MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Moore called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. on Thursday, September 15, 2022, at Windward Community College, Hale Akoakoa 101-103, 45-720 Kea‘ahala Road, Kāne‘ohe, HI 96744, with regents participating from various locations.

Quorum (10): Chair Randy Moore; Vice-Chair Alapaki Nahale-a; Vice-Chair Ernest Wilson; Regent Kelli Acopan; Regent Eugene Bal; Regent Wayne Higaki; Regent Gabriel Lee; Regent Diane Paloma; Regent Laurie Tochiki; and Regent Robert Westerman.

Excused (1): Regent William Haning.

Others in attendance: President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Administration Jan Gouveia; VP for University of Hawai‘i (UH) Community Colleges (UHCC) Erika Lacro; VP for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; VP for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; VP for Advancement/UH Foundation (UHF) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Tim Dolan; UH Mānoa (UHM) Provost Michael Bruno; UH Hilo Chancellor Bonnie Irwin; UH West O‘ahu (UHWO) Chancellor Maenette Benham; Windward Community College (WinCC) Chancellor Ardis Eschenberg; 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 August 18, 2022, meeting which had been distributed. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Board Secretary Oishi announced that the Board Office received written comments from Amanda Patrick regarding the availability of in-person or face-to-face course options at UHWO for persons with learning disabilities, and that no individuals signed up to provide oral testimony.

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

Written Testimony Comment Received

IV. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

A. COVID-19 Update

President Lassner provided the rationale for the lifting of the remaining face mask requirements on all university campuses as of September 16, 2022, stating that this
decision was based upon recommendations from the university’s health and wellness experts and is in accord with State Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. However, as a matter of public health policy, he stated that the wearing of masks is still required for individuals who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or who are recovering after having contracted the virus. Additionally, individual campuses will retain the ability to require mask-wearing for certain events and within specific venues. The administration continues to encourage the wearing of masks indoors and at crowded events, requests that individuals be respectful of the mask wearing choices of others, and urges everyone to obtain applicable vaccinations.

Given that the pervasiveness of the COVID-19 pandemic is lessening, President Lassner stated that, going forward, he would only provide reports on this issue if the situation changes.

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

While policies addressing most of the recommendations contained within the Task Force’s report have been drafted and are currently being prepared for appropriate consultation in the fall, discussions are still ongoing with respect to determining criteria for a new class corresponding to specialist and non-instructional faculty at the community colleges. Although it is a daunting task, the working group formed to provide input on this matter continues to deliberate. President Lassner stated that recommendations for changes in response to the charge are expected to be prepared for presentation to the board by the end of the calendar year.

C. Strategic Plan Progress Report

The initial draft framework for the university’s six-year strategic plan has been published and made available for public review and comment. President Lassner stated that internal and external feedback on the four imperatives identified within the draft strategic plan is currently being solicited and encouraged all stakeholders to recommend specific actions that can be taken to achieve the strategic plan’s objectives. He also noted that several town halls will be conducted to give the community opportunities to learn more about the strategic plan and share their ideas, insights, and concerns, and that meetings regarding the strategic plan will be held with systemwide campus governance groups. Additionally, the administration is concomitantly refining proposed metrics to monitor the success of the imperatives. The team is also formulating action plans to achieve the goals and objectives of the strategic plan, taking the approach that specific action plans should be more agile and better suited to adapt to changing situations over time as opposed to the longer-term vision and imperatives of the strategic plan.

D. Other

Eleven days prior to the official census date when enrollment numbers are frozen, systemwide registered credit headcount enrollment for the fall semester is down approximately 2.8 percent, although UHM is expecting to welcome its largest-ever
entering freshman class exceeding 3,000 students for the first time in the history of the campus. Early college programs experienced their highest enrollments recorded to date with over 3,300 enrollees this fall, a nearly 20 percent increase over last year. The downward trend in the number of transfer students registering at the university continues, although it was underscored that institutions of higher education across the country are encountering similar declines. President Lassner noted that interest in online course instruction continues to grow with larger numbers of enrolled students at many of the university’s campuses choosing online course sections over in-person course sections, particularly at Leeward Community College and UHWO. He also stressed that enrollment figures do not factor in the large number of individuals taking non-credit workforce training courses at the community colleges. The administration is presently assessing the entirety of available enrollment information on a more granular level and will provide a detailed report on fall enrollment to the board in November.

