

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

OCTOBER 20, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Moore called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at Leeward Community College, Education Building ED-201, 96-045 Ala 'Ike, Pearl City, HI 96782, 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 William Haning; Regent Wayne Higaki; Regent Gabriel Lee; Regent Laurie Tochiki; and Regent Robert Westerman.

Excused (1): Regent Diane Paloma.

Others in attendance: President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Administration Jan Gouveia; VP for Academic Strategy Debora Halbert; VP for University of Hawai'i (UH) Community Colleges (UHCC) Erika Lacro; VP for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; VP for Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos; VP for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer Garret Yoshimi; VP for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; VP for Advancement/University of Hawai'i Foundation 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; Leeward Community College (LeeCC) Chancellor Carlos Peñaloza; 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 September 15, 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 and a resolution from the Mānoa Staff Senate (MSS) regarding shared governance in recruitment for UH hybrid positions.

Thomas E. Browder submitted late written comments on the UH Strategic Plan for 2023-2029.

Joel Burgess, Ronda Melnychuk-Beselt, and Ren Moore submitted late written comments in opposition to the proposed tuition increase at the William S. Richardson School of Law (WSRSL). Chelsey (no last name provided) submitted late written comments in opposition to the proposed tuition schedule.

Kahele Cruz provided oral comments on the strategic planning process and the university as a Native Hawaiian serving institution.

Carl Dionne, Chair of the MSS, provided oral comments regarding shared governance in recruitment for UH hybrid positions.

Ariana Anderson, WSRSL Student Bar Association President, and Brent Sewell provided oral testimony in opposition to the proposed tuition increase at WSRSL.

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

[Written Testimony Comment Received](#)

[Late Written Testimony Comment Received](#)

Regent Bal arrived at 9:40 a.m.

IV. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

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

Although there were no major updates to present, President Lassner stated that work on addressing the recommendations contained within the Task Force's report is ongoing. Progress is being made on the challenging task of determining criteria for the reclassification of specialist and non-instructional faculty at the community colleges and the working group formed to provide input on this matter is nearing completion of this undertaking. Once information received from the working group is reviewed, the steering committee will finalize its report to the board, which is expected to include recommended changes to both Executive Policies and Regents Policies. It was also noted that questions remain about the need to amend any collective bargaining agreements. President Lassner remarked that one of the more interesting conversations among members of the working group has been about whether equivalency exists between the university's non-instructional faculty and the I2 faculty classification, which encompasses non-tenured professional instructional faculty within the university.

B. Strategic Plan Progress Report

The administration has held four town hall meetings and utilized an online discussion tool to solicit feedback and gather input on the initial draft framework for the university's six-year strategic plan. President Lassner stated that over 400 individuals, including faculty, students, legislators, and community members, have participated in these meetings, and that efforts are underway to synthesize the feedback received so that it can be integrated into the strategic planning process. He also stated that the administration is working on completing a summary document regarding the six-year strategic plan for presentation to the board in November.

Regent Haning arrived at 9:54 a.m.

C. Enrollment Update

Systemwide registered credit headcount enrollment for the fall semester has declined by approximately 2.8 percent with UHM and Windward Community College seeing the smallest declines in enrollment while UH Maui College and UHH experienced the largest. Among enrollment categories, undergraduate, graduate, and transfer students witnessed the biggest dips in enrollment. President Lassner spoke about the shortcomings of the headcount enrollment metric and emphasized that declining headcount enrollment is a continuing national trend among institutions of higher education. He also stated that the administration is presently assessing the enrollment data on a more granular level and will present a detailed report to the board in November that will provide a more complete picture of the university's fall enrollment.

Although the university's community colleges increasingly provide short-term workforce training and non-credit programs that are vital to Hawaii's economic revitalization and workforce development efforts, President Lassner explained that this information is not reflected in the official enrollment numbers which only contain data on students enrolled in credit courses. As such, he noted that nearly 11,000 students served by the community colleges over the past year, including more than 5,000 individuals who were enrolled in non-credit workforce training programs of 15 or more hours, were not included in the official enrollment statistics.

