

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING**  
**APRIL 17, 2025**

A video recording of this meeting may be viewed at the Board of Regents website as follows:

[Meeting Video](#)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m. on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at Kapi'olani Community College, Kopiko 126-128, 4303 Diamond Head Road, Honolulu, HI 96816, with regents participating from various locations.

Quorum (11): Chair Gabriel Lee; Vice-Chairs Laurie Tochiki and Laurel Loo; and Regents Neil Abercrombie, Lauren Akitake, Joshua Faumuina, William Haning, Wayne Higaki, Michael Miyahira, Diane Paloma, and Ernest Wilson.

Others in attendance: President Wendy Hensel; Vice President (VP) for Administration Jan Gouveia; VP for Academic Strategy Debora Halbert; VP for Legal Affairs/UH 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; Interim VP for UH Community Colleges (UHCC) Della Teraoka; UH-Hilo Chancellor Bonnie Irwin; UH-West O'ahu Chancellor Maenette Benham; Kapi'olani Community College Chancellor Misaki Takabayashi; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Yvonne Lau; and others as noted.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2025 BOARD MEETING**

Chair Lee inquired if there were any corrections to the minutes of the March 20, 2025, meeting which had been distributed. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Board Secretary Lau announced the Board Office's receipt of written remarks from Jason Alexander, Blake Stoner-Osborne, John Nightingale, Katherine Ackerman, Victoria Assad, Olivia Meyer, Gabrielle N. E. Stedman, Dianne Deauna, Nadezna Ortega, Jade Comellas, Stephanie Dossett, Amy Markel, Alycia Kiyabu, Maemaeolehua Matsumoto, William Nelson, Maggie Bradley, Christina Busby, Raffi Isah, Noelani Akiona, Tatsuki Kohatsu, Ned Bertz, Meagan Harden, and Kate Yusi, on the Federal Executive Orders and policy changes and the university's responses to them, particularly as they related to international students.

Dianne Deauna and Jill Nunokawa offered verbal comments on the Federal Executive Orders and policy changes and the university's responses to them, particularly as they related to international students.

Derek Rainey provided oral remarks pertaining to the provision of compensation for Graduate Assistants employed by the university.

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

[Written Testimony Received](#)

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

##### **A. Update on Federal Developments**

###### **1. Impacts to Grants and Awards**

###### **2. Financial Impact and Conservation Measures**

President Hensel updated regents on the latest national developments and federal policy changes emanating out of Washington, D.C., since her March 20, 2025, report on these matters to the board, emphasizing the volume and pace of federal actions continues to escalate. She spoke about decisions made by the United States Department of State, more commonly referred to as the State Department, such as the revocation of visas and the changing of an individual's legal status, which are negatively impacting immigrant students enrolled at institutions of higher education across the nation; stressed the administration and university are doing everything in its power to support the small number of students at the University of Hawai'i affected by the aforementioned decisions by the State Department, including advocating for these individuals at the federal level, where possible, and identifying pro bono legal services which may be available to them; reassured the board and the university 'ohana that there have been no reports of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials being on a university campus at any time; called attention to the issuance of systemwide protocols identifying a clear chain of command and processes for dealing with ICE agents should they make such an appearance; and stated the university continues to closely monitor this situation.

In terms of the university's financial concerns associated with the constantly changing federal actions, President Hensel stated they continue to grow, noting a recent opinion piece in the Chronicle for Higher Education which, based upon possible cuts to National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation funding, listed the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) as being 52nd out of 77 institutions with the greatest exposure to impacts from the new federal policies. Other reasons for this assessment include the initiation of federal actions with the potential to significantly impact programs, employees, university finances, and funding for research activities such as the issuance of an Executive Order on March 20, 2025, directing the closure of the United States Department of Education, the university's third largest source of federal funding, which has led to a significant reduction in departmental staff and the reassignment of programs like student loan management to other federal agencies; the United States Department of Energy's announcement of a new policy capping indirect cost recovery for research at 15 percent, much like what was previously done by NIH, although a temporary restraining order related to this action has been issued; and the unveiling of plans to significantly restructure the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The lifting of a preliminary injunction regarding executive order provisions concerning diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) certification requirements for entities receiving federal funding or grant awards has led to the resumption of compliance investigations and the termination of equity-related grants. The university is already beginning to feel the impacts of these actions, particularly among programs involved in research areas no longer prioritized by the federal administration including those related to DEIA, sustainability, renewable energy, climate change, and minority health disparities among others. As of April 15th, 2025, 36 research programs have been terminated, issued stop work orders, or are in the process of being phased out, accounting for the loss of approximately \$30 million in research funding and impacting nearly 40 employees. While the administration is anticipating a growth in the number of affected programs in the coming months, the full scope of these impacts will more than likely not be completely understood until sometime around August.

Despite these challenges, the university, at the moment, remains financially stable, due in large part to the existence of reserve funding and careful financial planning in the past. Nevertheless, campuses will almost certainly be required to use their available fiscal resources to meet severance obligations for employees in accordance with collective bargaining agreements and university policies. In light of these obligations, and ongoing uncertainties with respect to the national economy, the administration has directed all campuses to review and update their financial contingency plans and implement fiscal mitigation measures like requiring approval by the respective chancellor, provost, or system vice president for all new hires funded by extramural grant awards, although hiring for general funded positions may proceed through the standard process; restricting work related travel to essential trips, while also taking into account the need for professional development, promotion, and tenure connected travel, with final approval of travel requests being delegated to the campus chancellor, provost, or system vice president, as the case may be; and requiring consulting and professional service contracts exceeding \$100,000 annually to be approved by a campus chancellor, provost, or vice president, and those over \$250,000 annually to be approved by the president. Though there may be a need to employ additional cost containment measures in the future as the fiscal implications of the federal policy changes become clearer, the administration remains committed to maintaining a focus on student success and prioritizing the university's institutional mission through thoughtful and measured action, implementing only those restrictions that are necessary.

President Hensel also touched upon some of the fiscal impacts being experienced by other institutions of higher education across the country as a result of changes to federal policies; provided information on measures being taken by the university to respond to this moment, including, among other things, participating in litigation through the State of Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General and partnering with collective institutions like the American Council on Education and the American Public Land Grant Universities to challenge the lawfulness of the federal actions; talked about the initiation of endeavors to better illustrate and publicize the real-world consequences of decisions being made by federal authorities with respect to the cancellation of research projects; discussed efforts to work collaboratively with organizations such as the President's Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, to find ways in which universities can more effectively advocate for students; stressed the need to approach this developing situation in a

collaborative manner, not just to sustain the university's campuses through this period of disruption but to strengthen the institution's long-term resilience and continued evolution to better serve students and the people of Hawai'i; mentioned the hosting of a second public forum on the subject of federal policies and executive orders, with a focus on issues related to immigration; and reaffirmed the university's commitment to transparency and open communication stating there has never been a greater time and need for clear, timely, and inclusive dialogue and collaboration.

Regent Abercrombie arrived at 8:54 a.m.

## **B. Update on Athletic Director (AD) Search**

### **1. Update on Process**

### **2. Salary Range and Market Demand**

The search for a new UHM AD officially commenced on April 4, 2025, with the posting of a job announcement marking the start of a nationwide advertising and recruitment campaign. A committee made up of prominent business and community leaders, in addition to former UHM student-athletes (AD Search Committee), was assembled to assist the president with the search and identify qualified candidates with the necessary skills and capabilities to guide the program through a rapidly evolving intercollegiate athletics landscape. The AD Search Committee has been actively engaged in the search process since late March and has already participated in a number of informational briefings with collegiate athletics experts on key issues like Name, Image, and Likeness, the transfer portal, conference realignment, and the upcoming House Settlement Agreement, all of which were conducted by Parker Executive Search, the nationally recognized firm selected to assist the university in facilitating the hiring and recruitment process.

Parker Executive Search is in the midst of recruiting top candidates from across the country, as well as in Hawai'i, and has already held listening sessions with key stakeholders, including coaches, staff, student-athletes, faculty, alumni, and community partners, to garner feedback which will help guide and inform the search for a new UHM AD. The university is likewise encouraging members of the public to participate in the search process by sharing their views on the subject and submitting nominations for individuals who may be well-suited for the position. The administration anticipates Parker Executive Search will present a pool of qualified applicants to the AD Search Committee in the next few weeks, which will be followed by the first round of interviews and background checks. If all goes well, the expectation is for a finalist to be brought before the board for approval by mid-summer if not sooner. While the search is moving forward efficiently, President Hensel stressed the university is not rushing the process, especially given the significance of this selection, stating it was for the search to be conducted in a thorough, transparent, and inclusive manner so as to attract the very best possible candidate for this important role.

Although the search for a new UHM AD remains on track and continues to proceed on schedule, it has not been without challenges, particularly with regard to the position's salary range and the market demand for this kind of talent. While the previous UHM AD received

a compensation package in the mid \$300,000 range, a figure which has remained fairly static over the past decade or so, the most recent public data available indicates this is well below the salaries of athletic directors within the Mountain West Conference (MWC), which UHM recently joined as a full member. As such, and in order to ensure UHM is competitive in whatever compensation package it offers, consideration is being given to the establishment of a competitive salary range based upon the annual average salary of MWC athletic directors which is somewhere around \$400,000. Other items being pondered for inclusion in a formal employment contract involve incentives for things like team performance, winning conference championships, student-athlete grade point averages, graduation rates, and achieving fundraising goals, to name a few.

### **C. Reflections on First 100 Days and Next Steps with Strategic Plan**

President Hensel reflected on her first 100 days as the leader of the University of Hawai'i System highlighting the completion of visits to all 10 campuses and six educational centers and the existence of an extraordinary commitment, passion, and belief in the institution's mission among all members of the university 'ohana. She stated she was excited to build upon the excellence seen throughout the system and move the university to the next level. She also conveyed her deep appreciation for the warm welcome and personal support she received throughout her tours which, in her opinion, revealed the various communities' recognition of the important work being done by the university and the significance of the institution's success.

Based, in part, upon conversations held during the site visits, key imperatives reflective of community desires were identified and incorporated into an initial action plan for the next 18 months, a plan that was shared with board leadership. System level goals will be translated into actionable plans with defined metrics, clear roadmaps, and honest accountability structures, all of which are intended to keep the administration's feet to the fire. Some of the ideas being contemplated and discussed include the modernization and integration of uniform, key technology across all campuses to create a comprehensive and seamless data infrastructure system; the establishment of a student success support network designed to achieve a commensurate standard of care for every student at every campus; the development of a comprehensive strategy to utilize artificial intelligence in every aspect of operations across the 10-campus system; the improvement of admissions, enrollment, and retention numbers, including through collaborations with the State of Hawai'i Department of Education to ease enrollment processes for both high school students and adult learners; the creation of a front door at the system level to increase engagement with community and business organizations and State government; and the utilization of the findings contained within a programmatic gap analysis to identify how the university can best meet the needs of the community it serves in terms of programs and degree pathways. Longer term, the university will be looking at modifying its budget structure, as well as a number of other issues such as universal transferability and system-wide alignment. Ultimately, the goal is to achieve, collectively, system-wide integration to ensure every campus has the resources, tools, and support needed to thrive by exercising abilities of scale to make those things a reality.

### **D. UH Giving Day 2025**

UH Giving Day 2025 was amazingly successful and record breaking, garnering over \$800,000 in donations, a 36 percent increase from the total amount received last year. Of note was the substantial number of alumni who participated in this fundraising event and the support demonstrated by members of the university administration, many of whom contributed significant matching gifts for campus food pantries and to support graduate students impacted by the executive orders. The university looks forward to continuing its work with the University of Hawai'i Foundation to hold these types of events in the future.

Additionally, President Hensel shared some positive news items involving the university including UHCC's earning of a gold 2024 Paragon Award from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations for its marketing campaign promoting career and technical education programs, standing out among the more than 1,500 entries from 210 colleges nationwide; the placement of 21 graduate programs at UHM within the top 100 programs in the nation, with seven being ranked in the top 50, according to the 2025 U.S News and World Report Best Graduate Schools Ranking; the UHM Hawaiian Theater Program's receipt of an invitation to perform its original Hawaiian language production, *Puana*, on the international stage at the Kia Mau Festival in New Zealand, a top-tier showcase of Maori, Pacific, and indigenous performing arts; the provision of free dental services to Molokai Elementary School students through the Hawaii Keiki Healthy and Ready to Learn Program, a partnership between the UHM School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene and the Department of Health, where approximately 110 students received dental screenings, preventative dental sealants, hygiene kits, and oral health education information; and the UHM Ballroom Dance Club's successful defense of its national title at the National Collegiate Dance Sport Championship in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Regent Abercrombie inquired as to whether entities such as the Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center and the Refugee and Immigration Law Clinic have been contacted to assist students facing visa revocations stating these organizations have a superb foundation in international and immigration matters. He also asked about the individual or group tasked with assisting students with these issues. President Hensel replied that, while she is working directly with Mr. Brent White on this matter, the International Student Services Office (ISS) has taken the lead in the effort to assist students who are facing visa revocations. In addition, a number of university personnel are working one-on-one with individuals to connect them to the appropriate type of help they need. Moreover, the university has put together a comprehensive list of available resources students can utilize to assist them in navigating their specific situation. Although she was uncertain as to whether ISS or any individual had contacted the particular entities mentioned above, President Hensel stated she could find out and provide this information directly to Regent Abercrombie.

Taking into account the implementation of fiscal mitigation measures related to the employment of individuals, Regent Abercrombie sought clarification of the hiring process. President Hensel responded that the processes of employment were dependent upon the type of hire and the funding source for the position. If the position was paid for using already allocated general fund resources, the hiring process would proceed as it currently does. However, for positions paid for by extramural grant awards, there will be

an added layer of approval needed from a chancellor or provost, as the case may be, when hiring for academic or staff positions on a campus, and an appropriate VP when hiring for system level positions. Given this response, Regent Abercrombie asked if a department chair or dean would need to obtain approval to hire an individual they wished to employ in a particular position. President Hensel stated that the approval requirement was not for the individual being put forward to fill any position, as assessments of things like an individual's job qualifications will still be done by individual departments. Rather, the approval requirement was related to the posting of the position itself.

With respect to the search for a new UHM AD, Regent Abercrombie asked about the AD Search Committee's and President's involvement in the hiring of the individual for the position. He also inquired about the board's participation in the process. President Hensel stated the AD Search Committee will conduct an initial screening of the entire candidate pool narrowing this list down to a smaller number of individuals who will be brought to the UHM campus to meet with the Committee and a small group of internal stakeholders. Upon completion of these meetings, the AD Search Committee will present her with an unranked list of finalists for consideration, along with their individual strengths and weaknesses. From there, she would interview the finalists and present her recommendation for an individual to fill the position to the board. Although the Board Chair serves on the AD Search Committee, and the board ultimately determines whether or not to approve the hire, the board itself is not directly involved in the hiring process.

Regent Abercrombie shared his thoughts on the UHM AD hiring process; the current state of intercollegiate athletics; and the necessity of offering a compensation and incentive package to attract individuals with the caliber and capacity to lead a National Collegiate Athletics Association Division I school stating \$400,000 and a five-year contract will not get the university an athletic director capable of keeping it in Division I.

As a member of the AD Search Committee assembled by President Hensel, Chair Lee offered his insights on the search for a new UHM AD, noting the diversity and broad cross section of individuals sitting on the Committee. He also provided information on three meetings held by the Committee thus far, including the numerous topics which have been discussed and intercollegiate athletic developments which the Committee has been brought up-to-date on; spoke a little about the AD Search Committee's role in the hiring process; and noted several things being taking into consideration by the AD Search Committee when it comes to items and stipulations for potential inclusion in a new UHM AD's employment contract.

Referencing the next steps proposed by President Hensel with respect to the strategic plan, Regent Abercrombie expressed his belief in the need to address the situation regarding systemwide general education requirements at the university and the question of what it exactly means to be a Native Hawaiian place of learning, particularly given the current political climate in this country and what he considers to be attacks on post-secondary education in general, and institutions of higher learning in particular.

Regent Haning raised a point of order stating he felt discussions on the President's Report was delving into time-consuming conversations on topics more suited for

individual conversations with the administration and requested the board move on to the next agenda item.

## **V. KapCC CAMPUS REPORT**

**A. AGO Updates ('Aha Kalāualani, Student Congress, Staff Council, Faculty Senate)**

**B. Campus Update (Student Data, Transfer, Culinary Institute of the Pacific)**

**C. Student Data for KapCC**

**D. KapCC Top 10 Credit Programs**

**E. KapCC Transfer Data**

**F. Culinary Institute of the Pacific**

Referencing the KapCC campus report which was contained within the materials packet, Chair Lee reminded regents about board leadership's implementation of a new routine whereby formal presentations would no longer be provided by each campus. Instead the time would be used for regents to ask campus chancellors, leaders, governance groups, and other campus constituencies specific questions about their report or their institution. Chair Lee then called upon Chancellor Takabayashi to introduce the members of her team.

