

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING**  
**AUGUST 18, 2022**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Moore called the meeting to order at 11:22 a.m. on Thursday, August 18, 2022, at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Stan Sheriff Center, Ed Wong Hospitality Suite, 1355 Lower Campus Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822, with regents participating from various locations.

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

Others in attendance: President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Administration Jan Gouveia; VP for Community Colleges Erika Lacro; 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; Vice President 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; Associate VP for Legal Affairs Gary Takeuchi; 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 July 7, 2022, and July 21, 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 received late written testimony from former Governor Neil Abercrombie in support of construction necessary to expand seating at the Clarence T.C. Ching Stadium to comply with National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I requirements, and that 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.

Late written testimony may be viewed at the of the Board of Regents website as follows:

[Late Written Testimony Comment Received](#)

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

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

COVID-19 case counts continue to decline statewide and the university's situation remains stable. As increasing numbers of individuals return to campus for the fall semester, President Lassner stated that the university plans to maintain its present COVID-19 policies and protocols through the first month of classes after which time the administration will reassess and reevaluate the situation and respond accordingly. He also noted that the university plans to mount another COVID-19 vaccination campaign once a new vaccine that targets the widespread omicron variants is reviewed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and approved for use by the Federal Food and Drug Administration.

Additionally, the administration has been briefed by the Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) on current protocols and best practices with respect to monkeypox. Although it does not pose a high risk to most Hawai'i residents based upon currently available information, the administration will continue to monitor the situation and work closely with DOH to mitigate any infections should they occur.

##### **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 went over each of the established tasks which include reviewing unique issues involving faculty productivity challenges; developing guidelines for general faculty to "buy-out" teaching assignments with extramural or other sources of funding in a manner that is consistent with the new work assignment template for faculty; simplifying the faculty classification system and better aligning it with systems used at benchmark institutions; determining criteria for the reclassification of specialist and non-instructional faculty at the community colleges; and developing a transition process whereby an incumbent in a researcher or specialist position could apply for reclassification of that position. President Lassner provided an overview went over the established tasks in detail and provided updates on the work taking place on each issue. He stated that initial drafts of some of the recommended proposals, guidelines, processes, and policies have been developed and are either currently being reviewed or are being prepared for appropriate consultation processes in the fall. Some foundational work is still underway.

##### **C. Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Accreditation Update**

President Lassner explained that four of the university's campuses, UHM, UHH, UHWO, and UH Maui College (UHMC) are accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission, more commonly referred to as WASC, while its six community colleges are accredited by WASC's Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). Although the WASC accreditation process does not require formal board action like that required by the ACCJC accreditation process, he stated that the institutional importance of this matter was deserving of an informative update. As such,

he reviewed several of the key points contained within each campus's accreditation report, including various commendations and recommendations, and highlighted the outcomes of their respective reaffirmation process noting that UHM received the maximum 10-year reaffirmation; UHWO was reaffirmed for eight years with a requirement to submit an interim progress report on efforts to address some of its four noted recommendations; UHH was reaffirmed for six years, receiving eight recommendations and a notice of concern, which engenders a special visit by WASC in 2024; and UHMC was reaffirmed for eight years with a requirement to submit an interim report on progress made in addressing four recommendations. It was emphasized that each campus has already developed plans to address the noted recommendations contained with their accreditation reports and that six- and eight-year reaffirmations are not unusual for institutions of higher education seeking accreditation.

#### **D. Other**

Current registered credit headcount enrollment for the fall semester is down approximately 3.6 percent systemwide from the same day last year, although UHWO and Kua'i Community College are showing slight increases as of this day. While overall enrollment figures are disappointing, President Lassner noted that these numbers fluctuate literally on a daily basis and pointed out that, in some cases, students are registering for more course credit hours. Additionally, he reported that interest in online course instruction continues to increase with larger numbers of enrolled students at many of the university's campuses choosing online course sections over in-person course sections and greater numbers of degree-seeking students seeking fully online programs. A more detailed update on fall enrollment will be provided to the board in November after the official census date when fall enrollment numbers are frozen.

The university has received \$49 million in extramural funding to date this fiscal year, which is slightly less than what was received at the same point-in-time last year. President Lassner highlighted UHM's securing of seven Title VI International Education grants from the United States Department of Education that will provide a total of \$7 million over a four-year period for various programs and projects related to Asia and Pacific Studies. Additionally, he noted that UHM is the only university in the country to secure both National Resource Centers-Pacific Islands and Foreign Language and Area Studies-Pacific Islands grants, an area now recognized to be of strategic global importance environmentally, culturally, and geopolitically.

President Lassner commended the philanthropic fundraising efforts of UHF noting that a record \$165 million was raised in fiscal year 2022. He spoke about the inaugural UH Alumni Makers' Market, a unique event showcasing products from approximately 30 UH alumni-owned/operated restaurants and businesses that attracted over 350 attendees and served to generate interest in, and raise revenues for, the university. He also highlighted the receipt of a substantial multi-year gift from the Uehiro Foundation on Ethics and Education, which is based in Japan, to establish the Uehiro Center for the Advancement of Oceanography within UHM's Oceanography Department that will be used to support the engagement of ten graduate students and two faculty in the interdisciplinary study of complex environmental interactions, advancing the university's work toward achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

## **V. COMMITTEE AND AFFILIATE REPORTS**

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

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

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

Chair Moore stated that all of the committees noted above met on August 4, 2022 and referred regents to their respective committee reports which were contained within the materials packet. He stated that the Committee on Planning and Facilities held its meeting earlier this morning and requested Committee Chair Nahale-a to provide an oral report on the committee's proceedings to the board.

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

Committee Chair Nahale-a reported that the Committee on Planning and Facilities met to review and discuss various construction projects to expand the Clarence T.C. Ching Athletics Complex (Ching Athletics Complex). Given the closure of Aloha Stadium and that it will likely take several years for the development of a new stadium, the administration is proposing to further expand the Ching Athletics Complex to accommodate 17,000 fans in order to meet NCAA requirements to maintain Division I status. In addition to expanding the number of seats, projects also include the installation of a new video board, relocation of the track, and installation of a soccer practice field which will allow soccer games to be held on campus instead of in Waipio. After robust discussions, the committee voted to recommend board approval of these projects at an approximate cost of \$30 million.

## **VI. AGENDA ITEMS**

### **A. Consent Agenda**

Prior to the board acting on the consent agenda, Chair Moore stated that the agenda item VI.A.2. relating to the approval of construction projects to expand the Ching Athletics Complex and relocate the track on the UHM campus would be removed from the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda to be voted on separately.

#### **1. Review of the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges Midterm Accreditation Reports to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges for the following campuses:**

- a. Hawai'i Community College**
- b. Honolulu Community College**
- c. Kapi'olani Community College**
- d. Kaua'i Community College**
- e. Leeward Community College**

**f. Windward Community College**

- 3. Approval of Indemnification Provisions in a Non-Proprietary User Agreement with the Operator of SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory (“SLAC”), a U.S. Department of Energy Laboratory**
- 4. Approval of Indemnification Provision in a Sponsored Research Agreement from the U.S. Agency for International Development for the University of Hawai‘i, Pacific Disaster Center to enhance the early warning and decision support capacity in the Philippines**
- 5. Approval of Indemnification Provision in a Multi-Institutional Agreement among University of Sydney, Flinders University and the University of Hawai‘i**

Vice-Chair Wilson moved to approve the consent agenda with the exception of item VI.A.2. as noted, seconded by Regent Acopan, and noting the absence of Regent Higaki, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

**2. Approval of Construction Projects to Expand the Ching Athletics Complex and Relocate the Track on the UHM Campus**

Vice-Chair Nahale-a moved to approve the construction projects to expand the Ching Athletics Complex and relocate the track on the UHM campus, seconded by Regent Bal, and noting the no vote of Regent Lee and the absence of Regent Higaki, the motion carried with all other members present voting in the affirmative.

**B. Adoption and Approval to Request the Governor’s Final Approval of the Following:**

- 1. Amendments to Hawai‘i Administrative Rules (HARs) Title 20:**
  - a. Chapter 4, “Determination of Residency as Applied to Tuition Payments and Admission”; and**
  - b. Chapter 10, “Delinquent Financial Obligations”; and**
- 2. Simultaneous Repeal of HARS Title 20, Chapter 30, “Rules of Practice and Procedure”, and the Adoption of Chapter 30.1, “Rules of Practice and Procedure”**

Amy Kunz, Associate Vice President (AVP) for Budget and Finance and University Controller, provided background information on requests previously approved by the board in 2017 and 2021 authorizing the administration to seek the Governor’s consent to hold public hearings regarding proposed amendments to HARs Title 20, Chapters 4 and 10, as well as the simultaneous repeal of HARs Title 20, Chapter 30, and adoption of Chapter 30.1 in its place. She summarized the scope and contents of each of the administrative rules, provided the rationale for the requested changes, itemized the proposed amendments, and reviewed the amendment process, noting that approval to hold public hearings on the various HARs modifications was received from the Governor

in June 2022. A public hearing on the various HARs changes was held in July 2022 with only supportive testimony being received by the university thereby removing any need to further amend the proposed changes. As such, the administration is seeking board approval of the noted HARs amendments as well as authorization to transmit the amended HARs to the Governor for review and final approval.

Regent Paloma inquired about the number of students that apply for resident status each year. Tammi Oyadomari-Chun, Interim AVP for Academic Affairs, replied that all students are evaluated for residency status as part of their admissions application to the university.

Regent Acopan moved to approve the request to transmit the amended HARs to the Governor for final approval, seconded by Regent Paloma, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

### **C. Request to the Personnel Affairs and Board Governance Committee (PA&BG) to Recommend a Process for the Future Evaluation of the President**

Chair Moore stated that recent external inquiries regarding the evaluation of the president, as well as the executive sessions related to this evaluation, have prompted board leadership and the Board Office to begin to reassess the processes associated with these matters. As such, he proposed that this issue be referred to PA&BG for further review and discussion at its next meeting and recommended that the committee consider proposing amendments to Regents Policy 2.203, which relates to the evaluation of the president and other persons reporting directly to the board, as part of its review. He also noted that there have been past inconsistencies in the way the board has dealt with executive session minutes and suggested that PA&BG consider developing a process for the prospective management of the executive session minutes beginning with the July 7, 2022, meeting.