Despite the disappointing enrollment data, the university achieved several milestones relating to student achievement outcomes. On-time graduation rates for first-time full-time freshmen swelled to record highs at seven of the university's 10 campuses. Improving graduation rates is positive for students, but contributes to enrollment declines at the respective campuses if graduates are not replaced with new students. Positive news in that regard was that growth in first-time student enrollment continued, with over 7,200 first-time freshmen enrolled at a university campus this fall, a 2.7 percent increase from 2021 that followed a 6.4 percent increase in 2020. UHM welcomed over 3,100 new students, its largest-ever entering freshman class for the second year in a row. Early college programs also experienced their highest enrollments recorded to date with over 3,500 enrollees this fall, a nearly 22 percent increase over last year, mostly at the community colleges and UHWO.

D. Extramural Funding Update

The university received approximately \$229.3 million in extramural funding to date, which represents a 1.6 percent increase over the \$225.7 million received as of the same day last year.

E. Stadium Update

President Lassner stressed that neither he, nor the university, presently have any formal role in the ongoing discussions related to the Aloha Stadium project. Although as reported in the media he did attend a meeting between the Stadium Authority and the Governor about this issue, he did so as a statutorily designated non-voting ex-officio member of the Authority. The administration is actively monitoring the status of the Aloha Stadium project given its potential impacts to the university and advocating for outcomes that will support University of Hawai'i football, athletics, and our fans.

Given the lack of progress on the Aloha Stadium Project, the university continues to move forward with plans to increase the capacity of the Clarence T.C. Ching Field, as approved by the board, with the expectation that this venue will serve as the temporary home of the football program for the foreseeable future. President Lassner stated that the administration will be providing regular updates to the regents about the status of this project in the context of regular capital improvement project reports. He emphasized that this is the only action under the direct control of the university that can be taken to ensure compliance with National Collegiate Athletic Association attendance requirements to maintain the football program's Football Bowl Subdivision Division I status.

F. Other

Two longstanding voluntary resolution agreements that the university entered into with the United States Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights to address complaints involving Title IX compliance at UHM and systemwide accessibility to online programs and activities for qualified individuals with disabilities have been closed. President Lassner provided historical context to the complaints; discussed some of the conditions contained within the agreements, as well as actions taken by the university to implement these terms; and credited numerous university personnel for their efforts in closing out these agreements.

G. LeeCC Campus Presentation

Chancellor Peñaloza presented information on LeeCC's student population demographics stating that the characteristics of students enrolled at LeeCC have remained relatively static. As in the past, the student body's composition consists of elevated percentages of female, part-time, Native Hawaiian, and Filipino students. Additionally, the majority of the students enrolled at LeeCC are either liberal arts majors intending to transfer to a four-year university or individuals enrolled in career and technical education programs.

Although LeeCC faces challenges with respect to enrollment, Chancellor Peñaloza stated that they are similar to those being experienced by other community college campuses throughout the university system. He provided an overview of fall semester enrollment data highlighting that, while overall headcount enrollment and student semester credit hours have been trending lower over the past five years, early college enrollment has increased and the proportionality of new and continuing students remains steady. He also spoke about the educational benefits of early college programs as well as their impacts on enrollment; noted efforts to build upon the successes of LeeCC's early college program such as increasing collaboration with the Hawai'i Department of Education and Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education Program to develop additional career pathways for high school students; reviewed continuing education and workforce development enrollment data, which is not included in the official enrollment statistics; and discussed five occupational fields experiencing job growth, noting the cooperation occurring among the community colleges to increase capacity and meet workforce demands without duplicating services. LeeCC will continue to delve deeper into the variety of factors that impact enrollment trends,

including student's personal needs and familial obligations, so that it can develop better intervention strategies that will have a greater impact on the educational needs of students.

Chancellor Peñaloza went over data trends related to several of UHCC's student outcome performance measures including retention, graduation, and transfer rates for first-time full-time students. He provided the rationale for the uptick in retention rates and slight decreases in graduation and transfer rates explaining that the interrelation between these metrics can account for some of these outcomes. He also reviewed similar information specific to LeeCC's Native Hawaiian and Filipino students noting differences in the student outcome performance of these ethnic groups when compared the rest of the student population. While Native Hawaiian students continue to experience achievement gaps in retention and transfer rates, parity has almost been reached in graduation rates.

