

## **MINUTES**

### **BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING**

**JULY 21, 2022**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Moore called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. on Thursday, July 21, 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 (10): Chair Randy Moore; Vice-Chair Alapaki Nahale-a; Vice-Chair Ernest Wilson; Regent Kelli Acopan; Regent William Haning; Regent Wayne Higaki; Regent Gabriel Lee; Regent Diane Paloma; Regent Laurie Tochiki; and Regent Robert Westerman.

Excused (1): Regent Eugene Bal.

Others in attendance: President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Administration Jan Gouveia; 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 (UHM) 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. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chair Moore inquired if there were any corrections to the minutes of the May 19, 2022, and June 2, 2022, meetings which had been distributed. Hearing none, the minutes for both meetings were approved.

#### **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. She also explained that, in accordance with new statutory requirements, public testimony would be accepted during the meeting should an individual sign-up to provide testimony on a specific agenda item.

#### **IV. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

##### **A. COVID-19 Update**

President Lassner stated that the wearing of masks is still required in classrooms, shared laboratory spaces, and other confined instructional spaces and that the administration continues to encourage individuals to obtain a full series of vaccinations and take other precautions. He also noted that discussions on masking policies for the

fall semester are ongoing given the recent increase in COVID-19 case counts and the prevalence of multiple variants.

Regent Paloma arrived at 11:08 a.m.

**B. SCR 201 Task Force (Task Force) Next Steps Progress Report**

The steering committee formed to address the next steps of the Task Force continues to meet weekly to discuss five tasks that were developed to correlate with recommendations in the Task Force report. President Lassner reviewed each of the established tasks, provided updates on the work taking place on each issue, and stated that initial drafts of several recommended proposals, guidelines, processes, and policies have been developed and are currently being reviewed and prepared for appropriate consultation processes in the fall.

**C. Strategic Plan Progress Report**

President Lassner reported on progress being made on the university's strategic planning initiative noting significant activities that have occurred to date including the hiring of an external consulting firm to assist with community outreach efforts; the commencement of public survey efforts requesting comments on possible critical themes and emerging issues that has received over 1,000 responses to date; and the initiation of a process to begin interviewing key community stakeholders, including legislators. The strategic plan steering committee (SPSC), as well as its various working groups, will continue to meet throughout the summer to assess preliminary draft frameworks for the university's strategic plan. The Council of Chancellors will be briefed on the university's strategic planning efforts in August and feedback will be solicited on goals and metrics contained within the plan. It is anticipated that formal consultation on the proposed strategic plan will occur in fall 2022.

Regent Acopan arrived at 11:10 a.m.

**D. Other**

Registered headcount enrollment for the fall semester is down approximately 5.6 percent systemwide from the same day last year, although UHM's fall registered headcount enrollment has increased by approximately 1.4 percent. While disappointing, President Lassner pointed out that the university is still trending ahead of enrollment figures for peer institutions across the country. These enrollment statistics for the community colleges do not include the very large numbers of individuals enrolled in non-credit, workforce development programs, which remains a vital part of its mission and has accelerated with the pandemic. All campuses are focused on their enrollment efforts and fluctuations in these figures will continue until the beginning of the fall semester. A more detailed update on fall enrollment will be provided to the board in November after the official census date.

Extramural funding for the university system reached a significant milestone, achieving an historic \$505 million in fiscal year (FY) 2022, which is a \$19.5 million or 4% increase over FY 2021. President Lassner espoused the numerous benefits provided to

the State resulting from extramural funding, including economic stimulation and diversification; the creation of thousands of jobs and other employment opportunities; and increased engagement in research and problem-solving that addresses the challenges and opportunities that face Hawai'i and the world. He lauded the efforts of VP Symos as well as the entire university community for this tremendous accomplishment. He also reported that \$18.4 million in extramural funding for the current fiscal year has been received to date.

President Lassner reported that the National Science Foundation (NSF) recently announced its decision to initiate consultation for a federal environmental impact statement for the Thirty Meter Telescope project. He stressed that the university has no formal role in NSF's process or its outcomes other than as a stakeholder. With the recent enactment of Act 255, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022, the new Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) will serve as the sole authority for the management of Maunakea lands and associated regulatory processes going forward. He stated that the university remains committed to its Maunakea stewardship responsibilities through this transition in governance and will assist in the transfer of all subleases and permits as well as stewardship programs that the MKSOA decides to retain.

Three Nā Hōkū Hanohano award winners with ties to the university were recognized last night. The UH Maui College Institute of Hawaiian Music won the award for compilation album of the year. The Tuahine Troupe, a 22-member traditional Hawaiian music group born out of the Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language at UHM, won the award for Hawaiian language performance of the year. UHM Dean of the Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, historian Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio, was awarded the inaugural George Helm Leo Aloha 'Āina Award which honors an individual or group whose music inspires and embodies aloha 'āina.

