

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.

*****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)

Senate Executive Committee

Your Organization (optional)

Mānoa Faculty Senate

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

uhmfs@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

Special BOR - IV.A. Approval of the Proposed Presidential Profile and Selection Criteria for the President Search

Your Position (required)

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

If you have any questions, please contact Erin E. Centeio, 2023-24 SEC Chair at ecenteio@hawaii.edu.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

[Manoa Faculty Senate] SEC Testimony to the BOR, May 2024.pdf (169.7 kB)



May 13, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

CC: Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

FROM: 2023-24 Senate Executive Committee

RE: Special BOR Meeting Thursday, May 16, 2024, 1:30 pm; Agenda Item IV. A. Approval of the Proposed Presidential Profile and Selection Criteria for the Presidential Search

Aloha Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i,

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) of the Mānoa Faculty Senate regarding the approval of the Proposed Presidential Profile and Selection Criteria for the Presidential Search.

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) of the Mānoa Faculty Senate requests the following changes to the presidential search criteria.

- 1. Re-write Desired Qualification (DQ) #1 and move it to a Minimum Qualification (MQ).**
 - A Ph.D. or other terminal degree.
- 2. Move Desired Qualification #2 to a Minimum Qualification.**
 - A strong record of scholarly achievement (e.g., research, publications, intellectual leadership, and extramural funding).
- 3. Rewrite/Integrate Minimum Qualification #6 and Desired Qualification #3 into a new Minimum Qualification #6**
 - REPLACE Minimum Qualification #6 with the following (combining DQ #3 and MQ #6)
 - A commitment to academic excellence, academic freedom, and support for research, scholarship, and teaching with a strong sense of ethics and high personal and academic integrity.

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Your Name (required)

Ashley Maynard

Your Organization (optional)

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

amaynard@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

Special BOR - IV.A. Approval of the Proposed Presidential Profile and Selection Criteria for the President Search

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Oppose

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Dear Regents,

I'm Ashley Maynard, Professor of Psychology at UH Mānoa for 23 years. I am testifying about elements of the criteria for our next president (Agenda Item IV.A.).

Thank you to Wittkieber and the PSAG for their efforts in writing a description of qualities we might expect in the next president.

It's clear that there were many interests competing to produce the description, and while I was happy to see that academics were considered as part of what we expect in our next president, it appears that the group effort, especially on a short timeline, resulted in confusion of certain academic principles.

For example, it is inconsistent to indicate "A well-developed understanding of academic values, culture, and emerging issues in higher education" as a minimum qualification and then make "demonstrated commitment to academic freedom and academic integrity" only desirable. A commitment to academic freedom and academic integrity is foundational to a university. Similarly, a commitment to teaching and research excellence was listed as only desirable when this commitment is also a minimal expectation of a university leader.

I suggest you either move commitments to these academic principles (academic freedom, academic integrity, and teaching and research excellence) to MQs or delete them as being assumed. Leaving such commitments in the DQs is inappropriate because it diminishes the importance of academic freedom, academic integrity, and teaching and research excellence, suggesting that they are only desirable, when they are, in fact, foundational to any university that employs faculty. If we give up those principles, we won't have a university.

Furthermore, these academic principles are best embodied in someone with a PhD or appropriate terminal degree expecting to lead our mission, which has education at its center. The best candidate for president will have held tenure as a full professor at a research university. Academic principles are best understood, explained, and defended by people who have direct experience enacting those principles as academics themselves. People tend to spend their time doing and thinking about things they're good at. We want someone good at higher education to lead an institution of higher education. Please make a PhD or appropriate terminal degree a minimal expectation of our next president. It will help ensure a better chance of empathy for faculty in the next president, and such empathy will be helpful in a leader, which we hope this person will turn out to be. Thank you.

Very truly yours,
Ashley E. Maynard, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached