

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING**  
**JANUARY 19, 2023**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Moore called the meeting to order at 9:58 a.m. on Thursday, January 19, 2023, at the University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu, Campus Center, Room C208, 91-1001 Farrington Highway, Kapolei, HI 96707, with regents participating from various locations.

Quorum (11): Chair Randy Moore; Vice-Chair Alapaki Nahale-a; Vice-Chair Ernest Wilson; Regent Eugene Bal; Regent William Haning; Regent Wayne Higaki; Regent Gabriel Lee; Regent Luarel Loo; Regent Abigail Mawae; Regent Diane Paloma; and Regent Laurie Tochiki.

Others in attendance: President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Administration Jan Gouveia; VP for Academic Strategy Debora Halbert; VP for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; VP for Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos; 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 West O'ahu (UHWO) Chancellor Maenette Benham; Interim Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Interim Board Secretary) Jamie Go; and others as noted.

**II. WELCOME NEW INTERIM REGENTS LOO AND MAWAE**

Chair Moore welcomed new Interim Regents Laurel Loo and Abigail Mawae to the board.

Regent Loo and Regent Mawae remarked that they were looking forward to serving on the board.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chair Moore inquired if there were any corrections to the minutes of the November 17, 2022, and December 1, 2022, meetings which had been distributed. Hearing none, the minutes for both meetings were approved.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Interim Board Secretary Go announced that the Board Office received numerous written and late written comments, as well as resolutions from the Associated Students of UHM, the Graduate Student Organization Executive Council at UHM, and the Mānoa Faculty Senate, all of which were in support of renaming the Life Sciences Building at UHM as the Isabella Aiona Abbott Life Sciences Building.

Rosie Alegado, Robert Perkinson, Celia Smith, Sophia Manalo, Maile Cunningham, and Marissa Danta provided oral comments in support of renaming the Life Sciences Building at UHM as the Isabella Aiona Abbott Life Sciences Building

Jenny Brown provided oral comments regarding the proposed tuition schedule.

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

[Written Testimony Comment Received](#)

[Late Written Testimony Comment Received](#)

Chair Moore announced that Agenda Item IX.E. which relates to the renaming of the Life Sciences Building at UHM as the Isabella Aiona Abbot Life Sciences Building would be taken up at this time.

## **IX. AGENDA ITEMS**

### **E. Approval to Rename the Life Sciences Building at UHM as the Isabella Aiona Abbott Life Sciences Building**

Citing the accolades contained within the public comments, as well as those provided via oral testimony, President Lassner stated that Doctor Isabella Aiona Abbot truly exemplified what it means to be a person of significance to the University of Hawai'i. He lauded Dr. Abbott's many achievements and noted that renaming the new Life Sciences Building in her honor would be a fitting tribute to her life and career and was highly befitting of this remarkable individual.

Regent Mawae moved to approve the renaming of the Life Sciences Building at UHM as the Isabella Aiona Abbott Life Sciences Building. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Wilson.

Regents expressed their admiration for the work and accomplishments of, as well as the numerous contributions made to the university and Hawaii by, Dr. Abbott noting that they were moved by the spirit behind the public testimony received regarding this proposal.

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

### **V. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS HONORING UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I REGENT KELLI ACOPAN AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I REGENT ROBERT WESTERMAN**

Chair Moore stated that resolutions honoring former University of Hawai'i regents Kelli Acopan and Robert Westerman were contained within the meeting materials, read each resolution into the record, and asked if regents had any comments.

Regents offered their thanks to Regent Emeritus Westerman and Regent Emeritus Acopan for their service and commitment to the university and their outstanding work as members of the board.

Vice-Chair Wilson moved to adopt the resolution honoring University of Hawai'i Regent Robert Westerman, and the motion was seconded by Regent Higaki.

Regent Emeritus Westerman thanked his fellow regents, the administration, and staff for all the support he's received over the years stating that it was a tremendous honor and privilege to serve the university as a member of the board. He also expressed his belief that the University of Hawai'i is a premier public institution of higher education because of the efforts of the board and the administration, as well as numerous others associated with the university, including faculty and staff.

