

## **MINUTES**

### **BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2023**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Alapaki Nahale-a called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. on Thursday, September 21, 2023, 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 Alapaki Nahale-a; Vice-Chair Gabriel Lee; Vice-Chair Ernest Wilson; Regent Neil Abercrombie; Regent Lauren Akitake; Regent William Haning; Regent Wayne Higaki; Regent Laurel Loo; Regent Abigail Mawae; and Regent Laurie Tochiki.

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 Legal Affairs/University of Hawai'i (UH) General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; VP for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; VP for Advancement/UH Foundation (UHF) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Tim Dolan; Interim VP for Community Colleges Della Teraoka; UH-Mānoa (UHM) Provost Michael Bruno; UH-Hilo Chancellor Bonnie Irwin; UH-West O'ahu Chancellor Maenette Benham; Leeward Community College (LeeCC) Chancellor Carlos Peñaloza; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Yvonne Lau; and others as noted.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 17, 2023 MEETING**

Chair Nahale-a inquired if there were any corrections to the minutes of the August 17, 2023, meeting which had been distributed. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

#### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Board Secretary Lau announced that the Board Office received late written comments from Kawena Lorenzo, Jordan Echiberi, Xavier Gamundoy, Wailana Crivello Ho, Maria Grace Mundon, Kai Roig, and Phoeberly Ungos regarding the Lauhoe Cohort Program at LeeCC.

Roy Gal, Chair of the UHM Faculty Senate's Committee on Administration and Budget, provided oral, as well as late written comments related to the proposed faculty classification policy changes arising from SCR 201.

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

[Late Written Testimony Received](#)

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

## **A. University's Response and Efforts to Help Maui Fire Disasters**

President Lassner provided an update on the university's ongoing response to the devastating Maui wildfires highlighting some of the services being provided to actively support the needs of UH students, faculty, and staff, as well as the Maui community in general. He stated that, among other things, the university continues to distribute approximately 2,000 meals per day through the University of Hawai'i Maui College's (UHMC's) culinary arts program; supply geospatial and information support to county, state, and federal officials via the university managed Pacific Disaster Center; and afford a physical location on the UHMC campus for disaster relief agencies to use as a hub for community outreach activities. He also spoke about ongoing efforts to furnish UH students impacted by the wildfires with direct financial aid, academic assistance, and mental health support services; discussed the awarding of full scholarships to Lahainaluna High School seniors that choose to attend any of the 10-campus of the university system, along with other actions being taken to aid high school students on Maui with their pursuit of a post-secondary education such as the adjusting of the Running Start Program scholarship application deadline and the development of a Next Steps Program; noted initiatives related to groundwater and oceanwater testing that have been undertaken, as well as, wildfire remediation research that is being conducted; described some of the work being done with respect to workforce development education and training to meet increased labor demands particularly in the areas of construction and hazardous material remediation; and talked about collaborative, student-led, future planning and conceptual design efforts being embarked upon to provide input on the rebuilding of Lāhainā in a wise, sensible, resilient, and sustainable manner. President Lassner thanked UHF and the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) for their work in securing philanthropic support for these initiatives.

## **B. Enrollment Update**

To date, systemwide duplicated registration headcount enrollment for the fall semester is up 1.2 percent as compared to the same time last year with the student population totaling just under 49,000 individuals across the 10-campus system. While figures related to degree-seeking students remain flat, dual credit students are up almost seven percent, and headcount associated with sharing of courses between campuses is up almost eight percent, primarily at the community colleges. Anecdotally, UHMC has experienced an increase in overall enrollment of nearly seven percent although a single explanation for this increase has not been identified. However, UHMC has also experienced a decline in its continuing student population statistics. President Lassner stated that a more detailed update on fall enrollment will be provided to the board in November after the official census date.

## **C. SCR 201 Task Force Next Steps Progress Report**

VP Halbert is consulting with and seeking comments from the faculty senates on recommended policy revisions. Additionally, impact bargaining has been scheduled with the University of Hawai'i Professional Assembly regarding the proposed policy amendments. The administration continues to anticipate returning to the board with

changes to Regents Policies in November and plans to update Executive Policies by the end of the calendar year.

**D. Update On Athletic Conference Realignment As It Relates To The University**

President Lassner provided an update on athletic conference realignments as they relate to the university. In particular, he spoke about the departure of two additional teams from the PAC-12 Conference (PAC-12), bringing the total number of schools that have committed to leaving the PAC-12 to 10, and discussed the ramifications this could have on the college football landscape, including the Mountain West Conference (MWC), of which UHM is a football only member. He also mentioned substantial legal and financial questions regarding PAC-12 assets, liabilities, and governance responsibilities with only two members remaining and noted uncertainties about the college football playoffs, which recognize the PAC-12 as one of the “Power 5” conferences. The MWC remains unified, continues to work together to identify a path forward with full conference membership, is exploring all possible scenarios, is actively seeking to align with the remaining PAC-12 schools, and appears to be in an excellent position to weather the various conference realignments occurring across the country. President Lassner assured regents that he would provide additional information as it arises to Vice-Chair Lee and Regent Abercrombie, the two regents who were designated by the board as its points-of-contact on this issue.

**E. Other**

The university remains steadfast in its commitment to the strategic plan as evidenced by the incorporation of the plan’s five foundational principles and four strategic imperatives within the annual operating expenditure plan that was presented to the Committee on Institutional Success on September 7, 2023. President Lassner noted the appointment of Suzanne Case, the former chair of the state Board of Land and Natural Resources, as the university’s inaugural director of the Office of Land and Ocean Conservation Futures, the commencement of the search for a Director of Hawai‘i Papa o Ke Ao, who will also serve as the administrative liaison for the board’s newly established Kuleana Committee, and the work in progress to establish a system-level position within the Office of the VP for Academic Strategy focused on workforce development. These positions all serve to address critical components of the strategic plan for which the university currently lacks explicit system-level leadership.

Should a federal government shutdown occur, such an event is not expected to have any significant impact on students at the university unless it persists for a particularly long period of time. However, a federal government shutdown would have short-term effects on new federal grant awards and federal grant renewals. Noting that several shutdowns have occurred over the years, President Lassner stated that the university is prepared to adapt to changing circumstances and manage any situations that may arise.

Regents lauded the efforts of the university and UHF to assist the people of Maui, especially the residents of Lahaina, during this difficult time.

## **V. REPORT OF UHF**

VP/UHF CEO Dolan reported that donations received by UHF surpassed \$100 million for the third year in a row with contributions for FY 2023-2024 totaling approximately \$103.57 million. Though less than the record-setting \$165 million in contributions received for FY 2021-2022, which was mainly attributable to several large donations including a \$60 million gift from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, he stated that the amount received for FY 2023-2024 is an indicator of community confidence in, and support for, the institution and bodes well for the university. He also spoke briefly about some of the work being done by UHF to assist students impacted by the Maui wildfires, including the establishment of collaborative partnerships with HCF; made known that the UHF Board of Trustees raised questions as to whether the outpouring of support for Maui due to the wildfires would have any impact on UHF fundraising and were informed that early indications are that these efforts will not be impacted; noted that, to date, UHF has raised just over \$21 million for the current fiscal year; discussed donation trend data for the last several years remarking that the figures are traveling in the right direction; highlighted staffing challenges faced by UHF in terms of sheer numbers of employees as compared to other university associated foundations across the country; underscored that, despite these staffing challenges, UHF is doing well with regard to its return-on-investment; and emphasized that UHF continues to work towards strengthening its ties to the community and improving its communications about the advantages of making contributions to the university. UHF is also expecting to formally launch its comprehensive capital campaign, which is aimed at addressing the needs of the entire university, on November 1, 2023, although fundraising efforts have already begun and the campaign has thus far raised slightly more than \$550 million of its \$1 billion target.