In an effort to close achievement gaps and improve performance outcomes, LeeCC has developed a suite of programs to provide academic and financial support to its students including the Lauhoe and Kahua Ho'omau Ola initiatives that embed culturally relevant practices and intrusive student support into academic programming to equip students for success; the Ke Ala 'Ike Scholars Program which seeks to incentivize a commitment to cultural growth and academic achievement; and the Ke Ala 'Anu'u Program, which is a project that was undertaken in collaboration with UHWO to support science, technology, engineering, and math pathways through a Hawaiian cultural-based curriculum. Chancellor Peñaloza spoke about the contents, goals, and key strategies of each of these programs, and noted their effects in creating a stronger sense of place for students which can be extremely beneficial to attaining improved academic progress.

LeeCC has also been focusing on initiatives to address some of the financial costs associated with obtaining a post-secondary education, including the Open Educational Resources (OER) Program. The OER Program, which provides zero-cost textbook courses to help reduce the costs of attending college, continues to grow with over 58 percent of the course sections offered at LeeCC being OER courses resulting in millions of dollars in savings for textbook costs.

Pūko'a no nā 'Ewa Native Hawaiian Council (Pūko'a no nā 'Ewa)

Genai U'ilani Keli'ikuli, Chair of Pūko'a no nā 'Ewa, provided an overview of the mission and vision of Pūko'a no nā 'Ewa stating that it endeavors to establish and maintain a native Hawaiian educational sanctuary that enriches the campus community through Hawaiian cultural values. She discussed Pūko'a no nā 'Ewa's efforts to indigenize the LeeCC campus, as well as its Wai'anae Moku Education Center, through the promotion of proper Native Hawaiian protocols explaining that the use of campus chants and LeeCC's Ho'ōia 'Āina land acknowledgement statement, as well as the wearing of graduation kīhei at commencement ceremonies, establishes a greater Hawaiian sense of place.

Pūko‘a no nā ‘Ewa also strives to bolster the Hawaiian cultural presence on campus. Through initiatives such as the increased use of Hawaiian names on buildings and classroom, the installation of culturally appropriate visual aesthetics on campus facilities, the building of a wa‘a (canoe), the holding of Makahiki games at convocation events, and providing input on the university’s draft strategic plan with respect to embracing kuleana to Hawaiians and Hawai‘i, Pūko‘a no nā ‘Ewa is working to create a cross-campus indigenous fabric. Ms. Keli‘ikuli also spoke about Ka Waimanomano, a 10-week professional development program designed to heighten Hawaiian cultural awareness among LeeCC employees by improving knowledge of Hawaiian culture, values, history, and language.

Staff Report

Kalekona Kingsbury, Staff Representative for the Administrative, Professional and Technical Group, stated that he would be providing the staff report although Tiffany Kosaga, the Chair of the Administrative Support Group, was present in the room and also served as a representative for the LeeCC staff.

Unlike other campuses, LeeCC does not have a staff senate, staff council, or other single formal entity that serves as a governing body representing the interests of staff. Rather, LeeCC staff are divided into different groups based upon employment factors like job description and bargaining units with individual representation on the LeeCC Campus Council. Mr. Kingsbury explained that efforts were underway to establish a staff senate at LeeCC and shared information on the catalysts for the formation of this entity which include the proposed formation of an All Campus Council of Staff Senate Chairs and a desire for greater involvement in the campus community, as well as the priorities for the direction of the college. He also reviewed steps that are being taken to form this entity; discussed the purposes, expectations, and goals of the proposed staff senate; and noted that both the administration of LeeCC and Campus Council leadership are supportive of this initiative.

Mr. Kingsbury reported on some of the activities that staff have engaged in over the past year including professional development programs like Kawaimanomano, events geared towards increasing student success, and activities aimed at improving connections among staff and other campus community members such as dance and cooking classes that were offered over the summer.