The university has received $132 million in extramural funding to date as compared to $127 million received at the same point-in-time last year which represents a 3.7 percent increase. President Lassner spoke about the beneficial community impacts that can arise from university-led research related projects financed by extramural research funding. He shared information on four such endeavors currently underway that are addressing the Red Hill drinking water crisis by focusing on several issues including water quality, water security preparedness and resilience, the effective management and protection of water resources in Hawai‘i and the United States Affiliated Pacific Islands, improvements to underground fuel storage facilities and delivery systems that will lead to safer operations and mitigate groundwater contamination risks, and enhanced laboratory capabilities and capacity at the university to meet future water quality research needs. He also announced that the university will be hosting a one-day conference in October that emphasizes the importance of water to island communities through a cultural and historical context, as well as the current challenges facing our state, including the situation with the Red Hill bulk fuel storage facility.

President Lassner highlighted an anonymous philanthropic cash donation of $4.6 million that was made to the university’s new Center for Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity, $3 million of which will be used to fund an endowed chair and $1.6 million of which will be used to support programs and activities. He also referenced two recent events that involved the university including the inauguration of the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope on Haleakalā and the Pacific Island Conference of Leaders meeting that took place at the East-West Center for which he hosted a reception at College Hill.

E. WinCC Campus Presentation

Vice-Chair Nahale-a, who participated remotely, arrived at 11:00 a.m. and noted that two family members were intermittently present in the same room.

Chancellor Eschenberg provided an overview of enrollment statistics and noted relevant data trends over the last five years. While WinCC was successful in sustaining matriculation for several student populations, economic and social challenges continue to impede the pursuit of higher education among certain demographic groups which impacts overall enrollment numbers. She recapped some of the work initiated by
WinCC to address the immediate needs of its students and talked about longer-term initiatives undertaken to assist in-need populations including the Ho'olei Scholarship Program (Ho'olei) and the Hānaikaiaulu College Friendly Workplace Initiative (Hānaikaiaulu), a program that identifies, promotes, and collaborates with employers in the community that commit to being supportive of college-going student employees, stating that early data on the success of these interventions is promising.

In addition to the provision of direct financial support, WinCC has embarked on several endeavors to remove barriers to a post-secondary education, reduce perceptions that college is unattainable, and strategically increase enrollment. Chancellor Eschenberg reviewed some of the actions being taken to tackle these issues including ventures to increase engagement with potential early college students, particularly those of Native Hawaiian ancestry, by using programs such as Ho'olei and Hānaikaiaulu as leverage; address male student enrollment gaps; and develop and promote pathways to a college education that are conducive to student time constraints, particularly those faced by working adults. She also noted that WinCC is the first campus in the university system to offer several certificate and degree granting programs to incarcerated individuals, as well as to implement the Second Chance Pell Experimental Sites Initiative which provides need-based Pell grants to individuals incarcerated in state and federal penitentiaries thereby allowing these individuals to receive quality higher education both in prison and post release.

Chancellor Eschenberg went over some of the degrees and certificates that are awarded by WinCC and provided statistics on declared majors over the past five academic years highlighting a large drop in liberal arts majors but noting increases in other majors such as Hawaiian Studies and Veterinary Technician and Assistant. She also reviewed data trends related to several of UHCC’s performance measures, including fall-to-fall persistence rates, certificates of achievement and associate degrees awarded, graduation rates, transfer rates, and success rates for first-time, full-time students. While fall-to-fall persistence and transfer rates have remained relatively constant, there have been incremental increases in both three- and six-year graduation rates, as well as first-time, full-time student success rates, and parity has almost been achieved between degrees and certificates earned by Native Hawaiian students as compared to non-Native Hawaiian students. However, the overall number of degrees and certificates awarded has declined. Chancellor Eschenberg stated that WinCC is actively pursuing a number of approaches to address flagging numbers and spoke about some of the strategies currently being undertaken.