Chancellor Takabayashi welcomed regents to the KapCC Campus, introduced representatives from the various campus governance groups and constituencies who contributed to the campus report, and asked regents if they had any questions.

Regent Miyahira asked if there were any additional metrics besides those provided in the presentation which help KapCC identify the progress made toward achieving the goals and objectives of its campus strategic plan. Chancellor Takabayashi replied that KapCC continues to work on developing metrics which can accurately measure the achievement of the campus strategic plan's goals and objectives. Michaelyn Nākoa Hall, KapCC Executive Director of Strategy, added that the effort being undertaken in this arena is attempting to expound upon the currently established measurements of student success being used by campuses systemwide, such as graduation rates and workforce development figures. The goal of this endeavor is to synthesize the work being done by the various campus units and create metrics which are more reflective of the academic, workforce, and other types of activities occurring on the campus.

Regent Faumuina questioned whether KapCC has witnessed any impacts to summer registration as a result of the recently authorized and implemented three-year reduced summer tuition pilot program for the university's community colleges. Devon Peterson, KapCC Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, stated the response to the pilot program has been phenomenal with the campus seeing a nearly 30 percent increase in summer course registration over the same period last year, with the numbers continuing to grow. Chancellor Takabayashi acknowledged student campus leaders who led the campaign to reduce summer tuition at community colleges systemwide and requested they share a little



about what was being done to promote this program. Hannah Landry, KapCC Student Congress Chair, briefly spoke about some of the activities the Student Congress has been undertaking to promote the reduction in summer tuition at the university's community colleges such as advertising on social media, via flyers, and through word of mouth.

Noting the historically robust flow of international students to the KapCC campus, something which was greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Vice-Chair Tochiki inquired about enrollment data for this demographic and whether the numbers have rebounded. Furthermore, she communicated her pride in, and gratitude for, KapCC's efforts to address Hawai'i's workforce and community needs, citing the growth of just over 47 percent in non-credit enrollment. Chancellor Takabayashi thanked Vice-Chair Tochiki for her compliments and responded that KapCC is turning the corner on international student enrollment with figures showing signs of strong growth, thanks in large part to the Honda International Center which offers academic services to students from countries throughout the world. While the campus has traditionally focused on, and heavily invested in, recruiting students from Japan, Korea, and China, KapCC has begun putting more energy into diversifying its global education and recruitment efforts. Through the Honda International Center, KapCC is also seeking to build more outbound opportunities for its students, as well as community college students throughout the system.

Regent Akitake asked for an update on the food options for students on campus, capital improvements to the cafeteria, and the status of the Culinary Institute of the Pacific (CIP) project. Chancellor Takabayashi stated renovations to the 'Ōhelo Building where the Culinary Arts Program is located are ongoing and on track. However, this has required the Culinary Arts Program to utilize the kitchen in KapCC's cafeteria for instructional purposes resulting in the loss of this food option for students. In the meantime, the KapCC administration has negotiated with, and brought in, food vendors and food truck operators to provide dining options at a price point amenable to students. With respect to the CIP project, Chancellor Takabayashi invited Chef Roy Yamaguchi, the CIP's Executive Director, to speak to this matter. Chef Yamaguchi shared his thoughts on the need for greater food accessibility to students on campus and briefly reviewed the status of the CIP project. While he acknowledged the tremendous amount of work already done to bring this idea to fruition and believes the CIP will eventually become a center for culinary excellence, he stated the key to successfully bringing all the facets of the institute together was the restaurant which, in his opinion, has some design challenges in need of correction. Chef Yamaguchi also highlighted a few of the activities taking place at the facility's innovation center, labs, and auditorium which have already opened, and talked about the CIP's collaborative partnership with the Culinary Institute of America, which is going incredibly well.

Although he appreciated Chef Yamaguchi's pursuit of perfection with respect to the CIP's restaurant, Regent Faumuina stressed the need to keep the pedagogical purpose of the facility in mind when pondering whether the restaurant was functioning as intended and ready to be opened for public use.