Faculty Report

Michael Oishi, Chair of the LeeCC Faculty Senate, provided a report on some of the work undertaken over the previous academic year to support students and their academic success and improve collaborative engagement with the college administration. He noted that the Faculty Senate focused its efforts on four major issues during the 2021-2022 academic year, including the creation of a culture of assessment to improve student success; the improvement of instructional design and delivery of online coursework; the updating of student services policies and procedures; and improvements to the college’s integrated planning and budgeting process.

The Faculty Senate continues its efforts to ensure that quality curricula and effective instructional practices are provided at LeeCC. Mr. Oishi discussed the work of four Faculty Senate committees to improve instructional design and delivery through objective assessments of course learning outcomes; revise distance education guidelines, as well as policies, procedures, assessment protocols, and best practices that provide technical and academic support to meet the challenges posed by distance education and assure distance learner success; review and update policies regarding academic issues such as graduation, unsatisfactory academic progress, and student conduct in order to uphold the rigor of LeeCCs academic programs while ensuring transparency and consistency in guidance provided to students; and amend the student complaint process document to more clearly delineate a student's right to due process and quality instruction. He also noted some of the successes of the committees.

Mr. Oishi stated that the Faculty Senate expects to be engaged in a number of projects during the 2022-2023 academic year including proposing revisions to the current campus budget and planning process; the hosting of campus forums to review the university's newly proposed general education (GenEd) curriculum and provide feedback and advice to the GenEd design team; reviewing and voting on LeeCC's revised mission, vision, and strategic plan; and recommending amendments to the college's academic grievance policies and procedures.

Student Report

Alex Williamson, President of the Associated Students of University of Hawai'i - LeeCC (ASUH-LeeCC), reviewed the mission of ASUH-LeeCC and highlighted several activities undertaken during the last academic year to increase student engagement and address student needs. He noted that ASUH-LeeCC has been highly active on social media hosting a number of interactive virtual events including podcasts on financial literacy, tobacco use, water conservation, and student participation verification. ASUH-LeeCC also continues to connect with its constituency through in-person events at both the LeeCC campus and Wai'anae Moku Education Center and remains engaged with the campus and university administrations through its involvement in updating campus policies, as well as contributing to discussions on systemwide strategic plans and the GenEd redesign proposal.

Mr. Williamson briefly spoke about his personal background, stating that he was an online student from Hawai'i Island, and expressed his gratitude for the educational and life changing opportunities that have been provided to him through LeeCC's distance education programming.

Referencing the Wai'anae Moku Education Center, Regent Haning asked for a distinction between that campus and LeeCC's main campus. Chancellor Peñaloza replied that LeeCC established its Wai'anae Moku Education Center approximately eight to 10 years ago, in its current location, to provide community residents with an accessible, affordable, high quality college experience in a supportive and respectful environment. At that time, individuals could begin their collegiate careers at the Center but were required to complete their degree program at LeeCC. As enrollment grew, LeeCC began to increase student services and opportunities at the Center and expand

its facilities to the point that a student can now complete their entire degree program there. He stressed that services at the Center are not duplicative of those provided at LeeCC because they are rotated between campuses. He also added that LeeCC hopes to increase workforce development programming at the Center in the near future.

Expressing her belief that graduation and transfer data points do not always tell the true story of a student's educational journey, Regent Tochiki inquired about LeeCC's experience with articulation and transfer pathways between the two-year and four-year campuses. Chancellor Peñaloza responded that LeeCC has a number of programs that are fashioned in the two-plus-two format whereby an individual earning an associate degree at LeeCC can matriculate to a four-year university campus to complete their bachelor's degree. LeeCC also continues to work with the four-year campuses, particularly UHWO, on developing additional program pathways that will allow students to continue their higher educational pursuits at a university system institution.

Vice-Chair Wilson questioned whether the Gen Ed redesign proposal took into account the impacts it may have on community college articulation and transfer pathways. Chancellor Peñaloza replied that the Gen Ed redesign proposal would provide increased opportunities for the seamless transition between campuses which will be beneficial to students. VP Halbert added that the current Gen Ed redesign proposal affords each individual campus with the opportunity to design signature Gen Ed programs that build upon basic requirements. As such, campuses can develop plans that are in agreement with their articulation pathways.