Regent Akitake sought clarification about the start date of UHF's comprehensive capital campaign given that over \$550 million has already been secured. VP Dolan explained that university capital campaigns are customarily structured in such a way whereby the official start of a campaign is preceded by a significant amount of lead time known as the silent phase during which time fundraising efforts are initiated. Normally, once half of a fundraising goal is achieved, the capital campaign will be officially launched and the silent phase will transition to what is known as the public phase. In the case of UHF's comprehensive capital campaign, the silent phase began approximately four years ago and the public phase will begin on November 1, 2023.

Regent Tochiki questioned whether the UHF donation figures presented earlier were inclusive of contributions made to its comprehensive capital campaign. VP Dolan responded in the affirmative.

Regent Akitake asked about past capital campaigns initiated by the university. VP Dolan replied that prior to him becoming the UHF CEO there was a capital campaign known as the Centennial Campaign which, even though it was neither publicly launched nor officially closed, was successful insofar as there was a noticeable progression of funds raised for the university during that time period. President Lassner clarified that the Centennial Campaign was launched under the auspices of former University President David McClain and took place in the early 2000s sometime near the 100th anniversary of the university's 1907 establishment. Another capital campaign was

initiated around 2009 or 2010 under the leadership of former University President M.R.C. Greenwood but was never formally launched, although as noted by VP Dolan, it did prove to be successful.

## **VI. COMMITTEE AND AFFILIATE REPORTS**

### **A. Report from the Committee on Institutional Success**

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

### **C. Affiliate Reports**

- 1. All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs (ACCFSC)**
- 2. Mauna Kea Management Board (MKMB)**
- 3. Pūko‘a Council**
- 4. UCERA dba University Health Partners of Hawai‘i (UHP)**

Chair Nahale-a referred regents to the respective standing committee reports from the September 7, 2023, committee meetings, as well as the ACCFSC, MKMB, Pūko‘a Council, and UHP affiliate reports, which were contained in the materials packet.

## **VII. AGENDA ITEMS**

### **A. Consent Agenda**

- 1. Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Operating Budget**
- 2. Approval of the Fiscal Biennium 2023-2025 Capital Improvement Project Expenditure Plan**
- 3. Approval of the Operating Budget for the Office of the Board of Regents and Office of Internal Audit for FY 2023-2024**

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

### **B. Approval of the Establishment and Naming of the Jitsuo and Sawa Doi Miyawaki Professorship at the UHM Shidler College of Business (Shidler)**

Provost Bruno provided information on a financial commitment of \$747,731.41 made by the estate of Grace Mizuko Miyawaki, an alumnus of the Master of Business Administration Program at Shidler, to establish and name an endowed professorship at Shidler in honor of Ms. Miyawaki's parents Jitsuo and Sawa Doi Miyawaki. He also noted a few of the purposes for which the funds may be used and went over some of the terms of the endowed professorship.

Regent Haning moved to approve the establishment and naming of the Jitsuo and Sawa Doi Miyawaki Professorship at Shidler, seconded by Regent Akitake, and noting the excused absence of Regent Paloma, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (closed to the public)**

Regent Higaki moved to convene into executive session, seconded by Vice-Chair Wilson, and noting the excused absence of Regent Paloma and with all 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.

The meeting recessed at 10:13 a.m.

Chair Nahale-a called the meeting back to order at 12:34 p.m. and announced that the board met in executive session to discuss matters as stated on the agenda.

**IX. AGENDA ITEMS (Continued)**

**A. Evaluation of the President**

Chair Nahale-a stated that the board met in executive session to discuss the evaluation of the President noting the significance of the position as a community and State leader. As this particular evaluation is more comprehensive in nature, occurring once every three years, and there is a large amount of information to digest and process, the board will resume with its evaluation of the President during the October board meeting. He emphasized that the extension of these discussions was merely due to time constraints and should in no way be interpreted as an indication of the board's leanings in its assessment of the President's performance.

**X. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Nahale-a announced that the next board meeting was scheduled for October 19, 2023, at Kaua'i Community College.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Nahale-a adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Yvonne Lau  
Executive Administrator and Secretary  
of the Board of Regents