Regent Wilson offered his perspectives on the CIP stating he believed it had tremendous potential to be a learning place for the culinary arts, not only in Hawai'i and across the Pacific, but throughout the world.

Given his statements of concern about the CIP's restaurant, Regent Abercrombie suggested Chef Yamaguchi provide the board with additional information on what is needed and what he is seeking to procure to achieve his vision for the facility. By being afforded with this information, perhaps the board can lend its support to, and garner the resources necessary for, bringing this vision to fruition.

Citing a reduction in KapCC's transfer rates, Regent Faumuina asked whether there was a rationale for this decrease. Chancellor Takabayashi clarified that the statistics provided in the presentation were not transfer rates. Rather, they are a reflection of the total number of transfers in a given academic year. As such, these figures have to be compared to overall headcount enrollment, which has fluctuated over the past several years, to determine whether or not there has been a drop in the transfer rate. Unfortunately, this data was not calculated for inclusion in the campus report. Veronica Ogata, KapCC Dean of Arts and Sciences, added that while economic conditions are leading to larger numbers of high school students choosing to begin their post-secondary educational journey at a community college due to its affordability, the same financial considerations can impact an individual's ability, and thus decision, to pursue a four-year degree thereby affecting transfer rates.

## **VI. AGENDA ITEMS**

### **A. Request for Action to Approve the Establishment and Naming of the Gary O. Galiher Endowed Professorship in the Department of Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Science at the UHM College of Education**

Laura Lyons, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Excellence, provided information on a financial commitment from the Gary O. Galiher Hawai'i Foundation for the establishment and naming of the Gary O. Galiher Endowed Professorship in the Department of Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Science at the UHM College of Education. She noted the purpose of this endowed professorship is to recruit, support, and retain talented faculty, as well as to provide resources to the recipient to serve as Faculty Director or Advisory Board Chair for the Hawai'i Concussion Awareness Management Program to sustain its impact on the Hawai'i Community.

Regent Abercrombie spoke about his personal experiences with Mr. Galiher stating he found the background provided on Mr. Galiher in the memorandum for this item to be true in every respect.

Regent Wilson moved to approve the establishment of the endowed professorship as requested by the administration, seconded by Regent Abercrombie, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

### **B. Report on Association of Governing Boards (AGB) Conference on Trusteeship as required by Section 92-2.5(e), Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) by Regents Faumuina, Haning, Miyahira, and Tochiki**

Vice-Chair Tochiki, Regent Faumuina, Regent Haning, and Regent Miyahira provided reports on the AGB National Conference on Trusteeship (AGB Conference) which they attended last month. Regent Faumuina thanked board leadership for providing him with the opportunity to take part in the conference remarking it was a valuable experience for himself as a regent. As for his biggest takeaways from the conference, they included learning about the ability of regents to function properly in their role on a board; the importance of, and limitations on, relationships between board members and the university president; and the foundational principles of trusteeship. In addition, he mentioned the possibility of establishing a mentorship program for new regents in the future, perhaps through a partnership with the Association of Emeritus Regents.

Regent Haning shared a little about his experiences at the AGB Conference noting the fruitful conversations held with colleagues from across the country, the relationships built among peers, and extensive subject matter encompassed by the various conference sessions, all of which will be useful in conducting the business of the board in the future.

Regent Miyahira thanked board leadership for allowing him to go to the AGB Conference and spoke on some of the topics covered in, discussions which occurred at, and ideas exchanged during, the sessions he attended including those related to strategic planning; board and university governance; gaps in skills and expertise on governing boards; student success and student needs; and issues related to Name, Image, and Likeness in intercollegiate athletics. Additionally, he attended a roundtable discussion about the roles of audits in the university setting. Of interest in that session was the University of Washington's utilization of an audit advisory committee comprised of Chief Financial Officers and audit managers from the private sector.

Vice-Chair Tochiki stated she had the privilege of sitting in on a special, pre-conference leadership session for pairs of presidents and board chairs from 10 university systems. She touched upon some of the relevant discussions which took place at the pre-conference noting it was important, impactful, and inspiring to hear from other system leaders about how other universities are dealing with the upheaval currently occurring in higher education across the nation; the ways in which other institutions are addressing the challenges affiliated with state and federal policy changes and executive orders which are constantly in flux; what it means to be a university system; and the need for universities to self-examine their roles with regard to the constituencies and communities they serve. Other topics which she found particularly interesting during the conference included those related to governing board responsibilities, particularly with respect to the differences between governance and management of a university; strategic planning implementation; university autonomy; community workforce needs and how to meet them; and challenges associated with the pivots occurring in, as well as major changes to the ways institutions are approaching, intercollegiate athletics. Vice-Chair Tochiki also voiced her pride in the role and impact President Hensel has had, and continues to have, on the national higher education scene noting she was a member of a panel having serious conversations about how universities are addressing various federal and state initiatives.

