

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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*****All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.***

Your Name (required) *

Erin Centeio

Your Organization (optional)

Presidential Search Advisory Group (PSAG)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

ecenteio@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

Special BOR - IV.B. Board Approval of Presidential Search Advisory Group Members

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Please see below for testimony submitted on behalf of the four initial members of the PSAG.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

PSAG Testimony IVB.pdf (29.1 kB)

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Erin E. Centeio (ACCFSC), Jaret KC Leong (UH Staff Council),
Kamakanaoakealoha Aquino (Pūko‘a Council), Lindsey Millerd (Student
Caucus)

Regarding **Agenda Item IV. B. Board Approval of Presidential Search Advisory
Group Members**

Aloha Chair Nahale-a and Regents,

**** NOTE - We are submitting this testimony as a written account of what was
spoken as part of the Presidential Search Advisory Group (PSAG) presentation at
the February 16th Special BOR meeting.**

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the individuals who represent each of the four codified groups serving on the PSAG: Jaret KC Leong as chair of the UH Staff Council, Erin Centeio, co-chair of the ACCFSC, Kamakana Aquino, Pūko‘a Council representative, and Lindsey Millerd, representative for the student caucus. Our first task assigned to the four of us was to work with Vice Chairs Lee and Wilson to recommend to the BOR up to eight additional members to the PSAG.

We prepared a formal report that is available in the February 16, 2024 meeting materials. This testimony is supplemental to that formal report and was presented in person during the February 16th meeting. We want to remind the BOR that the four of us, and our constituents, would rather there be space for faculty, staff, and students on the presidential selection committee in addition to the BOR committee of a-whole. However, we understand that this is the direction that the Regents have voted to move, and we have moved forward in good faith to create a diverse group of individuals to serve on the PSAG. With that in mind, it is essential for the advisory group to provide significant input from faculty, staff, students, and community during the entire Presidential Search Process. We have been assured by many of you that the advisory group is not for cosmetic or public relations purposes.

Presented before you today is the full list of the 12 people we recommend to serve on the PSAG. The first four are the representatives from the four codified groups requested to provide an individual. Each group came about their representative differently, but most voted in some capacity for their representative. We have provided bios for the four of us at the beginning of the PSAG report because we thought it was important that you knew our backgrounds and how we contribute to the overall PSAG. Although we might

be “labeled” as one thing in the memos and announcements that went out to the larger UH community, we wear many hats and have our own eclectic experiences.

In preparation for the PSAG’s first meeting, an email with a link to a google survey was sent to the All Campus Council for Faculty Senate Chair (ACCFSC) members asking for feedback on what groups or entities should be represented on the search advisory group. It also asked for suggestions of names of individuals who might be a good fit for those specific groups/entities. The members of the ACCFSC were asked to send the survey out to their governance groups and the survey was also sent to the Mānoa Faculty Congress. Similarly, both the UH staff council and the Pūkoa Council sent out emails soliciting similar information from their respective groups. The student caucus discussed additional members during one of their caucus meetings. Once we sat down as a group of six (the four of us plus Regent Lee and Regent Wilson), we started discussing the types of groups and entities that need to be represented on the PSAG. Using data that was submitted from all constituents, we identified a total of 32 prioritized categories that we wanted to try to make sure were represented. The original group of four filled six of those categories.

During the first meeting, the four core members discussed and voted that each codified group wanted a second representative seat on the PSAG. Although all groups expressed interest and desire to receive more than two from their group, it was ultimately decided that with a limit of 12 individuals on the PSAG, we also needed space for other stakeholders. Having voted for a 2nd seat for each codified group, the groups had a VERY short time to figure out a second representative. This occurred in a matter of five days, including the weekend. The core members of the PSAG allowed each codified group to put forth their nomination for the second seat. Names were discussed, and the names presented to the BOR on February 16, 2024, had no serious concerns at the time of deliberation. The individuals on the proposed PSAG that fill these spots include Dirk Soma for the faculty, Brandon Marc Higa representing the staff, Dominique Bonifacio for the student caucus, and Noe Noe Wong-Wilson for the Pūko’a council.

After that selection process, the group worked together to see what categories each of these additional four members filled. They filled an additional 9 of the 32 (totaling 15) prioritized categories. With that completed, we went to work as a group to review additional names submitted by the Regents, Faculty, Staff, and students. We had categories that we were looking to fill and came up with a short list of names for the remaining spots. Looking at the total make-up of the PSAG, we aimed to create a diverse group, focusing on areas of concern like gender, neighbor island representation, different institutions, 4-year vs 2-year and community college representation. Using the final prioritized categories along with these other considerations, we arrived at 4

additional individuals. These individuals covered an additional 13 of the prioritized categories, totaling 28. The individuals who were added to the proposed PSAG at this point in the process were Duane Kurisu, Jerris Hedges, Jack Wong, and Tammi Oyadomari-Chun. Four of the 12 total individuals on the PSAG were suggested by a member of the Board of Regents.

This process has led us to the 12 names we present to the board today. It is important to note that this was an extremely difficult task to complete in a very short timeline. From our initial meeting as a group of six, until we were required to turn in a final vetted list of names, it was 8 days (including the weekend). It is also important for the regents to understand that some of our core PSAG group members still believe that the PSAG could benefit from having more than 12 members. Some of the concerns brought before you as testimony are simply because there was not enough room to represent all entities and the group could benefit from additional seats.

We hope that you will appreciate the due diligence that this team went through in a short period of time, to create the best representative group, including faculty, staff, students, and community members. Although the group will not satisfy everyone, this is a well-balanced group that will work with the broader community to represent the needs and desires of the UH system in the next presidential candidate. We hope that you will recognize the thought and hard work that went into this list. We have done our due diligence to recommend this group in the requested timeline and seek your approval for the whole group, so that we can move forward with this process.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Erin E. Centeio, ACCFSC
Jaret KC Leong, UH Staff Council
Kamakanaokealoha Aquino, Pūko‘a Council
Lindsey Millerd, UH Student Caucus