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

Vice-Chair Nahale-a moved to adopt the resolution honoring University of Hawai'i Regent Kelli Acopan, and the motion was seconded by Regent Haning.

Regent Emeritus Acopan thanked her fellow regents, the administration, and staff, as well as the students of the university, for the instrumental support she received during her tenure as the student regent on the board. She expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve the university as a member of the board and stated that she will continue to advocate for the best interests of the university.

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

## **VI. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

### **A. Attainment Goal**

President Lassner reported that the Hawai'i P-20 Advisory Council adopted a new educational attainment goal for the State of Hawaii entitled "Hawai'i's Graduates for Hawai'i's Future" stating that the specifics of this goal were presented to the board at its meeting in July of 2022. He noted that the new attainment goal encompasses the entire educational pipeline from pre-Kindergarten through transitions into the workforce and spoke about its vision and goals, which include universal access to high quality early learning opportunities; universal preparation of every K-12 student throughout their education for college, career, and citizenship; universal access to postsecondary opportunity and success; and universal education and training of Hawai'i residents to fill and create living wage jobs available across the state. Discussions on the new attainment goal will now shift to implementation.

### **B. Enrollment Update**

As of today compared to the same day last year, overall headcount enrollment for the spring 2023 semester is down by approximately 0.4 percent. This is an

improvement from the fall-over-fall census decline of 2.8 percent. UHM, Hawai'i Community College, Honolulu Community College, and Windward Community College have experienced modest increases to spring-over-spring enrollment. Five of the university's ten campuses have witnessed increases in spring student semester hours to date and there has been an over 15 percent increase in early college enrollments which the university is hoping will bode well for the college-going rate of public high school graduates in the future. President Lassner emphasized that the enrollment declines being experienced by the university are consistent with national trends and noted that an increase in students taking courses at multiple campuses does have an inflationary impact on duplicated headcount enrollment numbers.

The university also continues to monitor trends with respect to the instructional modalities being selected by students post-pandemic. As a system, slightly more than 53 percent of students were taking fully online courses, 26 percent took at least one fully online course, and 20 percent did not take any online courses during the fall semester of 2022. President Lassner noted that, while the number of students engaging in a fully online instructional modality has decreased from the height of the pandemic, it remains higher than what was observed pre-pandemic. However, the situation remains dynamic.

### **C. Extramural Funding and Federal Budget Bill Update**

The university has received approximately \$331.5 million in extramural funding to date, which represents slightly more than a 4 percent increase over the \$318.4 million received as of the same day last year.

President Lassner remarked that the recently passed Federal Omnibus Spending Bill (Spending Bill) contained appropriations and congressionally directed spending initiatives that are very favorable to the university. He advised that these appropriations and projects have been widely reported on and communicated and highlighted one project of note given the meeting location at UHWO. A \$1 million appropriation will help the university to build an indigenous data science hub that will develop sustainability solutions rooted in ancestral knowledge and indigenous practices. He stated that one of the primary goals of this indigenous data science hub will be to strengthen knowledge preservation using data visualization and technology-driven research focusing on energy security, food security, and place-based learning, and he highlighted that some of this work will be done in the Create X space in the Academy of Creative Media building on the UHWO campus.

It was noted that the Spending Bill also includes billions of dollars in nationwide higher-education funding with a large portion of these funds being directed towards support for minority serving institutions, including those serving Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian, as well as Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander, populations. Moneys are also being allocated for the TRIO program, which assists individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds in obtaining a post-secondary education and the GEAR UP program, a college access program that provides students and families the services needed for college success. In addition, the maximum amount for annual Pell Grant awards has been increased for a second time in as many years.

Although not being provided directly to the university, President Lassner stressed that the increase in funding for these programs provides the university with additional chances to compete for and maximize federal funding opportunities.

