

MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON STUDENT SUCCESS
MEETING

OCTOBER 5, 2023

A video recording of this meeting may be viewed at the Board of Regents website as follows:

[Meeting Video](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair William Haning called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. on Thursday, October 5, 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: Vice-Chair William Haning; Regent Laurel Loo; Regent Abigail Mawae; and Regent Ernest Wilson.

Committee members excused: Chair Laurie Tochiki.

Others in attendance: Board Chair Alapaki Nahale-a; Regent Neil Abercrombie; Regent Lauren Akitake; Regent Wayne Higaki; Regent Gabriel Lee (ex officio committee members); President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Academic Strategy Debora Halbert; VP for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; VP for Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos; VP for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer Garret Yoshimi; VP for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; Interim VP for Community Colleges Della Teraoka; UH-Mānoa (UHM) Provost Michael Bruno; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Yvonne Lau; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Chair Haning inquired if there were any corrections to the minutes of the August 3, 2023, committee meeting which had been distributed. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

A. University of Hawai'i System Academic Priorities and Policy Overview 2023-2024

VP Halbert reported on several new academic initiatives being undertaken to increase educational opportunities at the university including projects related to emerging issues such as generative artificial intelligence/Chat GPT; the creation of a systemwide internship portal; improving cross-campus course sharing; supporting the university's equity goals; microcredentialing; and increasing workforce development opportunities to meet Hawai'i's current workforce needs. She emphasized that these projects were being developed in accord with the five foundational principles and four strategic imperatives of the University of Hawai'i System Strategic Plan 2023-2029, and provided a synopsis of each initiative, highlighting their benefits, actions being taken to bring them to fruition, and implementation challenges being encountered. She also presented an update on the proposal to redesign general education (Gen Ed) core curriculum requirements systemwide, which is intended to improve academic effectiveness and efficiency; discussed ongoing activities to expand student support services, particularly with respect to meeting the basic and mental health needs of students; and spoke about policies associated with the various proposals that may require revisions.

Regent Abercrombie questioned whether academic program articulation existed systemwide. VP Halbert replied that specific academic programs do have established articulation pathways between campuses within the university system and that common course numbering was utilized for all the university's general education courses, which is a form of articulation. She also spoke about efforts to monitor and improve upon academic course articulation and noted the existence of the STAR GPS registration and academic advising system that, among other things, provides students with the ability to determine degree requirements for a declared major and ascertain the availability of classes relevant to their degree pathway across the university system. Regent Abercrombie stressed the importance of course articulation, particularly for neighbor island students, and lauded the administration's endeavors on this matter.

Citing the Maui wildfire disaster, Regent Abercrombie asked if the university would pivot some its workforce initiative proposals to accommodate changing employment needs, especially on Maui, and if so, whether additional fiscal resources would be needed to carry-out these proposals. Interim VP Teraoka replied that UH Maui College Chancellor Lui Hokoana has been working with community leaders to determine Maui county's workforce needs in light of the wildfire catastrophe. Additionally, Chancellor Hokoana has had conversations with other university campus chancellors about adapting academic programming to best address these new workforce demands. Given that some of these workforce training initiatives can be provided through the Good Jobs Hawai'i program, which offers free skills training in Hawai'i's high-demand sectors, it is tentatively believed that the university's existing resources will be sufficient to deal with this issue. President Lassner added that, at this point-in-time, the university does not anticipate seeking additional State funding to carry-out new workforce development initiatives and is currently in the process of identifying other fiscal resources that can be used for this purpose, including existing state funding, federal grants, and philanthropic monies.

While regents praised the administration for the progress made on the Gen Ed core curriculum redesign proposal, they also communicated their frustration with the inordinate amount of time it is taking to implement this plan, attributing much of this delay to individuals opposed to change. They also conveyed their belief that all interested parties within the university have had numerous opportunities to provide input and feedback on the Gen Ed redesign proposal and that the administration should establish a timeline for its implementation. VP Halbert noted the concerns raised by regents remarking that the complexity of the Gen Ed redesign proposal, along with lingering sensitivities about this topic among university personnel, particularly faculty members, have been difficult to navigate. As such, there have been delays in moving forward with this project. Nevertheless, she assured regents that the administration continues to work on this issue and hopes to present amendments to Regents Policy necessitated by changes to the Gen Ed core curriculum in the near future.

B. Report on Academic Programs for Academic Year (AY) 2022-2023

Alan Rosenfeld, Associate VP (AVP) for Academic Programs and Policy, spoke about information contained within the Academic Program Actions Report, which he explained was an annual report that provided details on various programmatic actions that have taken place at both the campus and system level over the prior academic year, and briefly discussed the current program proposal process. He also presented data on some of the major academic program actions that occurred during AY 2022-2023 including, among other things, the number of programs granted established or provisional status by the board and program terminations and stop outs, and pointed out that, in accordance with the authority provided by a recent change to Regents Policy 5.201, numerous new minors, concentrations, and certificates were approved either by the university president or at the campus level.

Regent Akitake sought clarification as to whether the Leeward Community College (LeeCC) program granted established status by the board in May 2023 was related to teacher training. AVP Rosenfeld replied that the Associate of Science in Integrated Industrial Technology degree program at LeeCC was the program that was granted established status by the board in May 2023. Interim VP Teraoka added that the Associate of Science in Teaching degree program at LeeCC attained established status quite a while ago and noted that LeeCC's Associate of Science in Sustainable Agriculture degree program was also granted established status by the board in May 2023.

C. Athletics Health and Safety Report

UH Hilo (UHH) Athletic Director (AD) Patrick Guillen stated that ensuring the physical and mental well-being of student-athletes is one of the highest priorities for the UHH Athletic Department (UHH Athletics). He reported on physical injuries witnessed by UHH student-athletes over the past year including concussions, emphasizing that none of them were considered to be catastrophic; reviewed some of the mental health services that were available at UHH; talked about several proactive and preventative actions being taken to address mental health issues among student-athletes, such as concurrently conducting mental health screening with pre-participation physicals; noted mental health treatment resources available to student-athletes including counseling;

and emphasized efforts being undertaken to cultivate a culture among student-athletes, coaches, and staff that promotes mental health care awareness and reduces the stigma associated with obtaining mental health assistance.

Jonathan Sladky, M.D., UHM's head team physician, remarked that, similar to UHH Athletics, the UHM Athletics Department (UHM Athletics) stresses the importance of ensuring the physical and mental well-being of student-athletes. He reviewed some of the physical and mental health challenges faced by student-athletes; discussed several initiatives undertaken over the past three years to address the issue of mental health among UHM student-athletes; highlighted proactive, reactive, and preventative measures that are being taken to make sure that the mental health needs of student-athletes are met, including the establishment of an holistic mental healthcare and wellness webpage for UHM Athletics 'ohana called Rainbow Wellness; noted efforts by UHM Athletics to increase mental health awareness among student-athletes, coaches, and staff; spotlighted the UHM Athletics mental health team, which consists of a fully-licensed mental health therapist and two pre-licensed mental health therapists that hold master's degrees in counseling; spoke about the addition of a full-time sports scientist to the UHM Athletics staff in 2023 to work on a variety of performance measures that are designed to improve the physical and mental health of student-athletes; described some of the next steps that UHM Athletics expects to be taking in the near future to improve the mental health and physical well-being of student-athletes, such as the hiring of a full-time licensed mental health counselor; and called attention to UHM Athletics being in accord with all of the currently existing National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) mental health best practices. He also provided statistics on concussions experienced by UHM student-athletes by sport over the past four years, noting that these figures have held steady over the last two years and still remain lower in comparison to the number of concussions experienced during the period prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regent Abercrombie questioned whether the hiring of a full-time licensed mental health counselor required legislative approval or was an internal hiring matter that could be addressed at the university level. He also inquired about funding for this position. President Lassner replied that while some additional mental health support can be handled internally, the university will be submitting substantial funding requests for mental health support as well as for athletics in its upcoming budget proposal, which could include funding for this position.

Discussions ensued on the sufficiency of personnel and adequacy of resources to address the mental health and physical well-being of student-athletes at UHM in an optimal manner. While regents verbalized their support for UHM Athletics' hiring of a full-time licensed mental health counselor, particularly since student-athletes face a myriad of mental health challenges, they also stressed the importance of providing mental health and physical well-being support services to student-athletes in a balanced manner at both UHM and UHH.

Vice-Chair Haning asked if the two pre-licensed mental health therapists on the UHM Athletics mental health team were under the guidance of clinical supervisors. Dr. Sladky responded in the affirmative.

D. Athletics Academic Progress Report

AD Guillen reported on the academic performance of UHH student-athletes for the 2022-2023 academic year highlighting several record-breaking achievements in addition to numerous earned honors and awards. He also presented data on Grade Point Averages (GPAs) achieved by UHH student-athletes over the last three years, underscoring that this was the first time in UHH Athletics history that every team achieved an overall GPA of 3.0 or better for the academic year; reviewed student-athlete academic success rates (ASR), retention rates, and graduation rates, all of which was broken down by sport; and spotlighted the academic accomplishments of Daelenn Tokunaga, a UHH women's soccer standout who was named the United Soccer Coaches National Scholar Player of the Year.

Regent Mawae questioned whether UHH student-athletes were subject to required study hall hours. AD Guillen responded in the affirmative stating that study hall requirements are determined by a student-athlete's GPA. He also remarked that, prior to his arrival, UHH Athletics did not have a dedicated study hall space or academic advisor and that study hall requirements were nonexistent. Since that time, UHH Athletics has hired academic advisors and implemented study hall policies which has resulted in the improved academic performance of UHH student-athletes.

Referencing UHH's ASR, Regent Mawae sought clarification about this data point. AD Guillen replied that ASR is a metric used by NCAA Division II schools that tracks the six-year graduation rates of freshman, mid-year transfer, and transfer student-athletes and includes virtually all Division II student-athletes, including those not receiving athletic scholarships.

Regent Abercrombie congratulated Ms. Tokunaga on being named the United Soccer Coaches National Scholar Player of the Year and inquired about the criteria for receiving this award. He also requested AD Guillen to expound upon some of Ms. Tokunaga's other accomplishments. AD Guillen replied that being named the United Soccer Coaches National Scholar Player of the Year is a significant accomplishment since only one individual from each of the three NCAA divisions of women's soccer earn this recognition each year. The criteria used to determine a winner of this award is comprised of both athletic and academic accomplishments including maintaining a cumulative GPA of at least 3.40 (on a 4.0 scale) throughout their career, playing a minimum of 75 percent of games during the season of nomination, and being recognized as an elite player as supported by playing honors such as All-American, All-Region, or All-Conference. In Ms. Tokunaga's case, she maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.85 and received numerous All-American, All-Region, and All-Pacific West Conference honors. Additionally, AD Guillen stated that Ms. Tokunaga's numerous community service activities were also taken into consideration by the United Soccer Coaches in selecting her for this prestigious award.

Regent Mawae asked if there was any rationale for men's basketball having a retention rate of slightly more than 56 percent which appeared to be significantly lower than retention rates for other UHH sports. AD Guillen responded that men's basketball retention rates are disproportionately affected by player transfers given their small

rosters. Over the last year, five players from the UHH men's basketball team transferred to other institutions for various reasons, including seeking greater playing time and a desire to play closer to their hometown, which had a significant impact on retention rates. He also noted that NCAA institutions across the country are expecting student-athlete retention rates to be negatively affected in the coming years as a result of recent changes to the transfer portal rules.

Roxanne Levinson, Associate Athletics Director of Student-Athlete Services, reported on several initiatives being undertaken by UHM Athletics to continue to improve upon student-athlete academic performance such as increasing academic services staff to sustain the upward trend being experienced in student-athlete and team GPAs. She also went over data on UHM student-athlete GPAs for the last eight years; highlighted numerous academic successes, as well as individual and team academic honors and awards, that were attained in AY 2022-2023; and provided a synopsis of UHM Athletics' graduation success rate, federal graduation rate, and academic performance rate remarking that UHM student-athletes outperformed the UHM student body with respect to single year and multi-year graduation rates based upon the latest data available for the applicable student cohorts.

E. Athletic Facilities Update

AD Guillen reviewed several recently completed athletic facilities projects at UHH including the soccer field/softball field/multipurpose building project, as well as renovations to the outdoor tennis courts and the athletic training room. He also spoke about future priority projects for UHH Athletics which consist of improvements to the on-campus gymnasium, along with associated locker rooms and team rooms, the baseball field, and the weight room/fitness facility. It was noted that upgrading facilities at UHH will be beneficial to the recruitment and retention of top-tier student-athletes and the improvement of the overall campus-life experience.

Craig Angelos, UHM AD, presented an update on UHM athletic facilities reviewing a number of projects including the recently completed expansion of the Clarence T.C. Ching Athletics Complex (Ching Complex), ongoing efforts to renovate the Alexander Waterhouse Strength and Conditioning Facility (Waterhouse Facility) and SimpliFi Arena at Stan Sheriff Center, and the construction of a track and field/soccer complex on the upper practice field, the first phase of which is scheduled to break ground in approximately two weeks with completion slated for October 2024. He also mentioned an appropriation of \$18.5 million which, once allocated, is planned to be used for improvements to the Les Murakami Stadium and various locker rooms, and stated that UHM Athletics is currently working with the administration on developing a facilities master plan for lower campus.

Citing the project to renovate the Waterhouse Facility, Regent Mawae asked if the smaller weight rooms located within the athletics complex were also being refurbished. AD Angelos responded that, to the best of his knowledge, plans were not currently in place to renovate those smaller weight rooms.

Regent Abercrombie remarked that well-designed and maintained athletic amenities are critical to the success of UHM Athletics and its student-athletes and can serve to enhance recruiting efforts. AD Angelos concurred with Regent Abercrombie's assessment stating that this was part of the reason for developing the facilities master plan that he spoke about earlier.

Mentioning the \$18.5 million allocation, Regent Mawae inquired if this funding was sufficient to improve lower campus facilities in a way that will elevate them to a level that is more worthy of UH's designation as a member of Division 1 athletics. AD Angelos replied that the \$18.5 million allocation will be designated for locker room and other repairs to lower campus facilities that need to be addressed. On the other hand, the intent of the lower campus facilities master plan is to analyze all of the lower campus athletic facilities using a more holistic approach to determine any necessary facility improvements or upgrades that should be made to bring UHM Athletics more in line with its peers.

Taking into account the current configuration of the Ching Complex, Regent Abercrombie questioned whether the facility could be further expanded to include an additional five to 10,000 seats. AD Angelos remarked that, in his opinion, the Ching Complex could be expanded to accommodate additional fans and that this is something the facilities master plan can investigate further. However, as it currently stands, the City and County of Honolulu (City) has only authorized a 15,000-seat capacity. If UHM Athletics were to look into expanding the Ching Complex, a number of issues would need to be reviewed with the City including parking, traffic control, and plumbing.

Regent Mawae asked if UHM Athletics had a plan to secure philanthropic support for athletic facility improvements and athletics in general. AD Angelos replied that UHM Athletics is presently reviewing its fundraising model. However, he opined that having a lower campus master plan that outlined the facility needs and desires of UHM Athletics in place first would be more a prudent approach to devising a funding plan for these improvements and allow for greater focus with respect to fundraising efforts.

Regent Abercrombie inquired if there was a timeline for completion of the lower campus master plan. AD Angelos replied that he would be working with the consultant contracted to develop the master plan to devise a timeline which they have indicated would take a few months.

Regent Akitake asked if UHM Athletics was in communication with the Office of the Governor, Department of Accounting General Services, and Stadium Authority about the status of the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED) project. AD Angelos replied in the affirmative stating that he has been designated to serve as the University President's representative on the Stadium Authority and attends meetings on a regular basis. As such, he receives regular updates on the NASED project. He also has been appointed to be on the Project Oversight Group which meets every other Monday at 8:00 a.m.

Conversations took place on the overall vision for UHM Athletics, fundraising efforts for UHM Athletics, and the university's involvement in the NASED project.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice-Chair Haning adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Yvonne Lau
Executive Administrator and Secretary
of the Board of Regents