Referencing anecdotal evidence regarding struggles faced by the LGBTQ+ community on the WinCC campus, particularly among transgender students, Chancellor Eschenberg stated that a decision was made to conduct an LGBTQ+-specific campus climate survey to measure attitudes and perceptions among the campus community. She shared the results of the survey, which indicated a need for improvement, and stated that WinCC is actively engaged in efforts to cultivate a safe and supportive campus environment so that all students can achieve academic success and experience personal growth.
Chancellor Eschenberg noted several events that will be held to mark the 50th anniversary of WinCC and stated that one of the goals for its anniversary year is to raise $1 million in scholarship monies to assist students in overcoming financial barriers to a college education.

**Faculty Report**

Noe Tupou, WinCC Faculty Senate Presiding Chair, spoke about the work and accomplishments of the WinCC faculty, highlighting its efforts in developing, improving, increasing, and managing five innovative academic programs that have been launched since 2020. She talked about the benefits of these academic programs, noting that consideration was given to adult learner best practices in their development; provided an overview of each of these fully online programs which include the Hawai‘iloa Hawaiian Studies Associate of Arts Degree Program (Hawai‘iloa Program), the Ka‘ohekani Hawaiian Music Certificate Program (Ka‘ohekani Program), Business Core, the Entrepreneurship Associate of Arts Degree Program, and the Mental Health Technician Program; discussed program content and enrollment data; explained some of the rationale for the popularity of these programs; and highlighted program successes. A short video about the Ka‘ohekani Program was also shown.

**Student Report**

Roger Cardenas, President of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i at WinCC (ASUH-WinCC) and Ciera Adversalo-Clarke, Vice-President of ASUH-WinCC provided a report on ASUH-WinCC’s post-pandemic attempts to re-engage and reconnect with students both through in-person interactions and the maintenance of a social media presence. Mr. Cardenas spoke about some of the on-campus and online activities that ASUH-WinCC has coordinated to increase interpersonal and campus connections including an Easter egg hunt and ice cream social, as well as podcasts and video game tournaments. A video highlighting these efforts and other ASUH-WinCC student activities held throughout 2022 was shown.

Ms. Adversalo-Clarke and Mr. Cardenas provided information on ASUH-WinCC sponsored events to address the personal and mental well-being of students including food drives and yoga workshops. They also spoke about actions being taken, as well as events hosted by ASUH-WinCC, to improve support for Native Hawaiian students.

**Staff Report**

Christy Lawes, Staff Senate Chair, gave an overview of the type of work performed by WinCC staff, stating that their mission is to ensure both student and faculty success through the delivery of efficient on-campus services, as well as the effective provision of brick-and-mortar and online operational support. Although WinCC staff have a strong campus connection, she noted that the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the staff’s sense of belonging and reported on several staff-organized activities that were designed to maintain campus and interpersonal connections. She also reviewed some of the staff’s undertakings to support the basic needs of students, such as the offering of free meals, and coordinate proactive community building events.
Ke Kumu Pali Hawai‘ian Council (Ke Kumu Pali)

Ha’aheo Pagan, Chair of Ke Kumu Pali, provided an overview of the mission of Ke Kumu Pali and reviewed some of the cross-disciplinary actions it is taking to promote the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians including the holding of cultural enriching workshops for faculty, students, and staff, and supporting Hawaiian-centric productions at WinCC’s award-winning Paliku Theater.

