kendra Oishi

Executive Administrator and Secretary  
of the Board of Regents