

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS SPECIAL MEETING

JULY 6, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Alapaki Nahale-a called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 6, 2023, at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Information Technology Building, 1st Floor Conference Room 105A/B, 2520 Correa Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822, with regents participating from various locations.

Quorum (11): Vice-Chair Alapaki Nahale-a; Vice-Chair Ernest Wilson; Regent Neil Abercrombie; Regent Lauren Akitake; Regent William Haning; Regent Wayne Higaki; Regent Gabriel Lee; Regent Laurel 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 Information Technology/Chief Information Officer Garret Yoshimi; VP for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; University of Hawai'i (UH) at Mānoa (UHM) Provost Michael Bruno; UH Hilo (UHH) Chancellor Bonnie Irwin; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents Yvonne Lau; and others as noted.

II. WELCOME NEW REGENTS ABERCROMBIE AND AKITAKE

Vice-Chair Nahale-a welcomed new Regents Abercrombie and Akitake to the board.

Regent Abercrombie and Regent Akitake remarked that they were looking forward to serving on the board and working with their fellow regents for the betterment of the university.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Vice-Chair Nahale-a inquired if there were any corrections to the minutes of the May 18, 2023, meeting which had been distributed. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Board Secretary Lau announced that the Board Office did not receive any written testimony, and that no individuals signed up to provide oral testimony.

V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Vice-Chair Nahale-a requested that Board Secretary Lau conduct the election of officers as the current board officers may potentially be considered for election.

Board Secretary Lau explained the process that would be used for the election of board officers, noting that the person elected as board chair would preside as such beginning at the next board meeting.

Referencing polling that was conducted among regents to determine interest in serving in a leadership position for the 2023-2024 academic year, Regent Abercrombie requested clarification on the nomination process. Board Secretary Lau stated that she would ask for nominations for chair of the board. Similarly, nominations for vice-chair of the board would be requested at the appropriate time. She noted that regents could either nominate themselves or another regent to serve as a board officer. For the edification of newer regents, Board Secretary Lau also discussed the rationale for the polling of regents prior to the election of officers and reviewed the procedure used to conduct the poll stating that, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Board of Regents (Board Bylaws), two regents who were not interested in serving as board officers were charged with polling other regents on their interest in board leadership positions.

Board Secretary Lau began the election by opening the nominations for chair of the board. Regent Lee and Vice-Chair Wilson proceeded to nominate themselves for consideration as board chair. Board Secretary Lau asked if there were any further nominations. Regent Haning nominated Vice-Chair Nahale-a to serve as board chair. Board Secretary Lau asked if there were any further nominations, and with none being made, she declared the nominations closed. Ballots were distributed to regents, collected, and tallied. Board Secretary Lau announced that 11 votes had been cast with Vice-Chair Nahale-a receiving five votes, Regent Lee receiving four votes, and Vice-Chair Wilson receiving two votes.

Given the results, Vice-Chair Nahale-a asked if the number of votes necessary to be elected as board chair was six, which is the majority of the number of regents serving on the board and present at the meeting. Board Secretary Lau and VP Okinaga stated that the Board Bylaws remain silent on this issue. Discussions ensued on whether the board chair could be elected by a plurality of votes cast as opposed to a majority of the regents present at the meeting.

Expressing his preference that the board chair be elected by a majority of regents present at the meeting, Vice-Chair Nahale-a suggested that a second vote be conducted. Vice-Chair Nahale-a also asked Vice-Chair Wilson if he would be willing to remove his name for consideration as chair since he received the least number of votes in the initial balloting. Vice-Chair Wilson agreed to remove his name from consideration as board chair.

Regent Higaki moved that a second vote for board chair be conducted with Vice-Chair Wilson's name being removed from consideration as board chair. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Wilson and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

Ballots were once again distributed to regents, collected, and tallied. Board Secretary Lau announced that 11 votes had been cast and with seven regents casting a

vote for Vice-Chair Nahale-a and four regents casting a vote for Regent Lee, Vice-Chair Nahale-a was elected as board chair.

It was noted that both the Hawai'i Revised Statutes and the Board Bylaws provide for up to two vice-chairs to serve on the board. Regent Haning moved for the election of two vice-chairs for the 2023 – 2024 academic year, seconded by Vice-Chair Wilson. Board Secretary Lau conducted a roll-call vote and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative. She then proceeded with the election of the first vice-chair and opened the floor for nominations. Regent Lee proceeded to nominate himself for consideration as first vice-chair. Board Secretary Lau asked if there were any further nominations. Regent Higaki nominated himself for consideration as first vice-chair. Board Secretary Lau asked if there were any further nominations, and with none being made, she declared the nominations closed. Ballots were distributed to regents, collected, and tallied. Board Secretary Lau announced that 11 votes had been cast and with seven regents casting a vote for Regent Lee and four regents casting a vote for Regent Higaki, Regent Lee was elected as first vice-chair.