Mr. Pagan presented data on Native Hawaiian student success at WinCC highlighting enrollment parity, fall-to-spring persistence rates, online course completion rates, and semester credit hours taken as compared to non-Native Hawaiian students, and expressed Ke Kumu Pali’s belief that these statistics are critical to the decision-making process regarding the education of Native Hawaiians at WinCC. He also spoke about a unique program offered at WinCC for students interested in ʻāina based work which was made possible through a collaborative partnership with the nonprofit organization Hoʻokuaʻāina. The Hoʻokuaʻāina - Ahupuaʻa Apprenticeship Program includes two years of paid tuition, allows students to gain hands-on experience in carrying on cultural practices and traditions and creating sustainable ahupuaʻa systems in Hawai‘i, and leads to the awarding of an Academic Subject Certificate in addition to an Associate of Arts or an Associate of Science degree upon completion.

Regents commended the students, faculty, staff, and administrators at WinCC for their thoughtful efforts to give back to the community, praised the work being done to reduce economic and social barriers to higher education, as well as to increase cultural awareness and expand Native Hawaiian educational programming, and lauded their ability to effectively garner external support for the campus.

Referencing the success of the Hawai‘iloa Program, Chair Moore asked whether the actions responsible for this success would be transferrable to other degree programs. Chancellor Eschenberg responded in the affirmative noting that WinCC has been actively working to incorporate the targeted marketing concepts used for the Hawai‘iloa Program to advance other online degree programs such as Business Core and the Mental Health Technician Certificate Program.

Noting the large number of students enrolled in the program that reside out-of-state, Chair Moore inquired about the means used to market this program. Ms. Tupou replied that the majority of marketing for the Hawai‘iloa Program took place via word-of-mouth through Hawaiian civic clubs, halāu, and other Hawaiian organizations on the continent. Mr. Pagan added that WinCC strategically contacted halāu and other Native Hawaiian community groups on the continent and utilized the social networks of these organizations to share information about, and generate interest in, the program.

Chair Moore expressed his dismay at the precipitous decline in Pell Grant recipients at WinCC given the amount of federal COVID-19 pandemic relief funds that were made available to students, as well as the student financial aid provided by the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation. Chancellor Eschenberg stated that data for the current academic year will not be available until later in the fall but hypothesized that there would be an increase in the number of students receiving Pell Grants.
V. REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI’I FOUNDATION (UHF)

VP/UHF CEO Dolan reported that UHF’s fundraising efforts resulted in the receipt of approximately $165 million in contributions for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022, which surpassed the record-setting previous fiscal year by $64.75 million and was nearly double the amount raised two years ago. He also pointed out the large amount of cash donations made stating that this accounted for just over $100 million of the total amount of funds received; discussed some of the community impacts of donations being made to the university; reviewed the various purposes for which funds were being donated, as well as a breakdown of the amounts received; and spoke about the sources from which funds were raised. It was also noted that UHF has been experiencing a rising trend in the receipt of major gifts which, while beneficial to the university, presents a new set of fundraising challenges including the lack of a sufficient number of major gifts officers to foster long-term relationships with current and prospective donors.

Although UHF has raised just over $20 million to date for the current fiscal year, VP Dolan stated that donations were running behind same-day figures from last year but explained that this lag could be attributed to the receipt of a $50 million gift from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) that was made in early FY 2021-2022.

John Han, Chief Operating Officer for UHF, reviewed UHF’s operating revenues and expenditures for FY 2021-2022 stating that the significant increase in total revenues realized, which amounted to approximately $16.8 million, was due to the selling off of high yield bonds from UHF’s endowment fund, a 36 percent increase in endowment fund returns on investment, and a surge in service fees due to the large number of donations made to the university. UHF saw a roughly 14.7 percent increase in operating expenditures which was mainly attributed to an increase in program activities, as well as the ramping up of marketing efforts. Overall, UHF’s total net revenues amounted to slightly more than $3.3 million.

Projections for UHF’s FY 2022-2023 operating revenues and expenditures were also presented. Mr. Han stated that UHF believes it will see a drop in the total number of gifts received during the fiscal year which will result in the diminution of proceeds from service fees and lead to a slight decline in operating revenues. UHF also expects to continue its aggressive fundraising and marketing campaigns and hire additional personnel to assist in these efforts thereby increasing its operating expenditures.

