



Board of Regents &lt;bor@hawaii.edu&gt;

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## Senate Executive Committee (SEC) testimony for BoR meeting 10.15.2015

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**UHM Faculty Senate** <uhmfs@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Oct 13, 2015 at 2:25 PM

To: Office of the Board of Regents &lt;bor@hawaii.edu&gt;

Cc: Robert Cooney &lt;rvcooney@hawaii.edu&gt;

Dear Office of the BoR,

Attached is signed testimony from the SEC Chair, Robert V. Cooney on behalf of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) for the upcoming BoR meeting at Maui College on October 15, 2015.

Chair Cooney will be attending the meeting as well.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email.

Sincerely yours,

**John Kinder***Administrative Officer*

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**BoR\_10.15.2015\_Testimony\_SEC.pdf**

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October 12, 2015

Randy Moore, Chair  
University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Dear Chair Moore and Board Members:

The University of Hawaii at Mānoa remains in a budget crisis and attempts to limit spending over the last 3 decades have only led to deferred maintenance, larger class size for undergraduates with less contact with professors, and expensive research enterprises and professional schools that increasingly rely on funds generated from undergraduate tuition increases. The evidence is overwhelming that we cannot afford all we attempt to do and that decisions need to be made. I and others have testified to this repeatedly over the last year, yet no action has been taken to reverse this downward spiral.

The release of the Chancellor's budget report is a step in the right direction. However it is a day late and a dollar short. It provides for no mechanism for the equitable allocation of G funds and does not deal with the issue of the actual budgeting process and prioritization. The cost of professional schools and organized research units is a prime element in the underfunding of Mānoa and new ways to fund them adequately need to be found or their continued existence will be in question. What is clear, however, is that funding these units on the backs of undergraduates can no longer be tolerated. It is equally intolerable to simply shift the proportion of G funds to those unsustainable units, thereby reducing the fraction of State of Hawaii support for undergraduate education.

The BoR must take the lead in demanding a rational budget process that transparently determines the needs of academic units and student support services with appropriate G funded support to carry out the prime mission of undergraduate and graduate education for Hawaii. Research is fundamental to that mission and should be incorporated into the mission of academic units. Organized research units and professional schools all should develop rational business plans for a sustainable future that incorporates university and State missions within reasonable budgets.

The suggested request of \$5M for the Cancer Research Center along with the millions for "innovation", prior to the development of viable business plans, are prime examples of what is wrong with the budget process. Virtually every academic unit on campus has needs as important as those claimed by the Cancer Center and are involved with "innovation" yet I do not see their needs reflected in the biennium budget request. Why not? Who is deciding what is more important to the campus? The continued exclusion of faculty from this mysterious budget process will only lead us further down the misguided path we are on. I urge you to set a policy in place that demands rationality in the budget process and includes faculty and students in determining viable priorities for present and future needs of the university.

Sincerely,

Robert V. Cooney, Ph.D.  
Chair, UH Mānoa Faculty Senate