Board Secretary Lau then proceeded with the election of the second vice-chair and opened the floor for nominations. Regent Abercrombie nominated himself for consideration as second vice-chair. Board Secretary Lau asked if there were any further nominations. Regent Haning nominated Regent Higaki to serve as second vice-chair. Regent Higaki respectfully declined the nomination and withdrew his name from consideration. Board Secretary Lau asked if there were any further nominations. Regent Haning nominated Vice-Chair Wilson to serve as second vice-chair. Board Secretary Lau asked if there were any further nominations, and with none being made, she declared the nominations closed. Ballots were distributed to regents, collected, and tallied. Board Secretary Lau announced that 11 votes had been cast and with eight regents casting a vote for Regent Wilson and three regents casting a vote for Regent Abercrombie, Regent Wilson was elected as second vice-chair.

Vice-Chair Nahale-a lauded the willingness of individuals to serve as board officers and expressed his appreciation to regents for their support.

VI. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS HONORING UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I REGENT RANDOLPH MOORE AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I REGENT EUGENE BAL, III

Vice-Chair Nahale-a stated that resolutions honoring former University of Hawai'i regents Randolph Moore and Eugene Bal, III, were contained within the meeting materials, and requested Board Secretary Lau to read both resolutions into the record.

Regents and President Lassner offered their thanks to Regent Emeritus Moore and Regent Emeritus Bal for their numerous years of service and commitment to the university and outstanding work as members of the board. Each was praised for their patience, leadership, professionalism, guidance, mentorship, and friendship. It was noted that their presence on the board will be missed.

Vice-Chair Wilson moved to adopt the resolution honoring University of Hawai'i Regent Eugene Bal, III, seconded by Regent Higaki, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

Regent Higaki moved to adopt the resolution honoring University of Hawai'i Regent Randolph Moore, seconded by Regent Haning, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

VII. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Sustainability Curriculum Council Report

It was announced that, due to prior commitments, Dr. Debbie Weeks, Chair of the University of Hawai'i System Sustainability Curriculum Coordination Council (SSCCC), would be unable to present SSCCC's report in person and that VP Halbert would speak on this agenda item in her stead.

VP Halbert referenced the Sustainability Curriculum Council Report presentation contained within the board materials stating that it provides an overview and update on the achievement of sustainability goals in curriculum, research, and community engagement within the university system for the 2022 – 2023 academic year. She highlighted several achievements associated with the university's sustainability efforts that are mentioned in the report including the awarding of bronze ratings to the five university campuses that participated in the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education; noted the prevalence of sustainability-related curricula offered across the university system; touched upon several existing degree and certificate programs at UHM, UHH, UH West O'ahu, and UH Maui College, that are directly connected to or associated with sustainability as well as the Academic Subject Certificate in Sustainability that is offered at all of the university's community colleges; spoke about the multi-disciplinary nature of sustainability coursework; pointed out that enrollment in sustainability subject matter courses throughout the university system is growing; discussed the university's participation in sustainability-themed community engagement activities and events; and talked about the receipt of grants and other financial awards related to sustainability that have been received by the university. She also stated that Dr. Weeks has prepared a video presentation that provides more details about the SSCCC's report which will be shared with regents.

Regent Lee inquired about the university's efforts to incorporate sustainability theories into the coursework of degree programs such as engineering that do not directly correlate to the issue of sustainability. Dr. Makenna Coffman, Director for the Institute for Sustainability, replied that courses focused on the concepts and principles of sustainability are embedded into the curricula of numerous degree programs at UHM including engineering, architecture, and education. Moreover, some colleges, such as the College of Education, offer graduate certificates in sustainability as part of their curricula. VP Halbert added that the community colleges have taken a similar approach in this matter by offering courses in sustainability that are tailored to students seeking to

major in this field while at the same time embedding this type of coursework into the curricula of various degree and certificate programs.

B. Presentation and Discussion on Student Well-Being at Mānoa

Dr. Lori Ideta, Vice Provost for Student Success at UHM, stated that the purpose of this presentation was to provide a snapshot of student well-being at UHM, remarking that, while UHM students continue to struggle in the face of unprecedented stressors, they have exhibited resiliency and continue to thrive.