Citing his participation in past AGB conferences as both an attendee and a presenter, Regent Wilson stated he was a firm supporter of continued attendance at these meetings believing they were a worthwhile investment as they provide regents with an increased

ability to stay abreast of what is occurring in the higher educational landscape nationwide, as well as offering critical networking opportunities.

### **C. Legislative Update**

- 1. Legislative Calendar**
- 2. 2025 Budget/Funding Bill**
- 3. 2025 UH Legislative Package (Admin Bills)**
- 4. 2025 Select Bills of Interest**
  - a. Board of Regents**
  - b. UH Operations**
- 5. 2025 Select Resolutions of Interest**
- 6. List of Appropriation Bills and Resolutions**

VP Young presented updates on a number of measures and priority issues the university is following at the Legislature this year including the university's legislative package bills, as well as items of interest involving the administration and board. He briefly went over the current status of legislation regarding, among other things, the university's operating and capital improvement budgets, emphasizing the respective legislative fiscal committees are, at present, in conference negotiations to finalize these budgets, although the parties appear to have come to general agreement on a few items; the ability to issue revenue bonds; the cigarette tax; the Hawai'i Promise Program; artificial intelligence; and funding adjustments for State programs, which is essentially a bill authorizing the sweeping of special and revolving funds including eight such funds associated with the university. He also reviewed the status of several resolutions related to the university; various Governor's Messages communicating the appointment of individuals to boards and commissions associated with the university; and the legislative calendar for the remainder of the 2025 session.

Regent Akitake sought clarification on the status of H.B. No. 1494, House Draft 3, Senate Draft 1 (HB 1494, HD3, SD1), which, among other things, places several stipulations on appropriations to the Stadium Development Special Fund and requires these conditions to be met before the monies appropriated can be spent. She also requested an explanation of the measure's purpose and asked about the position taken by the university on this bill. VP Young stated, while the current version of this bill is significantly different from the original draft, it still remains in play for this session. However, the appointment of conferees to conduct negotiations on this measure have yet to be made by either chamber of the Legislature. As currently drafted, the bill's major objective is to permit private, non-public funds to be contributed toward the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED) Project and then allow those monies to be treated as if they had been appropriated by the Legislature. In general terms, this basically means if private funds can be secured, they can be used for the stadium project. While the university has publicly stated its position of support for the Executive

Branch's efforts with respect to the NASED Project in comments provided on earlier drafts of this measure, and is mainly concerned about the timeliness and speed of getting a stadium constructed, it has not taken a position or provided comments on the aforementioned aspects of HB 1494, HD3, SD1.

Regent Abercrombie asked whether agreement was reached in the amount of operating funds being allocated for the Pamantasan Council which appears to be the case given the information provided in the administration's presentation. He also inquired about the purpose and function of the Pamantasan Council. VP Young replied that, based upon what he has heard, the legislative money committees have already identified items within the budget where there is substantial agreement on the allocation amounts. However, until the final draft of the budget is agreed to, there is no certainty with respect to this agreement. As for the purpose and function of the Pamantasan Council, VP Young stated he was not currently able to provide details on this matter at this point in time. However, he remarked he could gather background information on this entity and provide it to Regent Abercrombie at a later date.

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

Regent Miyahira moved to convene into executive session to discuss the executive session item as listed on the agenda, seconded by Regent Akitake, and with all 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), HRS.

The meeting recessed at 10:32 a.m.

Regent Paloma left at 11:23 a.m.

Vice-Chair Loo left at 11:25 a.m.

Chair Lee called the meeting back to order at 11:36 a.m. stating the board met in executive session to discuss the matters as noted on the agenda.

#### **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Lee announced that the next board meeting was scheduled for May 15, 2025, at Kaua'i Community College.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Yvonne Lau  
Executive Administrator and Secretary of  
the Board of Regents