Noting that the data presented for student outcomes ends at 2018, Regent Lee asked for clarification on the dates used for this information. Chancellor Peñaloza replied that student outcome metrics for community colleges are based upon a 150 percent time to degree completion. Thus, trend graphs for these metrics only reflect outcomes for students that have enrolled for a third fall semester or have graduated from LeeCC which accounts for the lag. President Lassner added that the 2018 figures reflected current data for LeeCC's entering class of 2018 and were not data from 2018.

Chair Moore commended the students, faculty, staff, and administrators at LeeCC on the quality of the data provided and the detail of their presentations. He also remarked that there appears to have been some positive outcomes from the COVID-19 pandemic given the improvements that were made in distance education opportunities which allowed individuals like Mr. Williamson, who lives on Hawai'i Island, to continue their education and serve on a campus governance group such as ASUH-LeeCC. Mr. Williamson concurred with Chair Moore's assessment stating that a lot has been learned with respect to distance education that will increase opportunities for students in the future.

V. COMMITTEE AND AFFILIATE REPORTS

A. Report from the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs

B. Report from the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics

C. Report from the Committee on Research and Innovation

D. Affiliate Reports

1. University of Hawai'i Student Caucus

Chair Moore referred regents to the respective standing committee reports from the October 6, 2022, committee meetings, as well as the affiliate report for the University of Hawai'i Student Caucus, which were contained in the materials packet.

VI. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Provisional Status for the Master of Education in School Counseling at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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

The meeting recessed at 11:10 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

B. Information and Discussion: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) Presentation

Lori Kahikina, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of HART, provided background information on the creation of HART stating that it is a 100 percent tax-funded, semi-autonomous department of the City and County of Honolulu (City) responsible solely for the planning and construction of the City's rail system and that the City's Department of Transportation Services is the agency that will be in charge of operating and maintaining the rail system upon its transfer from HART.

Executive Director Kahikina spoke about HART's 2022 Recovery Plan that was recently accepted by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) noting some of its terms including truncation of the system by 1.25 miles and two stations as well as the deferred construction of the Pearl Highlands parking garage. She also discussed the next steps that will be necessary to receive the remaining \$744 million in federal funding for the project including amending the Full Funding Grant Agreement, which is the contract between the City and FTA with respect to the rail project, and the awarding of the City Center Guideway Project contract. It was noted that, despite the changes to the project that are included in the Recovery Plan, the FTA has committed to releasing all of the federal funds committed to the project.

An overview of the rail project was provided. Executive Director Kahikina noted that it is the first driverless and fully automated commuter rail system in the United States; reviewed both the original and truncated rail routes; talked about some of the services that will be provided at the 43-acre rail operations center which is located near the LeeCC campus; and discussed the sources of, and forecasts for, capital funds for the

project highlighting that the lion's share of monies will be obtained through the City's surcharge on Hawai'i's General Excise Tax.

Executive Director Kahikina reported on HART's progress toward completion of the rail project stating that operating segment one, which stretches from East Kapolei to Aloha Stadium and includes the first nine rail stations has been completed. Trial runs are being conducted on this segment and HART anticipates transferring these assets to DTS in early 2023. Construction of the guideway and four rail stations for operating segment two, which goes from Aloha Stadium to Middle Street, is expected to reach completion and be turned over to DTS in 2025. Design and construction planning for operating segment three, which will run from Middle Street to the Civic Center Station is currently occurring. She also discussed several construction challenges faced by the rail project including hammerhead cracks and the relocation of underground utilities, as well as steps being taken to address these issues, such as the proposed mauka guideway shift which will have an impact on the Honolulu Community College (HonCC) campus. It is anticipated that the entire system will be completed by 2031.

Updates were provided on activities that were occurring with respect to the anticipated long-term and temporary uses for areas of land associated with UHWO, LeeCC, HonCC, and the university's Pearl City Urban Garden.

