

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON STUDENT SUCCESS MEETING

AUGUST 3, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Laurie Tochiki called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 3, 2023, at the University of Hawai'i (UH) at Mānoa, Information Technology Building, 1st Floor Conference Room 105A/B, 2520 Correa Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822, with regents participating from various locations.

Committee members in attendance: Chair Laurie Tochiki; Vice-Chair William Haning; Regent Laurel Loo; Regent Abigail Mawae; and Regent Ernest Wilson.

Others in attendance: Board Chair Alapaki Nahale-a; Regent Neil Abercrombie; Regent Lauren Akitake; Regent Gabriel Lee; Regent Diane Paloma (ex officio committee members); President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Administration Jan Gouveia; VP for Academic Strategy Debora Halbert; VP for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; VP for Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos; VP for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; Interim VP for Community Colleges Della Teraoka; UH-Mānoa (UHM) Provost Michael Bruno; UH-Hilo Chancellor Bonnie Irwin; UH-West O'ahu Chancellor Maenette Benham; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Yvonne Lau; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Tochiki inquired if there were any corrections to the May 4, 2023, meeting minutes for the committees formerly known as the Committees on Academic and Student Affairs and Intercollegiate Athletics which had been distributed. Hearing none, the minutes for both meetings were approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Board Secretary Lau announced that the Board Office did not receive any written testimony, and no individuals signed up to provide oral testimony.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Request for Approval of a \$500.00 Professional Fee in the Academy for Creative Media (ACM) at UHM

VP Halbert explained that Regents Policy (RP) 6.203 requires board approval for any proposal to establish a new fee impacting a student's cost of attendance, including professional fees. She also noted that, once established, fees may be adjusted by the President of the University in accordance with authority granted under RP 6.203.

Christine Acham, ACM Department Chair, provided information about the growth of the Bachelor of Arts in ACM degree program at UHM noting that over 330 students were enrolled in the program during the 2022-2023 academic year; spoke about the rationale for the proposed fee stating that it will be used to provide students greater access to industry-standard equipment, computers, and software, and allow for innovative class offerings geared towards preparing students to successfully enter a variety of industries upon graduation; and discussed the program's potential to diversify Hawai'i's economy.

Regents lauded the administration for the detail and thoroughness of the programmatic operational and financial plans that accompanied the request for approval of the proposed fee.

Board Chair Nahale-a expressed his appreciation for the targeted approach of using fees to cover expenses of programs that have high costs in comparison to other instructional programs with the same tuition, which is something that was brought up during board deliberations on the university's tuition schedule in January of this year.

Regent Paloma asked whether professional fees are eligible for financial aid. President Lassner responded in the affirmative.

Regent Wilson moved to recommend board approval of a \$500 professional fee in the ACM at UHM, seconded by Regent Loo, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

Regent Akitake arrived at 2:40 p.m.

B. Discussion of New Committee Structure, Duties, and Functions

1. Annual Review of Table of Duties for the 2023-2024 Academic Year (Annual Review Table)

Chair Tochiki referenced the Annual Review Table which was contained within the materials packet noting that it lists the committee's duties and functions as stated in the recently amended Bylaws of the Board of Regents (Bylaws) and would be used as a tool to guide the committee's work during the coming academic year. She asked committee members if they had any questions or comments about the new committee structure, duties, or functions, or the Annual Review Table.

Regents, engaged in discussions about the roles, responsibilities, and duties of the committee, particularly with regard to strategic goals and objectives for research, innovation, and technology transfer at the university which can have an impact on both student and institutional success; oversight responsibility for the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i which theoretically could fall under the jurisdiction of several committees, including the Committees on Independent Audit and Institutional Success; the mental well-being of students from a broader perspective inclusive of student-athletes; and the need to remain focused on ensuring that the student experience is positive and effective.

Chair Tochiki thanked regents for the healthy dialogue stressing that the new committee structure was a work in progress and that adjustments can be made as the academic year progresses. She also emphasized that the Annual Review Table was a dynamic document subject to change and that referrals of subject matter areas where committee oversight responsibility is questionable would best be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

C. Discussion and Possible Action on Revisions of Bylaws for New Committee Structure

Although Chair Tochiki remarked that she did not believe there was a need to amend the Bylaws with respect to the articulation of committee duties and responsibilities, she did raise for contemplation, the idea of changing the Bylaw requirement regarding the inclusion of regents from the four major islands within the committee membership and asked committee members for their thoughts on this matter.

Regents deliberated the issue of committee membership raised by Chair Tochiki with several conveying their desire to maintain the major island representation requirement citing the unique needs and concerns of students and faculty on each island. Many also felt that maintaining this requirement would ensure adequate representation for campuses on each island and strengthen the board's focus on the university as a system. However, some regents noted the logistical challenges posed by this requirement especially with respect to overall committee assignments.

In light of these conversations, Regent Haning suggested the possibility of amending the noted language to stipulate that every rational effort should be made to include a regent from each county rather than requiring such representation.

Board Chair Nahale-a remarked that, in theory, the issue of campus representation is already being addressed since the board consists of at least one representative from each county who can serve as an advocate for campuses within their county. Additionally, the issue of campus representation should be thought of in a broad sense given that the enrollment at many campuses within the university's 10-campus system include students from every county. He also opined that the membership requirement is fairly constraining and liked the compromise language put forth by Regent Haning.

Chair Tochiki recommended that the committee not amend the Bylaws at this time and review this matter again should it become necessary in the future. She asked if committee members had any thoughts on this recommendation, or wanted to propose other changes to the Bylaws. None were raised.

D. Discussion of Committee Goals for the 2023-2024 Academic Year

Chair Tochiki stated that, after reviewing the minutes and agendas from the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs and Intercollegiate Athletics, she envisioned including updates on the completion of the general education redesign initiative, student mental health and well-being inclusive of student-athletes, and the university's meeting of basic student needs within the context of the strategic plan as

part of the goals of the committee. She asked if committee members felt a need to include any additional objectives for the committee to achieve over the coming year.

Committee members discussed the possibility of including an examination of the changes made to instructional modalities, primarily as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impacts this has had on meeting the educational wants and needs of students, as well as its impacts to student success, as a committee goal.

Regent Akitake left at 3:14 p.m.

Chair Tochiki and Vice-Chair Mawae praised the administration for their work to ensure that the educational needs of students were met during the pandemic highlighting the seamless transition that occurred from in-person to online course instruction. Vice-Chair Mawae also referenced several new programmatic options that were initiated during the pandemic, such as the online Juris Doctorate degree program launched by the William S. Richardson School of Law, as examples of the university's ability to quickly pivot its educational programming to meet student demand.

Regent Abercrombie congratulated Board Chair Nahale-a for his work and leadership in implementing the board's new committee structure which was approved earlier this year.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Tochiki adjourned that meeting at 3:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Yvonne Lau
Executive Administrator and Secretary
of the Board of Regents