Vice-Chair Nahale-a expressed his support for Chair Moore's proposal expressing his belief that regents also had questions regarding the president's evaluation process.

There being no further comments or discussion, Chair Moore referred this matter to PA&BG.

### **D. University of Hawai'i System Strategic Plan Progress Report**

President Lassner presented background information on the administration's efforts to update the strategic plan under which the university is currently operating despite its lapsing at the end of 2021. He stated that the foundation for this work is well-grounded in several past undertakings, including the establishment of an Integrated Academic and Facilities Plan in 2017 and an external Third Decade Study that was completed in 2020, and emphasized that the administration's ultimate goal is to develop a comprehensive strategic plan that encompasses the best aspects of all of these previous endeavors.

VP Halbert reported on the progress made on the university's strategic planning initiative. She reviewed a timeline of significant activities that have occurred to date as well as anticipated actions for the remainder of the calendar year; discussed the

formation and membership of the strategic planning steering committee (SPSC) and elaborated upon the work it has conducted since April 2022; spoke about the process used to obtain input on critical themes and emerging issues for possible inclusion in the strategic plan noting the utilization of internal and external surveys, town hall meetings, and interviews with key community stakeholders; and summarized the results of these community engagement activities highlighting key data points, including notable differences between what internal and external stakeholders believed should be the university's top priorities.

President Lassner stated that the work performed by the SPSC, along with the information it obtained through community outreach efforts, has resulted in the development of both guiding principles and what are being referred to as imperatives. He proceeded to describe the guiding principles and provided details on the four imperatives that were established, reviewing the themes for each including student success, meeting Hawai'i's workforce needs for today and tomorrow, embracing kuleana to Hawaiians and Hawai'i, and economic diversification through university innovation and research. He also expanded upon the goals of the individual imperatives, as well as the necessity to establish collaborative partnerships to achieve these goals, and discussed the use of various metrics to gauge their success. While the established guiding principles will not be direct imperatives, it was emphasized that they will permeate all of the university's strategic planning actions.

President Lassner reviewed the next steps that will be taken in the strategic planning initiative process, stating that internal and external feedback received will be used to create an initial draft of the strategic plan. The administration will then share the draft plan with the university community via various forums in the early fall for the purposes of gathering further comment and input for consideration. It is anticipated that a final draft of the strategic plan, along with associated metrics to measure success, will be ready for presentation to the board at its November meeting.

Regents lauded the progress made in developing the university's strategic plan; offered comments about the strategic plan and strategic planning process, noting the rich diversity of opinions received from both internal and external stakeholders, the commonality between concepts for the strategic plan and those discussed with respect to the university's mission and vision, and the importance of embracing the established guiding principles; and commended the efforts of President Lassner, VP Halbert, and the entire university community on this matter.

The meeting recessed at 12:31 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:44 p.m.

#### **E. Discussion on Updating the University of Hawai'i's Mission and Vision**

Chair Moore provided a synopsis of previous dialogue that has occurred on the university's mission and vision noting the congruence between concepts expressed by regents regarding this matter and the information gathered through the strategic planning process as noted in the preceding presentation. He also spoke about the

similarities between regents' personal views regarding the university's mission and vision that were submitted to the Board Office and proposed that this material be provided to the SPSC with a request that it develop a draft mission and vision statement for the university that encapsulates, in totality, the information received to date. The administration can then present this draft mission and vision statement to the board for further review and discussion.

Regents concurred with, and shared their thoughts on, Chair Moore's proposal with many expressing their belief that this will serve as a good starting point for further discussions on this matter and offers clear guidance to the administration with respect to the establishment of a new mission and vision for the university.

Regent Higaki left at 12:51 p.m.

Given the information presently available, Regent Lee suggested that President Lassner be requested to submit his personal mission and vision statement for the university to the board for perusal by regents. Chair Moore agreed with Regent Lee's suggestion and asked President Lassner to provide his thoughts to the board.

Chair Moore expressed his views about the university's role in greater reconciliation of native Hawaiian issues, stated that allowing these matters to fester would be detrimental to the university in the future, and asked for regents' thoughts about this subject.

Regent Haning stated that the university is the best suited entity to serve as a forum for discussions about the reconciliation of native Hawaiian issues.

Regent Tochiki opined that the university should be deeply involved in the reconciliation of native Hawaiian issues and needs to serve as a model and innovator towards healing.

Vice-Chair Nahale-a conveyed his belief that the university ought to be the leader in any important issue impacting Hawai'i. Since native Hawaiian reconciliation is critical to the future of Hawai'i, discussions on dealing with the long-standing and deep-seated issues regarding this topic must involve the university. He also suggested the possible creation of an ad hoc committee to address this matter further.

## **VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Moore announced that the next board meeting was scheduled for September 15, 2022, at Windward Community College.



**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Moore adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Kendra Oishi  
Executive Administrator and Secretary  
of the Board of Regents