Regent Paloma left at 11:19 a.m.

#### **E. Willard Wilson Award for Distinguished Service**

President Lassner and the board presented Dr. Lee Buencosejo-Lum, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, with the Board of Regents' Willard Wilson Award for Distinguished Service to the University of Hawai'i (Willard Wilson Award) which is named in honor of long-time university administrator and secretary of the board, Willard Wilson, who set a standard for exemplary service to the university during his 40-year career. He noted Dr. Buenconsejo-Lum's 25 years of dedicated service to the university; spoke about her commitment to both the university and the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting some of her numerous undertakings including testing and vaccination efforts for the university 'ohana as well as the drafting and constant revising of university COVID-19 policies and procedures; and expressed his gratitude for her service to the university. He also introduced 2019 Willard Wilson award winner Gerald Kato, an Associate Professor for UHM's School of Communication, who was unable to be recognized previously for his dedicated service to the university due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**F. President's Award for Excellence in Building and Ground Maintenance**

President Lassner presented Mr. Martin Ramos, a groundskeeper on the UHM campus, with the President's Award for Excellence in Building and Ground Maintenance which is given to an individual who has exhibited sustained superior performance in a maintenance, landscaping, custodial, or trucking position. He noted several of Mr. Martin's achievements, spoke about some of the accolades he has received from supervisors and fellow employees and commended his exemplary service to the university. He also introduced Marc McClintock and Kim Nishimura, the 2019 and 2020 recipients of the President's Award for Excellence in Building and Ground Maintenance who were unable to be previously properly recognized for their achievements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regent Paloma returned at 11:26 a.m.

Regents offered their congratulations to all of the university's awardees with Vice-Chair Nahale-a specifically expressing his appreciation for the acknowledgement of staff in light of the many criticisms that the university faces throughout the year as well as the significance of the awards with respect to aloha 'āina and what the university represents to the people of Hawai'i.

**V. COMMITTEE AND AFFILIATE REPORTS**

**A. Report from the Committee on Budget and Finance**

Committee Chair Westerman referenced the committee report provided in the meeting materials.

**B. Report from the Committee on Independent Audit**

Regent Higaki referenced the committee report provided in the meeting materials.

**C. Report from the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics**

Regent Haning referenced the committee report provided in the meeting materials.

**D. Report from the Committee on Planning and Facilities**

Committee Chair Nahale-a referenced the committee report provided in the meeting materials.

**VI. AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. Consent Agenda**

- 1. Requesting Approval to Indemnify National Aeronautics and Space Administration ("NASA") and the federal government when using U.S. Government Property for Sponsored Research awards received from NASA during Calendar Years 2022 and 2023**

- 2. Requesting Approval to Indemnify the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration from liability arising from transport of hazardous goods or materials for research projects undertaken by the UH Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research**
- 3. Request Approval of Indemnification Provision in a Grant Agreement between the American Association of Community Colleges and the University of Hawai'i to enhance the cybersecurity curriculum at Hawai'i Community College**

Chair Moore provided a brief background on indemnifications, explained the reasoning behind the approval of indemnification requests by the board, and described the consent agenda process for the benefit and edification of the newly-appointed Regents and the public.

Vice-Chair Wilson moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Regent Haning, and noting the excused absence of Regent Bal, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

#### **B. Legislative Update**

VP Young reviewed the supplemental operating and capital improvement projects (CIP) budgets; highlighted the status of select bills of interest that had the potential to impact the university or the board that were taken up by the Legislature this session; and noted concurrent resolutions involving the university that were adopted by the Legislature. He stated that the university received approximately \$63.3 million in supplemental operating funds and \$57.7 million in supplemental CIP funds for the upcoming fiscal year but emphasized that the restoration of reductions in general fund appropriations made in fiscal year 2021 accounted for a large portion of the supplemental operating funds.

Regent Haning requested clarification on the amount of funds appropriated for the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED) project. VP Young replied that \$350 million was provided to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for the capital construction of the NASED project and \$50 million was provided to the Aloha Stadium Authority for operations and maintenance.

Vice-Chair Nahale-a recognized and commended VP Young and his staff for their efforts at streamlining and simplifying the complexity of legislative matters for the board.