Regent Haning questioned whether HART envisioned a future extension of rail to the UHM campus. Executive Director Kahikina responded in the affirmative stating that HART and its Board of Directors are committed to finding a way to continue the rail line to Ala Moana and beyond, including the UHM campus.

Regent Lee asked about the status of the \$330 million that was slated to be used for construction of the Pearl Highlands parking garage and whether there would still be parking stalls for rail located on that parcel. Executive Director Kahikina replied that no parking stalls will be located on the parcel that was intended for the Pearl Highlands parking garage and that the \$330 million would be expended on other costs associated with extending rail to the Civic Center Station.

Regent Westerman opined that, while extending rail to the UHM campus would be the most ideal scenario, completing the Ala Moana extension will be critical to alleviating any transportation issues that may be faced by students with the proposed shortened rail route. Executive Director Kahikina agreed with Regent Westerman's assessment stating that both HART and DTS are working on interim solutions to improve transportation connectivity between the rail stations at the end of the truncated system and the UHM campus.

Vice-Chair Nahale-a inquired about HART leadership's confidence in moving the rail project forward given its past challenges. Executive Director Kahikina replied that the biggest challenge the current HART leadership has faced has been gaining the trust of the numerous project stakeholders. She expressed her belief that the hard work and perseverance of the current HART team have paid dividends in rebuilding trust, regaining credibility, and re-establishing relationships with these stakeholders and will go a long way in ensuring project completion.

C. Approval of the Establishment of the Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity Endowed Chair at the University of Hawai'i Center for Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity (CIHE)

VP Syrmos provided information on an anonymous financial commitment of \$3,000,000 for the establishment of the Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity Endowed Chair at CIHE noting that the funds may be used at the discretion of the recipient to enhance and support the goals and initiatives of CIHE.

Vice-Chair Wilson moved to approve the establishment of the Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity Endowed Chair at CIHE, seconded by Regent Bal, and noting the excused absence of Regent Paloma, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

D. Approval of the Establishment and Naming of the Tang Wee Loke Distinguished Professorship at the School of Travel Industry Management (TIM) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Shidler College of Business (Shidler)

Provost Bruno provided information on a financial commitment of \$250,000 made by Wee Loke Tang of Singapore, an alumnus of Shidler and member of the Shidler Hall of Honor, to establish an endowed, named distinguished professorship at TIM. He also noted that Mr. Jay Shidler has donated \$250,000 in unrestricted matching funds to TIM in recognition of this gift. Proceeds from the endowment will be used to, among other things, support the recipient's education and research goals.

Regent Acopan moved to approve the establishment and naming of the Tang Wee Loke Distinguished Professorship at TIM, seconded by Regent Westerman, and noting the excused absence of Regent Paloma, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

E. Approval of Emerita Title for Gail Makuakāne-Lundin

Chancellor Irwin provided a synopsis of the long and illustrious career of Gail Makuakāne-Lundin, a recently retired Assistant Specialist in the Division of Student Affairs at UHH, highlighting the many accomplishments she achieved during her 37 years of distinguished service to the university, as well as her commitment to advancing educational opportunities for Native Hawaiian students and her numerous contributions to the broader community. She stated that these achievements warrant the bestowing of the Assistant Specialist Emerita title upon Ms. Makuakāne-Lundin and merits approval of an exception to Regents Policy 5.219 which establishes the criteria for the awarding of such titles.

Vice-Chair Nahale-a lauded the work and accomplishments of Ms. Makuakāne-Lundin stating that she was the true epitome of Aloha and embodied the warrior spirit.

Vice-Chair Wilson echoed the comments made by Vice-Chair Nahale-a remarking that Ms. Makuakāne-Lundin is a role model for Native Hawaiians, particularly Native Hawaiian women within the university system.

Vice-Chair Wilson moved to approve the conferring of the Assistant Specialist Emerita title upon Ms. Makuakāne-Lundin, seconded by Regent Westerman, and noting the excused absence of Regent Paloma, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

F. Review of Proposed Tuition Schedule

Chair Moore prefaced the presentation on the proposed tuition schedule by clarifying that the board would not be taking any action on this matter. Rather, the purpose of this report was for the administration to brief the board on its tuition proposal and ascertain the opinions of regents prior to seeking public comment on this matter. President Lassner added that the administration will refine the proposal based upon feedback received from regents, seek and gather public input on the refined proposal, and return to the board for formal action on this issue at a later date.