Regent Lee asked whether the monies raised to date by UHF for the current fiscal year were comparable to the same time period last fiscal year with the exclusion of the CZI gift. VP Dolan replied that the same-day point-in-time monies raised in both fiscal years are fairly comparable when the CZI gift is removed from consideration. However, the CZI gift will cause a large disparity to be reflected on the balance sheets as the year progresses.

VI. REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI’I ALL CAMPUS COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE CHAIRS (ACCFSC)
Regent Wilson, the board’s liaison to the ACCFSC, introduced Truc Nguyen and Rosie Vierra, the ACCFSC four-year and two-year campus co-chairs for 2021-2022. Dr. Nguyen and Ms. Vierra introduced current ACCFSC four-year campus chair Dr. Brent Sipes, who was unable to join the meeting due to a scheduling conflict, and current two-year campus chair Dr. Richard Halverson, who would be providing the presentation.

Dr. Halverson, spoke about the purpose, functions, composition, and meeting schedule of the ACCFSC noting that it serves as an arena for university faculty to participate in the development and interpretation of system-wide policy and fosters communication and understanding among the faculty, students, administration, board, and community. He also presented the findings of a quality of faculty work life survey conducted by the ACCFSC which measures faculty satisfaction and morale at each of the university campuses, and reviewed data on time spent by faculty on teaching activities as compared to research and scholarly activities, highlighting that all professors spend more time teaching than on research.

Chair Moore inquired about ACCFSC’s use of the information it obtains. Dr. Halverson replied that the information obtained is shared with the faculty senates at each of the campuses and is a helpful tool in duplicating successful efforts occurring at a particular campus as well as generating new ideas about campus improvements that will benefit the entire campus community.

Regent Acopan expressed her belief that students face similar challenges to those faced by faculty which were noted in the quality of work life survey and suggested that a similar survey be conducted among students to better gauge and understand their situation.

VII. COMMITTEE AND AFFILIATE REPORTS

A. Report from the Committee on Budget and Finance
B. Report from the Committee on Personnel Affairs and Board Governance
C. Report from the Committee on Planning and Facilities

Chair Moore stated that the committees noted above met on September 1, 2022, and referred regents to their respective committee reports contained in the materials packet.

VIII. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 Operating Budget
   University Operating Budget for FY 2022-2023 Presentation
   Link to FY 2022-2023 Operating Budget Presentation
   FY 2022-2023 Operating Budget Narrative
   Link to FY 2022-2023 Operating Budget Narrative
Appendix: University of Hawai‘i System FY 2022-2023 Operating Budget Proposal Budget Worksheets

Link to FY 2022-2023 Operating Budget Proposal Budget Worksheets

2. Approval of the Operating Budget for the Office of the Board of Regents and Office of Internal Audit for FY 2022-2023

Link to FY 2022-2023 BOR and Internal Audit Operating Budget

3. Approval of the FY 2022-2023 Supplemental Capital Improvement Project Expenditure Plan

4. Approval for the University of Hawai‘i to Accept from the State of Hawai‘i (Grantor) Conveyance of Fee Simple Title (via Quitclaim Deed) to Real Property Consisting of a 15.855 acre parcel of land Designated as Tax Map Key No. (3) 6-6-003:006 and Located at Lalamilo, Waimea, South Kohala, Island and County of Hawaii

5. Approval of Amendments to the Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Article II.D.3. Appointment of Committee Members, and Article V., Quorum

6. Approval of Annual Salary Adjustments for Positions that Report to the Board of Regents

7. Approval of Other Salary Adjustments for Positions that Report to the President

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

The meeting recessed at 11:47 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:58 a.m.