#### **C. Discussion Item: Attainment Goal – Hawai'i's Graduates for Hawai'i's Future**

Steve Schatz, Executive Director of the Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education (Hawaii P-20), provided an overview of Hawai'i's 55 by '25 Campaign ("55 by '25") that was established in 2009 with an overall goal of 55 percent of working-age adults having a two-or four-year degree by the year 2025 and highlighted the progress made in attaining this goal, citing numerous successes such as increases in the 4-year college-going rates, college graduation rates, and number of working-aged adults with a college

degree. Despite this success, he stated that Hawai'i P-20 believes there are reasons for establishing a new educational attainment goal and offered the rationale for these efforts, including that many credential, training, and apprenticeship programs that have high value do not require a college degree and the fact that a simple degree goal does not fully address Hawai'i's educational and workforce needs. He also reviewed the approach used in setting the new attainment goal, "Hawai'i's Graduates for Hawai'i's Future," and went over the five principles associated with this new goal as well as metrics related to each principle.

Regents expressed their thoughts on, and support for, the establishment of a new attainment goal, as well as its five guiding principles, and applauded the work of Director Schatz and Hawai'i P-20 in this endeavor.

Regent Tochiki questioned whether the new attainment goal included strategies for addressing individuals who have already left the educational pipeline without seeking a post-secondary education or other alternative. Executive Director Schatz responded in the affirmative stating that the fourth principle of the new attainment goal, which is to provide specific pathways that meet Hawai'i's workforce needs, contains initiatives to address this issue. President Lassner added that the pathways will allow for individuals to reenter the educational pipeline at any time to further their education or increase their skills to address the changing employment marketplace.

Regent Acopan asked whether the group tasked with developing and monitoring the new attainment goal and its five principles included individuals actively involved in the implementation of measures to achieve this goal such as counselors, instructors, deans, and chancellors. Executive Director Schatz replied that Hawai'i P-20 is continuing its outreach efforts on this matter but noted that some of the issues with respect to the new attainment goal are more K-12 focused while others are more post-secondary education focused and will require additional outreach from other entities such as the State Department of Education.

Regent Wilson inquired as to whether organized labor has had a role in the development of the new attainment goal. Executive Director Schatz stated that representatives for the unions that advocate for educational personnel, including the Hawai'i State Teachers Association and Hawai'i Government Employees Association, are on the Hawai'i P-20 Council and have been engaged in conversations regarding the new attainment goal.

Regent Paloma left at 12:22 p.m.

**D. Discussion Item: Regents' Perspectives on Updating the University of Hawai'i's Mission and Vision**

President Lassner stated that efforts to update the mission and vision of the university have been ongoing for the last two years noting numerous discussions held between the board and the administration. He stated that the goal for this discussion was not to come up with specific language today, but rather, to listen to input from the regents on mission and vision, and work closely with Board Secretary Oishi to use the

feedback in updating relevant documents. He reviewed the reference materials that are being used to guide this process including relevant Regents Policies; the Integrated Academic and Facilities Plan; lessons learned about the university and Hawai'i during the COVID-19 pandemic; themes developed through post-pandemic planning; and mission and vision statements from other institutions of higher education.

While it has been clear that the board desires a mission and vision that will set forth the context and direction for the State's only public university, the administration has faced difficulties in developing language for the university's mission and vision that meets these expectations. As such, the administration is seeking clear guidance from regents on the establishment of a new mission and vision for the university and believes this discussion will lay the groundwork for these efforts.

Discussions ensued on the process used thus far to develop mission and vision statements for the university, including the progress made on developing these statements as well as previous dialogue that occurred between the board and the administration on this matter. Regents also talked about the purpose of today's discussion; offered their thoughts on what they believed constituted a well-drafted mission and vision statement; noted several topics and issues they believed should be incorporated within these statements; opined that a succinct, well-defined mission and vision that lays out what the university wishes to achieve in its future will serve as a guide for successful attainment of these achievements and is important to the implementation of an effective strategic plan for the university; and deliberated the next steps that should be taken in this process.

Chair Moore requested that regents submit written comments expressing their personal view of the university's mission and vision, as well as its goals and objectives, to Board Secretary Oishi, by Friday, August 5, 2022, for compilation into a single document to be provided to the administration and regents for reflection and discussion at the August board meeting.

## **VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Vice-Chair Wilson made a motion to convene in executive session, seconded by Regent Westerman, and noting the excused absences of Regent Bal and Regent Paloma, and with all members present voting in the affirmative, the board approved convening in executive session to consult with the board's attorneys on questions and issues pertaining to the board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities, pursuant to Section 92-5(a)(4), Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

The meeting recessed at 1:16 p.m.

Regent Higaki left at 1:16 p.m.

Chair Moore called the meeting back to order at 2:36 p.m. and announced that the board met in executive session to discuss matters as stated on the agenda.

## **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Moore announced that the next board meeting was scheduled for August 18, 2022, at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Moore adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Kendra Oishi  
Executive Administrator and Secretary  
of the Board of Regents