Pearl Iboshi, Director of the Institutional Research, Analysis, and Planning Office, provided a historical context of tuition at the university, as well as the process and approach used to develop the university's tuition schedules, reviewing several of the factors taken into consideration when formulating proposals for tuition adjustments. She also presented a 30-year comparison of tuition revenues and state appropriations received by the university system; reviewed multi-year tuition rate trends; noted previous board actions with respect to tuition; discussed the university's tuition levels relative to peer institutions, particularly with respect to tuition rates at WSRSL as compared to other public, west coast institutions; and spoke about the affordability of, and educational access provided by, the university.

President Lassner reported on additional budget and financial considerations that were contemplated by the administration during its discussions on the proposed tuition schedule including impacts of tuition increases on enrollment, inflation, and other economic factors, increases in university operational expenses, such as elevated utility costs, changes in funding patterns with respect to legislative appropriations, and the strength of the university's reserve fund balances. He went over university revenue and expenditure projections through the 2026-2027 Academic Year (AY), stating that recurring expenses are currently forecast to exceed revenues starting with AY 2024-2025; summarized the tuition schedule proposals, providing a brief explanation of each recommendation; noted the projected fiscal impacts of these proposals on the university; and talked about proposals to update Executive Policies related to tuition and fees, as well as tuition setting procedures. He also reviewed the planned uses for the additional revenue obtained by WSRSL through its tuition adjustment, stressing that these funds would be derived from the differential between the law school's tuition and the tuition for the rest of the UHM campus.

Noting the consideration given to utility costs with respect to developing the tuition proposals, Regent Westerman opined that the university needs to remain diligent in ensuring that its photovoltaic energy production efforts can achieve the maximum amount of cost-savings possible. President Lassner noted that the administration actively monitors utility cost-savings resulting from the university's renewable energy

production initiatives and provides this information to the board in its annual sustainability report.

Referencing testimony from the university's law school students, Regent Tochiki stated that she was appreciative of the modest tuition increases that were being proposed, as well as the fact that students would have an opportunity to provide further input on the administration's recommendations. She also encouraged the administration to be mindful of financial, housing, food security, mental health, and other basic necessities of all students, including those attending the WSRSL, and refrain from operating in silos when formulating its final proposal to the board. President Lassner acknowledged Regent Tochiki's comments pointing out that policies currently in existence provide for setting aside a certain percentage of gross tuition revenues for the purposes of assisting students in the form of direct financial aid.

Regent Bal asked for clarification on the \$71.2 million in non-recurring costs projected for fiscal year 2022-2023 stating that it was significantly larger than the forecasts for every other year. President Lassner replied that these costs were previously approved by the board with the anticipation that the university would receive \$50 million in maintenance-of-effort (MOE) funds. He noted that the Governor recently released the MOE funding and that the figure noted should be closer to \$21.2 million.

Regent Bal praised the administration for its efforts on this matter stating that the rationale for the proposed tuition increases was sound. He remarked that this was the most comprehensive and holistic approach to developing tuition proposals that he has seen during his time on the board. President Lassner thanked Regent Bal for his comments and stated that the current proposals were shaped by questions raised and comments made by regents in previous discussions on this issue.

Vice-Chair Nahale-a echoed the comments of Regent Bal stating that the proposals are balanced and that the breadth of information presented will assist the board in making an informed decision at the appropriate time. He stated his belief that tuition at the university should be commensurate with the cost of providing a quality education and that issues about student needs, while important, were separate matters that could be addressed through other avenues, such as the pursuit of targeted funding to support those needs.

Citing the current unpredictability with respect to the economy and inflation as well their impacts on the administration's fiscal projections in later years, Vice-Chair Nahale-a asked about the administration's rationale for recommending the establishment of a four-year tuition schedule. President Lassner replied that one reason for a multi-year tuition schedule was to provide greater predictability for students and parents. Additionally, the complexity and time-consuming nature of the tuition schedule proposal process, combined with the uncertainty of several factors impacting the fiscal condition of the university, make longer-term tuition schedules more practical. However, he stated that developing a rolling tuition schedule may be an option to address this concern.

Regent Acopan stated that, while she was not opposed to tuition increases and believed this was a necessary action to improve services to students, she remained frustrated with the lack of headway made by the university system on addressing the basic needs of students despite years of conversations on this matter. She stressed the importance of examining initiatives that could be implemented to address more immediate student needs separate and apart from the issue of tuition and expressed her belief that moderate tuition increases could be made at the community colleges without impacting affordability and accessibility to a post-secondary education. President Lassner stated that, although the tuition proposal does not offer much in terms of addressing basic student needs other than providing academic financial support, the administration continues to search for opportunities to generate external assistance in these matters and spoke about some of the proposals that are currently being pursued.

Noting that law school students appeared to be unaware of proposed tuition increases, Regent Acopan asked whether WSRSL students were engaged in these conversations. President Lassner replied that the proposal for modest increases at the WSRSL has been shared publicly and was presented to the board on March 17, 2022. Camille Nelson, Dean of WSRSL, added that discussions on proposed tuition increases occurred at several forums held last year regarding the development of a strategic plan for WSRSL and that students attended these meetings. She also stated that WSRSL leadership reached out to a number of student-oriented offices to gather information on the concerns, needs, and experiences of WSRSL students to generate ideas for the proposed uses of any additional revenues raised from the tuition increase. WSRSL anticipates that it will continue to have conversations with students and student leadership groups as this process moves forward.

Vice-Chair Wilson praised the administration's work on this issue, particularly with regard to improvements made in identifying and tracking the true costs of providing an education at the university, stating that this information will afford regents the opportunity to make informed decisions and is crucial for regents to be able to carry out their fiduciary responsibilities.

Regent Bal asked about the applicability of the federal loan forgiveness initiative toward meeting student needs. President Lassner replied that the federal loan forgiveness initiative does not offer any assistance to meet the basic needs of students beyond the provision of financial relief to students that received loans during a specified period.

Brief discussions took place on other factors related to tuition adjustments including the difficulty of predicting the impact a modest tuition increase will have on enrollment; non-tuition costs of attending an institution of higher education; the benefits of keeping tuition costs lower as opposed to increasing tuition costs but providing larger subsidies to students in need; and the sufficiency of tuition increases to improve a student's educational experience.

President Lassner thanked regents for the robust conversation and stated that the administration will have a meeting to discuss the regent's perspectives on the tuition proposal prior to seeking public input on this matter.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (closed to the public)

Vice-Chair Wilson moved to convene in executive session, seconded by Regent Bal, and noting the excused absence of Regent Paloma, and with all other members present voting in the affirmative, the board approved convening in executive session to consider 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 (HRS) and 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), HRS.

The meeting recessed at 1:12 p.m.

Regent Acopan left at 1:12 p.m.

Regent Bal left at 2:08 p.m.

Regent Lee left at 2:26 p.m.

Chair Moore called the meeting back to order at 2:51 p.m. and announced that the board met in executive session to discuss matters as stated on the agenda.

VIII. AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

A. Personnel Actions (A-1 for approval)

Chair Moore stated that personnel actions for approval included the appointment of Dr. Naoto Ueno as Director of the UH Cancer Center at UHM and the appointment of Jennifer Rose as Executive Director of Equity Assurance. President Lassner added that the second action included the creation of that position class.

Vice-Chair Wilson moved to approve the appointment of Dr. Naoto Ueno as Director of the UH Cancer Center at UHM and the appointment of Jennifer Rose as Executive Director of Equity Assurance as well as the creation of that position class, seconded by Regent Haning, and noting the excused absences of Regents Acopan, Bal, Lee, and Paloma, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Moore announced that the next board meeting was scheduled for November 17, 2022, at the UHH.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Moore adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Kendra Oishi
Executive Administrator and Secretary
of the Board of Regents