B. Regents’ perspectives on what it means for UH to be a Hawaiian-serving institution and UH’s role in reconciliation

Chair Moore summarized the primary goal, actions, and metrics of an imperative contained within the initial draft of the university’s strategic plan for 2023-2029 (Strategic Plan), which was to embrace kuleana to Hawaiians and Hawai‘i. He noted prior board discussions on this matter and explained that today’s conversation was intended to garner regents’ personal perspectives on what it means to be a Hawaiian serving institution, as well as whether the university has a broader role to play in the reconciliation of Native Hawaiian issues. He noted that he does not see the university’s role as fixing the problem, but should consider what role it plays in helping to get the problem fixed.

Regents were asked for their thoughts on these matters.

Vice-Chair Wilson provided background information on past attempts to tackle this issue, as well as discussions about this matter that have been, and continue to be held
among members of the Native Hawaiian community. He stated that this information should be reviewed and used as a blueprint to facilitate further development of the Strategic Plan.

Regent Tochiki expressed her belief that WinCC exemplified the role and action steps toward being a leader and modeling reconciliation.

Discussions ensued on the extent of the university’s internal and external roles in the reconciliation of Native Hawaiian issues; whether members of the Native Hawaiian community were or should be consulted on this subject given that this matter primarily impacts their constituency; individual campus successes in addressing issues impacting Native Hawaiians that have exemplified the university’s role in reconciliation and whether the action steps created through these endeavors can be duplicated systemwide; and the necessity of achieving consensus on this issue.

Regents also expressed their beliefs that the university’s role with respect to Native Hawaiian issues is not to solve the problem but rather is to serve as a leader in facilitating the discussion on this subject; that this issue is not limited to the Native Hawaiian community but impacts all of the people of Hawai‘i; that the university is poised to be a leader in the matter of reconciliation and should serve as a venue for conversations on this topic; and that discussions dealing with the long-standing and deep-seated issues regarding this topic must wholeheartedly involve the university.

Regent Paloma suggested that the board be apprised of the specific goals created with respect to past attempts to establish the university as a Native Hawaiian place of learning, as well as the status of these goals and whether questions surrounding this matter have been answered, and proposed that the university’s Native Hawaiian work committee, Hawai‘i Papa O Ke Ao, be asked to give a presentation at a future board meeting in order to provide greater context to this discussion. Chair Moore concurred with this proposal and asked President Lassner whether it would be possible for Hawai‘i Papa O Ke Ao to provide a presentation as to their thoughts and observations on this matter to the board at an upcoming meeting. President Lassner responded in the affirmative.

Vice-Chair Nahale-a opined that the university is the only entity in Hawai‘i that can deal with the complexity surrounding Native Hawaiian reconciliation and address the historic injustices the Native Hawaiian population has faced for generations. He also spoke about the frustrations felt among the Native Hawaiian population, as well as those that consider themselves to be Hawaiian nationals and others, with respect to the current State governance system’s failure to address these matters. As such, he feels that the university has an obligation to serve all the people of Hawai‘i, including the Native Hawaiian population and other marginalized groups, so as to ensure that every individual is provided with an opportunity to succeed on a systemic level. Vice-Chair Nahale-a stated his desire for the university to announce its intentions to be the strongest ally for Native Hawaiian self-governance going forward and discuss its rationale for its decision to not advocate for this position should it so choose.
President Lassner stated that the university has historically been focused on addressing this issue from a student and faculty standpoint. A new challenge is identifying the university’s role in broader Hawaiian issues such as the future of self-governance, the Hawaiian Homes program, and ceded lands issues.

Regent Westerman suggested that the drafters of the strategic plan reconsider the use of the phrase “Native Hawaiians across the islands” that is currently contained within the third imperative of the Strategic Plan given the large number of individuals of Native Hawaiian ancestry who are living in various parts of the world.

Chair Moore thanked regents for the robust conversation stating that a tremendous amount of information about the perspectives of regents on this particular matter has been provided to the individuals within the administration who are working on the Strategic Plan.

Chair Moore and President Lassner agreed that a follow up presentation would be scheduled for the November 2022 board meeting.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Moore announced that the next board meeting was scheduled for October 20, 2022, at Leeward Community College.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Moore adjourned the meeting at 12:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Kendra Oishi
Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents