

LATE TESTIMONY

TO: The Board of Regents, University of Hawai'i
FROM: Dr. Marguerite Butler, Professor, School of Life Sciences, UH Manoa
On behalf of: Multiple members of the Manoa Faculty Senate including committee chairs and officers
DATE: 03/21/24
RE: Testimony regarding agenda items III.B PSAG tasks and charge and III.C timeline

Dear Chair Lee, Regents, and President Lassner,

My name is Marguerite Butler. I am a Professor in the School of Life Sciences, and co-chair of the Mānoa Faculty Senate Committee on Faculty Service. Today I am testifying on behalf of myself and Mānoa Faculty Senate colleagues.

Mānoa senators are very interested in providing organized senate input into the presidential search process. Two critical points for faculty consultation remain: (1) the development of the search criteria, and (2) feedback following campus visits by the finalists.

Consultation Timeline: The MFS has begun discussing the very important matter of the search criteria. However, organized consultation requires sufficient time to follow our senate bylaws and rules of order with the development of resolutions through committees followed by placement on the senate agenda (with notice), discussion, and vote of the full senate. This process generally takes 2 months. The remaining MFS meetings for this academic year are scheduled for April 17 and May 8, 2024.

Stakeholder visits/Town halls: In the March 3 special meeting it was stated that regents would not attend these meetings. We note that is in contrast to previous President or Chancellor searches, where 2 regents attended stakeholder meetings to listen and better understand the concerns of stakeholder groups, during finalist campus visits. It was not intrusive. *We note that two rounds of stakeholder visits (criteria/candidate visits) would significantly extend the search timeline, and may not be practical.* Criteria may be gathered by the standard processes of the campus senates and other representative bodies.

Qualifications: As the potential supervisor of a future Mānoa Chancellor and architect of splitting the positions of President and Chancellor and consequent reorganization of the associated administrative offices, the candidate must have the qualifications to be the Chancellor of a research intensive university. **This is especially true as today, Mānoa (the research university) is the only campus without its own chancellor.**

In the previous configuration, the Mānoa Chancellor had control over research and academic operations via Mānoa-based offices and administrators including Research Services (grant administration), Research Compliance, Facilities and Maintenance, Space allocation, and Budget. Over a multi-year reorganization process, all of these offices moved from Mānoa to System. Simply resurrecting a chancellor position without returning their administrative staff would create a powerless chancellor with no autonomy for Mānoa. Therefore it is imperative for

the health and future of Hawaii's only research intensive university that the re-separation of the roles be thoughtfully executed in a major multi-year reorganization process that returns Mānoa offices from System. The new president must have a deep understanding of the requirements of a research university for the future of higher education in our state.

We respectfully submit these requests/comments:

- 1) We respectfully request that regents attend stakeholder listening sessions/town halls.
- 2) Advance notice of approximately two months for official consultation by the Manoa Faculty Senate (MFS) and other campus senates.
- 3) We recommend the use of Zoom interviews by the PSAG to narrow down to a short list of 3-4 finalists, using the same set of questions for each candidate designed to explore the search criteria. This is standard practice for academic searches.
- 4) Campus visits by each of the finalists to occur during the duty period of 9-month faculty so that broad faculty and student participation will be feasible. (August - May)
- 5) The candidate profile to include possessing the qualifications to be the Chancellor of a research intensive university.
- 6) The MFS requests copies of prior President and Chancellor search ads/position descriptions and minimum and desired qualifications. We note that President Lassner was hired at a time when the roles were separate and a Mānoa chancellor was in place.

Thank you for considering our requests. The Mānoa Faculty Senate will be discussing the search criteria at the April meeting.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marguerite Butler, Senator, co-Chair, Committee on Faculty Service
Dr. Ashley Maynard, Senator, Chair of the Committee on Academic Policy and Planning
Dr. Sarita Rai, Senator, Chair of the Committee on Administration and Budget
Dr. Richard Medina, Senator, co-Chair, Committee on Faculty Service
Dr. Andrew B. Wertheimer, Senator, Secretary, Committee on Administration and Budget
Dr. Eugene A. Magnier, Senator, Committee on Administration and Budget
Dr. Rosemarie Woodruff, Senator, Committee on Educational Effectiveness
Dr. Sara Cook, Senator, co-Chair, Committee on Student Affairs
Kenika Lorenzo-Elarco, MPA, Senator, co-Chair, Committee on Student Affairs
Dr. Wesley Palmer-Lasky, Senator, Committee on Faculty Service
Richard Wallsgrove, Esq., Senator, Chair of the Committee on Professional Matters