#### **D. SCR 201 Consultation Update**

President Lassner spoke about some of the activities that have taken place regarding the proposals contained within the SCR 201 Task Force Report that was presented to the board at its November 17, 2022, meeting. Since that time, initial drafts of the proposed revisions to Executive and Regents Policies have been reviewed by the Office of General Counsel; a group made up of Vice Chancellors for Academic Affairs has been convened to review and edit the proposed policy revisions; and work has begun on ascertaining procedures to delineate between issues requiring formal consultation and those that are subject to collective bargaining, which may necessitate entering into a memorandum of agreement with the respective collective bargaining units to address changes in existing contracts. A summary of the amendments to Executive and Regents Policies that will be required in order to effectuate the proposals and an estimated timeframe for implementation was also provided.

#### **E. Other**

Although the university is no longer experiencing any significant impact related to COVID-19, it remains present in the community. The university continues to urge individuals to get vaccinated and obtain booster shots and will be holding a vaccine clinic on the UHM campus on January 26, 2023.

President Lassner discussed the process for selecting a new Athletic Director (AD) at UHM stating that any appointment to this position must be approved by the board. Given the level of interest in the UHM AD position, he expressed his belief that hiring a search firm will be unnecessary. Instead, he announced his intention to convene a small search advisory committee consisting of both university and community members that will screen applicants and provide a list of qualified candidates from which one individual can be selected for recommendation to the board for appointment. He noted that this was the same process used eight years ago that resulted in the successful selection and appointment of current AD David Matlin. He also emphasized that the search advisory committee has not been selected or appointed and that an announcement about its membership will occur in the coming weeks.

Last month the UHM Esports program was named the 2022 Best Collegiate Esports Program of the Year by Esports Awards. President Lassner acknowledged Chris Lee, Director and Founder of the systemwide Academy for Creative Media, Regent Emeritus Jan Sullivan, and UH Esports Director, Sky Kauwelo, all of whom have played a role in supporting and driving this successful systemwide program.

#### **F. UHWO Campus Presentation**

Chancellor Benham provided an overview of the nine degree programs offered by the six divisions that comprise UHWO and the Academy for Creative Media, as well as the concentrated areas of study contained within each program, noting that their

interdisciplinary nature provides UHWO with the ability to quickly respond to workforce and real-world needs. She highlighted UHWO's interactive quick-facts dashboard which includes information on topics such as student demographics and academic programs of study, and reviewed data specifically related to enrollment, including enrollment trends and projections; degrees awarded; student retention rates; six-year graduation rates; distance education, average time-to-degree for first-time freshman and transfer students; and student diversity. She also spoke about the impact financial aid has on graduation rates at UHWO, noted that a large percentage of individuals earning a degree from UHWO are over the age of 25, and discussed efforts to increase awareness among community members about the monetary resources available to pursue a post-secondary education.

Noting post-pandemic changes to the method of educational instruction being selected by students, Chancellor Benham reviewed the characteristics of four course delivery methods used for the classes and programs offered at UHWO which include fully online, blended, hybrid, and fully in-person coursework modalities. She also went over spring-to-spring trend data related to each modality highlighting that, while there has been an increase in on-site class offerings amid a return to more traditional forms of course instruction, students opting for fully in-person classes at UHWO remain below pre-pandemic levels. It was noted that UHWO continues to gather and analyze data on the demands for various instructional modalities so that course offerings can be optimized to meet the needs of students.

In addition to optimizing course offering modalities, UHWO does face other academic and administrative challenges including recovering and increasing enrollment, boosting the on-campus presence, and aligning academic programming with workforce and economic needs, particularly those of West O'ahu. Chancellor Benham talked about some of these challenges and discussed various strategic actions being taken to address these issues.

### **Faculty Report**

Ka'iulani Akamine, Chair of the UHWO Faculty Senate, provided an overview of operations, composition, and committee structure of the Faculty Senate and reported on several activities undertaken by the Faculty Senate over the past year. She stated that, in addition to providing the UHWO faculty with a voice in campus governance, the Faculty Senate strives to promote and improve communications and mutual understanding among faculty, students, administration, and the UHWO community. She also spoke about the changing roles of faculty given the volume and complexity of issues that students currently face; discussed the sense of responsibility felt by the Faculty Senate to serve as a campus steward and to continue its work towards fulfilling the campus strategic plan; highlighted several achievements of, and accolades received by, UHWO faculty members; noted innovative coursework developed by faculty resulting from the idea of personal kuleana; and went over some of the challenges encountered by UHWO faculty.

