

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS SPECIAL MEETING

JULY 7, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Randy Moore called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 7, 2022, at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Information Technology Building, 1st Floor Conference Room 105A/B, 2520 Correa Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822, with regents participating from various locations.

Quorum (11): Chair Randy Moore; Vice-Chair Alapaki Nahale-a; Regent Kelli Acopan; Regent Eugene Bal; Regent William Haning; Regent Wayne Higaki; Regent Gabriel Lee; Regent Diane Paloma; Regent Laurie Tochiki; Regent Robert Westerman; and Regent Ernest Wilson.

Others in attendance: President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; VP for Academic Strategy Debora Halbert; VP for Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos; VP for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer Garret Yoshimi; Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; 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) Kendra Oishi; and others as noted.

II. WELCOME NEW REGENTS LEE AND TOCHIKI

Chair Moore welcomed new Regents Gabriel Lee and Laurie Tochiki to the board.

Regent Lee and Regent Tochiki remarked that they were looking forward to serving on the board and working with their fellow regents for the betterment of the university.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Board Secretary Oishi announced that the Board Office did not receive any written testimony, and no individuals signed up to provide oral testimony.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Moore requested that Board Secretary Oishi conduct the election of officers as the current board officers may potentially be considered for election.

Board Secretary Oishi explained the process that would be used for the election of board officers, noting that the person elected would preside beginning at the next board meeting, and began the election by opening the nominations for chair of the board. Vice-Chair Nahale-a nominated Chair Moore to continue to serve as board chair. Board Secretary Oishi asked if there were any further nominations and none were made. The nominations were closed and a roll-call vote was conducted. With all members present voting in the affirmative, Chair Moore was re-elected as chair of the board.

It was noted that both the Hawai'i Revised Statutes and Bylaws of the Board of Regents provide for up to two vice-chairs to serve on the board. Regent Wilson moved for the election of two vice-chairs for the 2022 – 2023 academic year, seconded by Regent Paloma. Board Secretary Oishi conducted a roll-call vote and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative. She then proceeded with the election of the first vice-chair and opened the floor for nominations. Vice-Chair Nahale-a questioned whether an individual could nominate themselves for consideration as a vice-chair. Board Secretary Oishi replied in the affirmative. Vice-Chair Nahale-a then proceeded to nominate himself for consideration as first vice-chair. Board Secretary Oishi asked if there were any further nominations, and with none being stated, the nominations were closed and a roll-call vote was conducted. With all members present voting in the affirmative, Vice-Chair Nahale-a was re-elected as first vice-chair.

Board Secretary Oishi then proceeded with the election of the second vice-chair and opened the floor for nominations. Regent Wilson nominated himself for consideration as second vice-chair. Board Secretary Oishi asked if there were any further nominations. Regent Westerman nominated himself for consideration as second vice-chair. Board Secretary Oishi asked if there were any further nominations, and with none being made, she declared the nominations closed. Ballots were distributed to regents, collected, and tallied, and with six regents casting a vote for Regent Wilson and five regents casting a vote for Regent Westerman, Regent Wilson was elected as second vice-chair.

Chair Moore expressed his thanks and appreciation to regents for their support.

V. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Selection of Accuity, LLP for Audit and Accounting Services as External Auditors, for Fiscal Years 2022 through 2024

Regent Wilson moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Regent Westerman.

Regent Tochiki requested clarification on the process used to select Accuity, LLP as the university's external auditor. VP Young explained that the current services contract with Accuity, LLP expired on June 30, 2021, following the completion of the fiscal year (FY) 2021 audits. He provided an overview of the process used to solicit, qualify, and select an audit and accounting services firm for the FY 2022 through FY 2024 university audit reviews and reporting requirements, highlighting that three proposals for the provision of these services were received with each proposal being vetted by a team of university personnel familiar with accounting, auditing, and financial services.

There having been a motion that was moved and seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Regent Haning made a motion to convene in executive session, seconded by Regent Wilson, and with all members present voting in the affirmative, the board approved convening in executive session to carry-out deliberations concerning the hire, evaluation, dismissal, or discipline of an officer or employee, where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved pursuant to Section 92-5(a)(2), Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

The meeting recessed at 9:57 a.m.

Chair Moore called the meeting back to order at 11:05 a.m. and announced that the board met in executive session to discuss matters as stated on the agenda.

VII. AGENDA ITEMS (Continued)

A. Evaluation of the President

Chair Moore stated that the board met in executive session to continue discussions on the evaluation of the President and the board's evaluation of the President is attached to these minutes. The evaluation notes the following challenges, accomplishments, and matters for focus in the upcoming academic year:

Challenges:

- COVID-19 upended the university – students, faculty, staff, and activities – for the second year.
- Maintaining a focus on improving the way we do things, when the federal government provided so much pandemic stimulus money and the state's economy recovered more quickly than most people expected. The regents think the president/university is moving too slowly, while the faculty thinks it's moving too fast.
- Legislative issues: Maunakea management, Mānoa football, faculty tenure, state budget appropriation, and the lack of funds to expand Ching Field to meet NCAA fan attendance requirements.
- UH and higher education nationally are attracting fewer high school graduates, who increasingly do not pursue post-secondary education. Impacts are greatest on community colleges.

Accomplishments:

- UH handled the pandemic better than almost anyone in the state, and with little drama. Faculty, staff, and students are all to be commended on rising to the unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic.
- UH rebuilt its financial reserves.
- After the dust settled, there was general agreement that hiring the new football coach was a good decision.
- The gradual reorganization of UH and the Mānoa campus continues to result in savings, efficiencies, and positive outcomes. The personnel freeze enabled

resources to be gradually shifted to areas of higher priority. Position control will be permanent. The P-20 and career and technical education offices were successfully merged. Other mergers are under consideration and more common services are being developed across the community colleges, saving money and improving the delivery and consistency of services.

- UH has expanded its online degree programs, especially at the community colleges and for non-traditional students.
- Enrollment is up at Mānoa, countering falling enrollment at mainland public universities and colleges. Enrollment declines at other UH campuses are not as steep as the national averages.
- Research and philanthropy outcomes were outstanding.
- The president's administrative team is strong.

In the upcoming year:

- The development of a new strategic plan to implement an updated vision for the university is underway. It will provide context and direction for a "reimagined University of Hawai'i."
- Clarifying and simplifying faculty classifications is underway.
- Better land and facilities management and utilization is ongoing.
- The development of common general education requirements is underway.
- The president and board will work together on succession planning for administrative leadership at every level.
- The president and board will work together to improve the relationship between the university and the legislature.
- The university will address declining enrollment in the community colleges through expanded efforts in attracting and retaining students, including increasing and fully acknowledging enrollment in non-credit workforce development programs.

Overall, the board was pleased with President Lassner's performance and management of the university. The board looks forward to working with President Lassner and his administrative team to address the challenges, build on the successes, and continuously improve the outcomes for students, faculty, staff, and the community and to improve the university's responsiveness to our many constituencies, including government officials, members of the business community, and philanthropists and other grant-makers.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Moore announced that the next board meeting was scheduled for July 21, 2022, at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Moore adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Kendra Oishi
Executive Administrator and Secretary
of the Board of Regents

Attachment

The University of Hawai‘i board of regents met in executive session on June 2 and July 7, 2022, both with and without president David Lassner, to discuss his annual performance evaluation. We noted a number of challenges, accomplishments, and matters for focus in the upcoming academic year:

Challenges:

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- Maintaining a focus on improving the way we do things, when the federal government provided so much pandemic stimulus money and the state’s economy recovered more quickly than most people expected. The regents think the president/university is moving too slowly, while the faculty thinks it’s moving too fast.
- Legislative issues: Maunakea management, Mānoa football, faculty tenure, state budget appropriation, and the lack of funds to expand Ching Field to meet NCAA fan attendance requirements.
- UH and higher education nationally are attracting fewer high school graduates, who increasingly do not pursue post-secondary education. Impacts are greatest on community colleges.

Accomplishments:

- UH handled the pandemic better than almost anyone in the state, and with little drama. Faculty, staff, and students are all to be commended on rising to the unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic.
- UH rebuilt its financial reserves.
- After the dust settled, there was general agreement that hiring the new football coach was a good decision.
- The gradual reorganization of UH and the Mānoa campus continues to result in savings, efficiencies, and positive outcomes. The personnel freeze enabled resources to be gradually shifted to areas of higher priority. Position control will be permanent. The P-20 and career and technical education offices were successfully merged. Other mergers are under consideration and more common services are being developed across the community colleges, saving money and improving the delivery and consistency of services.
- UH has expanded its online degree programs, especially at the community colleges and for non-traditional students.
- Enrollment is up at Mānoa, countering falling enrollment at mainland public universities and colleges. Enrollment declines at other UH campuses are not as steep as the national averages.
- Research and philanthropy outcomes were outstanding.
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- Better land and facilities management and utilization is ongoing.
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The board looks forward to working with President Lassner and his administrative team to address the challenges, build on the successes, and continuously improve the outcomes for students, faculty, staff, and the community and to improve the university’s responsiveness to our many constituencies, including government officials, members of the business community, and philanthropists and other grant-makers.