Dr. Theresa Crichfield, Associate Vice Provost for Student Success and Dean of Students at UHM, presented information on some of the characteristics of Generation Z, which make up the vast majority of the student population at UHM, underscoring specific concerns and challenges that individuals from this generation have verbalized are having a negative impact on their mental and physical health; noted the eight mutually interdependent dimensions of wellness that can have an impact on an individual's health, well-being, and quality of life; discussed UHM's efforts to sustain a culture of care that is student-centered; provided a comparative analysis of national versus UHM specific mental health care trend data for members of Generation Z; highlighted the top three mental health concerns expressed by UHM students in 2022; and spoke about some of the strategies that have been undertaken, or are currently being explored, to address both the mental and physical health needs of students at UHM. She also described a myriad of student-engagement activities that took place on the UHM campus during the 2022-2023 to increase the vibrancy of campus life which research has shown has a positive impact on the overall well-being of students.

Vice-Chair Wilson asked if university faculty and staff are receiving training to recognize the signs of mental health stress among students as well as ways to address issues that may be encountered. Dr. Crichfield responded in the affirmative stating that UHM's Counseling and Student Development Center (CSDC) does provide training on recognizing the signs and symptoms of mental health stress to faculty and staff via online programs as well as workshops held throughout the year. Dr. Allyson Tanouye, Director of the CSDC, added that the CSDC also offers a plethora of faculty and staff consultation services related to addressing the mental health needs of students.

Referencing comparative data presented on the psychological concerns being expressed by students at both the national and local level, Regent Akitake asked if there was a basis for Hawai'i's figures being higher than national figures in almost every category. Dr. Crichfield replied that many of the students presently enrolled in college have experienced a number of traumatic events during their lifetime including mass shootings, the terrorist attacks on 9/11, armed conflicts around the globe, and the COVID-19 pandemic, all of which have contributed to the psychological concerns of students as noted in the trend data presented. As such, the university must ensure that it is equipped to address multiple mental health issues that may impact students. Dr. Ideta added that UH has created a campus culture whereby students have been more open to communicating their feelings with respect to issues such as financial worries due to the high cost-of-living and homesickness which could also explain why the local numbers are higher.

Regent Lee questioned whether data on the national average of psychological symptoms being experienced by students was specific to college students. Dr. Crichfield responded in the affirmative. Dr. Ideta stated that the national averages presented were based on survey data collected from student counseling service centers located on college campuses throughout the country.

Regent Tochiki asked if UHM had adequate counseling staff to properly address the mental health challenges being faced by college students. Dr. Ideta replied that the ratio of counselors to students at UHM is below the national average. However, the administration is actively working to increase the number of available counselors on campus.

Regent Akitake inquired as to whether access to mental health services was consistent across campuses in the university system. Dr. Tanouye replied that monthly meetings are held among the lead mental health professionals on each campus to share information about campus related issues. However, the provision of mental health services on each campus is tailored to meet the unique mental health needs of the students on that particular campus. As such, the level and availability of mental health services differs at each campus of the university system.

In light of the university's strategic plan imperative to develop successful students and given the mental health data and information presented, Vice-Chair Nahale-a remarked that the university needs to take a more proactive approach in addressing student mental health and well-being in terms of developing concrete plans to address this issue and informing the board and others about the support and resources it needs to carry-out these plans. Dr. Ideta replied that the Student Affairs at UHM does have a divisional strategic plan in place and that the CSDC has specific plans in place addressing student wellness.

Regent Haning opined that, while an individual can never be entirely prepared to address every mental health or student well-being issue that may come up, adequate pre-planning can help alleviate the situation. He suggested that one approach to addressing student mental health and well-being at the university could be the use of "imagineers" to develop scenarios that would serve to better prepare administrators, faculty, staff, and other university personnel for dealing with a situation as it arises. Dr. Ideta stated that UHM is in a continual state of strategically planning for student crisis management.

C. Legislative Update

VP Young reviewed the university's operating and capital improvement project (CIP) budgets that were approved for the 2023-2025 Fiscal Biennium. He discussed the progression of the operating budget from the board's initial funding request to what was finally approved by the governor, emphasizing that increases in general fund appropriations were mainly attributable to previously approved collective bargaining increases; highlighted the large amounts of lump sum funding included in the CIP budget; and talked about several provisos contained within the state budget that place conditions upon the use of certain appropriations. He also went over the status of

select bills of interest that had the potential to impact the university or the board that were taken up by the Legislature this session; spoke about several single chamber and concurrent resolutions related to the university that have been adopted; noted that Regents Loo and Mawae had been officially confirmed by the State Senate; and talked about the deadlines for the governor to act upon bills passed by the Legislature.

Regent Abercrombie asked about the university's role in supporting the development of the Hawai'i Pacific Hydrogen Hub as outlined in House Bill (HB) No. 28, House Draft (HD) 1, Senate Draft (SD) 1, Conference Draft (CD) 1, which was enacted as Act 66, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2023 (Act 66), and what this will do to advance alternative energy in Hawai'i. VP Young responded that he was unaware of the specific requirements contained within Act 66 other than the requirement that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism work with the university on workforce development activities to support the advancement of the Hawai'i Pacific Hydrogen Hub. VP Syrmos replied that enactment of this piece of legislation was directly related to a billion-dollar proposal by the United States Department of Energy that seeks to establish demand-side initiatives to support Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs (H2Hubs) as part of its H2Hub program. He remarked that states selected to participate in the H2Hub program will be required to contribute 25 percent in matching funds, or roughly \$250 million overall. He also stated that the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute, which is a research unit within the university's School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, is already involved in hydrogen development research.

Stressing the importance of developing alternative energy resources given the global impacts of climate change due to fossil fuel consumption, Regent Abercrombie suggested that the administration be requested to provide further information on this initiative so that the board can conduct a deeper dive into this issue. Vice-Chair Nahale-a noted Regent Abercrombie's request. President Lassner stated that the administration can provide regents with a written summary of Act 66 and its relationship to the H2Hubs initiative.

Regent Akitake questioned the university's opposition to HB 554, HD 2, SD 2, CD 2 (HB 544), which dealt with certain issues related to campus safety. VP Young replied that the six-month deadline imposed upon the university to provide the requisite training stipulated by HB 544 was not attainable. Additionally, the resources necessary to provide this training were not included in the measure. As such, the university opposed the bill. Despite the enactment of HB 544, the abovementioned issues will, in essence, hinder the university's compliance with its requirements. Nevertheless, he stressed that the administration does consider this to be an important issue and will seek to amend the law during the next legislative session to address the university's concerns.

D. Strategic Plan Implementation Report

VP Halbert provided background information on the development of the University of Hawai'i System Strategic Plan 2023-2029 (Strategic Plan) which was adopted by the board in November 2022, and summarized the Strategic Plan's four imperatives, as well as its foundational principles. She reviewed a timeline of initial Strategic Plan implementation activities that have occurred to date, including the establishment of a

Systemwide Implementation Steering Committee; discussed efforts to solicit and compile feedback on various aspects of the Strategic Plan and its implementation; spoke about the creation of a framework for the implementation of the Strategic Plan that is organized around each imperative; went over collaborative efforts and partnerships that have been established within the implementation framework to carry out various tasks; outlined some of the next steps with respect to implementing the Strategic Plan that will be taking place over the summer and fall of 2023; remarked that philanthropic support in the form of grants from the National Association of System Heads and the Strada Education Network have already been received for initiatives contained within the Strategic Plan; and expounded upon the administration's proposal to present additional reports on the Strategic Plan to the board that includes quarterly reports focused on a single imperative.

In light of earlier discussions on mental health issues being faced by university students, Vice-Chair Nahale-a suggested that collaborative actions taking place among working groups established with respect to the student success imperative to address this matter be more clearly stated in the framework for implementation of the Strategic Plan. VP Halbert responded that the working groups being established to address the Strategic Plan's imperatives are developing goals and objectives relative to their specific imperative, as well as any actions that can be taken to achieve these goals and objectives, which were not indicated in the presentation's slide on this issue.

Vice-Chair Nahale-a opined that the Strategic Plan implementation process still feels insular and expressed his belief that the university will need to increase its engagement with external stakeholders to ensure the Strategic Plan's success. VP Halbert replied that the State's attainment goals align nicely with the university's attainment goals contained within the Strategic Plan. As such, collaborative efforts have already been undertaken to achieve some of these goals, with one example being the Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education Work Based Learning Initiative. Work to develop other partnerships with external stakeholders is also ongoing. President Lassner added that the administration has held some discussions about, and provided updates on, the Strategic Plan and the university's importance to the economic and social well-being of the state to various external stakeholders such as the Maui Economic Development Board and Hawai'i Community Foundation. He stated that the university expects that it will continue to roll out its Strategic Plan to the public for the foreseeable future. Vice-Chair Nahele-a asked if feedback received thus far on the Strategic Plan from external stakeholders has been positive. President Lassner replied in the affirmative.

Regent Akitake asked if the Supreme Court of the United States' (SCOTUS) recent decision on affirmative action in higher education will have an impact on the Strategic Plan. VP Halbert replied that while the SCOTUS ruling focuses on admissions policies, conversations about the impacts of this decision on the university are ongoing. President Lassner stated that the university will comply with the SCOTUS ruling. Nevertheless, the university remains committed to achieving diversity and equity in higher education, which is one of the guiding principles contained within the Strategic Plan, and believes this can be achieved in a manner that comports with the law.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-Chair Nahale-a announced that the next board meeting was scheduled for July 20, 2023, at UHM.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice-Chair Nahale-a adjourned the meeting at 2:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Yvonne Lau
Executive Administrator and Secretary
of the Board of Regents