### **Student Report**

Gabriel Navalta, former President of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu (ASUH-WO), stated that he would be providing the student report on behalf of current ASUH-WO President Malie Moe who could not attend the meeting. He summarized the work of ASUH-WO during the prior academic year stating that these efforts were aimed at maintaining its primary role as an advocate for students while striving to refine campus infrastructure and learning environments in order to improve educational experiences and better meet student needs. While the current iteration of ASUH-WO has been attempting to build upon these efforts, it was noted that special elections are currently being planned to fill numerous vacancies on the chartered student organization.

Mr. Navalta also provided a snapshot of several student-led activities that are occurring at UHWO stating that undertakings such as the distribution of student-designed planners, the establishment of student-led webinar programs, the provision of mentorship and tutoring programs through student organizations, and the holding of academic symposiums and other community related events have served to increase campus and community engagement.

### **Staff Report**

Therese Nakadomari, Information Technology Director at UHWO, explained that efforts are currently underway to establish a governing body at UHWO that represents the interests of staff. She discussed the purposes, expectations, and goals of the proposed staff senate and reviewed the steps that are being taken to form this entity which is expected to begin operating as an official campus governance organization by fall 2023.

### **Kūlana o Kapolei**

Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer, Konohiki for Kūlana o Kapolei, spoke about the collective stewardship activities of UHWO's campus organizations, including the Nālimakui Council, Kapwa - the Filipino Council, and faculty and staff service programs. She expounded upon the essence and meaning of Kūlana, explaining that it is the activating energy of individual kuleana and promotes transformation via a shared purpose. She also stated that through the embodiment and practicing of the five established pāhuhopu, or goals, of UHWO that were inspired by indigenous culture, campus organizations are able to foster a dynamic learning environment rooted in Native Hawaiian values. Initiatives and endeavors infused with the concepts of true wealth, excellence, and service to land and people within the community that serve to nurture relationships were also reviewed.

Referencing the statistics provided on enrollment by academic programs, Vice-Chair Wilson requested clarification about the low figures associated with the data analytics concentration given the growing importance of this subject matter. Chancellor Benham replied that data analytics is the newest concentration to be offered at UHWO and noted that enrollment in this specialized area of emphasis within the Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration is expected to increase over the next several semesters.

Vice-Chair Wilson asked if there were identifiable reasons for the decline in enrollment of Native Hawaiian students at UHWO considering the demographics of the surrounding community. Chancellor Benham responded that, while the number of Native Hawaiian students enrolled at UHWO has begun to stabilize, ascertaining an explanation for lower enrollment figures of a particular demographic is complex and challenging. The administration of UHWO continues to analyze the different cultural, socioeconomic, educational, and historical elements of the community that impact an individual's decision to pursue a post-secondary education or enter the workforce. Additionally, UHWO personnel frequently work with area schools to ensure that students and families are given the opportunity to learn more about the near- and long-term benefits of a post-secondary education.

Vice-Chair Nahale-a expressed his belief that the efforts to embrace kuleana at UHWO has led to a greater sense of place that not only impacts a student's educational experience, but also has a positive effect on the community it serves. However, he noted that quantitative metrics, such as the number of students in a classroom or the number of degrees awarded, are often used as a measurement of success, and asked about efforts to improve upon these criteria. Chancellor Benham described the approach being taken by UHWO to increase on-campus activity stating that these efforts are intended to strike a balance between qualitative and quantitative metrics as a measurement of the campus' success. She also stated that UHWO serves as an educational hub for the community that allows individuals to further their knowledge, improve upon their skills, or earn a degree. As such, UHWO has endeavored to provide degree earning and other educational opportunities in a manner that is manageable for the West O'ahu community which consists of a large number of working adults.

Given his understanding that many students across the university system take advantage of UHWO's distance education programming, Vice-Chair Wilson asked whether this information could be disaggregated to further highlight the successes being experienced by the campus despite having a lower on-campus presence. Chancellor Benham replied in the affirmative stating that this can be done via UHWO's data dashboard.

Regent Mawae asked whether there continues to be an interest in taking online courses and whether they will still be offered as an alternative to in-person classes at UHWO. She also inquired about the availability of in-person classes at UHWO. Chancellor Benham stated that in-person classes tend to be better suited for the population served by UHWO which is one reason for the emphasis being placed on increasing an on-campus presence. However, there continues to be a desire for the convenience offered by online coursework and attempts are being made to strike a balance between the two instructional modalities. As for the availability of in-person classes, she stated that the student affairs committee and academic affairs committee engage in a collaborative process to determine sufficient coursework section availability to best meet the academic needs of students.

Regent Paloma echoed the sentiments expressed by Vice-Chair Nahale-a regarding UHWO's efforts to develop a sense of place. She also commended the UHWO administration for its use of data in furthering the educational mission of the campus.



Chancellor Benham replied that one of the recommendations made during the campus's accreditation visit was to better utilize data analysis to inform its decision-making and is something the administration seeks to continually improve on.

**VII. REPRESENTATIVE AMY PERUSSO, CHAIR OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

Chair Moore remarked that Representative Amy Perruso, Chair of the House Committee on Higher Education and Technology, had requested to address the board but sent her regrets to the Board Office stating that she would be unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

**VIII. COMMITTEE AND AFFILIATE REPORTS**

- A. Report from the Committee on Planning and Facilities (P&F Committee)**
- B. University of Hawai'i Health Partners (UHP)**
- C. Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA)**
- D. Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH)**
- E. Career and Technical Education Coordinating Advisory Council (CTECAC)**

Chair Moore stated that the P&F Committee met immediately prior to the board meeting to discuss initiatives involving parcels of land at UHWO and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHH) noting that all regents were present at that meeting. He also referred regents to the respective affiliate reports for UHP, MKSOA, RCUH, and CTECAC, which were contained in the materials packet.

Vice-Chair Nahale-a, who serves as the Chair of the P&F Committee, pointed out that the committee recommended approval of the proposal related to the parcel of land at UHWO and recommended deferral of the proposal involving the parcel at UHH, which would be further reviewed at a special meeting in February.

**IX. AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. Consent Agenda**

- 1. Approval of Amendments to Regents Policy (RP) 2.203, Policy on Evaluation of the President and Other Persons Reporting Directly to the Board**
- 2. Approval to Convey to the State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) via Quitclaim Deed for an Approximate 5 – 7 Acre Parcel of Land Owned by University of Hawai'i Adjacent to the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu Campus (Tax Map Key Nos. (1) 9-1-016: 179, 183, and 220 (portions)) Pursuant to a Conveyance Agreement for the Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Repair of HDOT's Farrington Highway Widening Project**

- 3. Approval of Letters of Intent and a Long-Term Agreement for the Use of a Portion of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Campus Property (Tax Map Key No. (3) 2-4-001:122) to Develop and Operate a Photovoltaic Energy System Under a Power Purchase Agreement Between Hawaiian Electric Companies (HECO) Stage 3 Request for Proposals for Hawai'i Island for the Supply of Qualified Renewable Energy Under HECO's Renewable Dispatchable Generation Power Purchase Agreement**
- 4. Approval of an Indemnification Provision in a Contract Issued by the British Council with the University of Hawai'i**

Given that the P&F Committee deferred action on Agenda Item IX.A.3., Chair Moore removed this matter from the consent agenda.

Regent Haning moved to approve the consent agenda with the exception of Agenda Item IX.A.3, seconded by Vice-Chair Wilson, and noting the temporary absence of Regent Higaki, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

Chair Moore announced that Agenda Item IX.B would be discussed after the Executive Session and that Agenda Items IX.C, IX.D, and IX.F would be taken up at this time.

**C. Review of the Executive Summary of the Annual Institutional Review of Graduate Medical Education (GME) Programs at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) for Academic Year 2021-2022**

Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, M.D., Acting Dean and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at JABSOM, explained that the annual institutional review of GME programs at JABSOM is a major component of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's accreditation process. She also introduced Susan Steinmann, M.D, who serves as the Designated Institutional Official for the GME Programs at JABSOM and would be able to answer any questions about contents of the materials provided to the board. While the board is required to review these materials, it was noted that no further action would be necessary since the meeting minutes will serve as certification for the purposes of the review of the executive summaries of the annual institutional reviews of GME programs at JABSOM for the 2021-2022 academic year. No questions about the report were raised by regents.

**D. Approval of the Establishment and Naming of the Cades Foundation Term Professorship at the UHM William S. Richardson School of Law (WSRSL)**

Provost Bruno provided information on a financial commitment of \$500,000, pledged over a ten-year period for the establishment and naming of the Cades Foundation Term Professorship at WSRSL stating that additional details about this donation and its uses are contained within the materials provided to the board.

President Lassner offered his congratulations to VP Dolan, for his efforts in securing this financial commitment highlighting the uniqueness of this donation in that it is not

capital preserved but will provide greater funding versatility through an annual pledged income stream that will terminate at the conclusion of the commitment period.

Vice-Chair Wilson moved to approve the establishment and naming of the Cades Foundation Term Professorship at WSRSL, seconded by Vice-Chair Nahale-a, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

#### **F. 2023 University of Hawai'i Legislative Pre-Session Review and Legislative Budget Update**

VP Young furnished a preview of the 2023 legislative session and updated the board on the university's operating and capital improvement project (CIP) budget requests, highlighting several key elements of each. He also went over additional funding requests made by the Governor that were not contained within the university's submitted budgets including the restoration of approximately \$10 million to fund currently authorized general funded positions. While the Governor's budget request for the university includes about \$61 million in operating funds and \$120 million in CIP funding in each year of the fiscal biennium, it was emphasized that the budget process is dynamic, and these figures will be adjusted throughout the course of the session. Information about the membership of the current legislature, including the House Committees on Finance and Higher Education and Technology and the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Higher Education; briefings that were held regarding the university's budget; and the legislative timetable was also presented.

Regent Tochiki asked if the administration could respond to recently raised questions about the relationship of the university's budget request to the goals of its strategic plan and the provision of information about the disbursement of tuition monies in an easily understandable format. VP Young replied that the administration is working on delineating the relationships between the university's budget request and its strategic plan. While particularizing the distribution of funds received by the university, based upon revenue source would be a difficult exercise given the complexity of the university's budget, the various sources of funding received in addition to tuition revenues, and the multitude of operational uses for these monies, it is something that could be given future consideration.

Vice-Chair Nahale-a questioned whether alignment of the university's expenditures with the imperatives contained within its strategic plan would help to convey the funding requirements of the university to the Legislature and the public. VP Young expressed his belief that this would be helpful in communicating to the public and the Legislature that the university responsibly manages the funds requested from the State and ultimately, the taxpayer. However, he cautioned that some of the funding requests, particularly those associated with the day-to-day operations of the university, may not necessarily be thought of as being strategic despite meeting a strategic purpose and that articulating this point may be challenging.

Discussion ensued on the intricacies and challenges of the budgeting process.

#### **X. EXECUTIVE SESSION (closed to the public)**

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

The meeting recessed at 12:38 p.m.

Regent Higaki left at 1:27 p.m.

Chair Moore called the meeting back to order at 1:55 p.m. and announced that the board met in executive session to discuss matters as stated on the agenda.

## **XI. AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)**

### **B. Approval of the Tuition Schedule, 2023-2024 through 2026-2027**

VP Halbert explained that the proposed tuition schedule for the 2023-2024 through 2026-2027 academic years was presented to the board at its October 20, 2022, meeting during which the administration presented details on each of the recommended tuition adjustments including factors taken into consideration when formulating the various proposals; the rationale and justification for the respective proposals, as well as their fiscal impacts on both the university and the students; and the process that would be used to seek and gather public input on this matter.

Since that time, the administration has held four open public meetings at campuses on Hawai'i Island, Maui, Kaua'i, and O'ahu to inform students about, and receive comments on, the proposed tuition adjustments, with a fifth meeting being held to discuss tuition increases specific to the WSRSL. A website was also created to receive public comments on the proposals. In all, 62 persons attended the five meetings either in person or via zoom and 60 individuals, the majority of whom were students, submitted comments through a survey conducted online. VP Halbert spoke about the outcomes of the meetings along with the survey results, highlighting the most frequently mentioned concerns and the administration's responses to those concerns.

Regent Bal asked about the extent of the tuition survey's distribution and whether his understanding that responses were only received from 60 individuals was correct. VP Halbert replied that, despite numerous requests for feedback on the tuition schedule, multiple announcements regarding the tuition meetings, and widespread dissemination of information on the tuition survey by means of multiple forms of media, the administration only received 60 responses to the survey.

Regent Tochiki questioned whether each proposal received the same number of survey responses and asked if the responses could be disaggregated by enrollment status. VP Halbert answered that she believed there was an equivalent number of responses received for each proposal but would need to confirm that her supposition was correct. As for the enrollment categorization of respondents, the survey did not specifically ask for information about a student's enrollment level and the administration

would be unable to make this determination based upon the content of the individual responses.

Given the numerous opportunities and the various modes afforded to provide comments, Regents expressed their surprise at the low number of responses received regarding the tuition proposals, although Regent Mawae opined that the number of comments received may not be an accurate reflection of the views of students.

Regent Mawae asked for historical context to the proposed tuition increase at WSRSL. Camille Nelson, Dean of WSRSL, noted that the law school's tuition was last increased in 2016, which would mean that it will have been eight years since tuition adjustments were made at WSRSL, assuming the tuition schedule is approved as proposed and implementation of the increase occurs in the 2024 academic year as scheduled. She stated that, to the best of her knowledge, none of the law school's peers faced a similar situation. She also expressed her concern about WSRSL's ability to maintain its standards consistent with accreditation requirements if it does not receive additional resources to meet the needs of the law school and its students.

Regents voiced their support for the proposed tuition schedule, agreeing with the administration that it is fiscally responsible to proceed with gradual, small increases to deal with budget deficits rather than wait and be forced to make larger increases in the future. They also spoke about the value and quality of higher education offered by the university and commended the administration for its efforts in this matter.

Regent Mawae expressed her concerns about the proposed tuition increase.

Although she endorsed the proposed tuition schedule, Regent Tochiki urged the administration to continue to provide every opportunity for students to obtain financial aid and other assistance necessary to meet their basic needs.

Regent Mawae asked about the relationship between funding for UHM and the WSRSL, as well as the specific uses for the additional resources expected to be received by the law school from the tuition increase. VP Halbert replied that some of the proposed uses for the additional resources received by the law school were contained within the materials provided to the board. Dean Nelson pointed out that WSRSL leadership reached out to a number of student-oriented offices to gather information on the concerns, needs, and experiences of WSRSL students in order to generate ideas for the proposed uses of any additional revenues raised from the tuition increase. In light of these conversations, she stated that WSRSL intends to use funding received from the tuition increase to carry out its core endeavor and make additional resources available for extracurricular and other activities that enhance a law student's educational experience. President Lassner stressed that all of the revenue obtained by WSRSL through its tuition adjustment would go directly back to the law school, adding 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.

Vice-Chair Wilson moved to approve the 2023-2024 through 2026-2027 tuition schedule, seconded by Regent Haning, and noting the no vote of Regent Mawae and

the excused absence of Regent Higaki, the motion carried with all other members present voting in the affirmative.

**XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Moore announced that the next board meeting was scheduled for February 16, 2023, at the University of Hawai'i Maui College.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Moore adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Jamie Go  
Interim Executive Administrator and  
Secretary of the Board of Regents