MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS’ COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS MEETING

April 19, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Michael Dahilig called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19, 2011, at the University of Hawai‘i, Bachman 113, 2444 Dole Street, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96822, and University of Hawai‘i-Maui College, Ka‘aike 108, 310 Ka‘ahumanu Avenue, Kahului, Hawai‘i 96732.

Committee members in attendance: Chair Michael Dahilig; Matthew Williams; Chuck Gee; John Holzman; and Teena Rasmussen and Artemio Baxa (at UH Maui College via Polycom).

Others in attendance: President M.R.C. Greenwood, Ph.D.; Executive Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy/Provost, Linda Johnsrud, Ph.D.; Vice President for Student Affairs and University and Community Relations, Rockne Freitas, Ed.D.; Associate Vice President for External Affairs and University Relations, Lynne Waters; Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Karen Lee, Ed.D.; UH-Mānoa Chancellor, Virginia Hinshaw, Ph.D.; UH-Mānoa Vice Chancellor for Students, Francisco Hernandez, Ph.D.; UH-Hilo Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Luoluo Hong, Ph.D.; and Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents, Keith Amemiya, Esq., and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2011 MEETING

Regent Gee moved and Regent Holzman seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2011 meeting, which was unanimously approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents, Keith Amemiya, reported that no testimony was submitted.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion of Mandatory Student Fees

UH-Mānoa Vice Chancellor for Students, Francisco Hernandez, covered student fees at peer institutions such as Colorado State, Oregon State, UC-Davis, Iowa State, Louisiana State, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia, which are like and competitive institutions.
Vice Chancellor Hernandez said that at a previous Committee on Student Affairs meeting on November 12, 2010, the Regents asked where UH-Mānoa’s fees stood in comparison to peer institutions, and he erroneously said that UH-Mānoa was in the bottom 30%. In actuality, UH-Mānoa is in the bottom 20% in comparison to peer institutions. Per semester, UH-Mānoa charges $4,106 in total undergraduate tuition and fees, and $314 in total undergraduate fees (7.64%), which is on the lower end of peer institutions.

Student fees across peer institutions that are mandatory are: Student activity and program fee, student publication, student union operations and recreation, student union program, student government, and health center fees/insurance.

The UH-Mānoa Fee Committee vets all fees before they are brought to the Board of Regents. The committee evaluates fee proposals pertaining to the establishment of new fees, abolition of existing fees, or revisions to current fees. It provides an assessment to the Chancellor regarding implementation or revisions to proposed campus fees. The committee is composed of members of the Faculty Senate, Graduate Student Organization, Associated Students of UH, Academic Affairs, Research and Graduate Education, Administration, Finance, and Operations. The Chair is the Vice Chancellor for Students. It looks at justifications for fees, alternatives, and what the fees will be used for.

Regarding the indexing of fees, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Karen Lee, said that in a comparison study between UH-Mānoa, UH-Hilo, UH-West O‘ahu and the UH Community Colleges, and peer institutions, a vast majority of peer institutions do not index their fees. Some index fees to Higher Education Price Index or Consumer Price Index, and some roll it into their tuition. AVP Lee said UH does not choose to roll fees into tuition because many fees are driven by student leaders, who want to know how much money is collected so that they can use the money for various student initiatives and activities.

Regent Gee said he understands the necessity of fees, but he also understands that graduate students are struggling more than undergraduate students. He is comforted knowing that UH is not at the high end of fee rates. When the Regents heard testimony on the athletics fee, a majority of the graduate students opposed the fee. Part of their argument was that they would not have time to attend athletic events, even if premium seating was available. However, the Regents did not hear testimony on other fees.

Regent Williams said that if UH were to consider a considerable decrease in fees, then that would result in a considerable loss of income, which meant that students would have less access to services that are already being provided.

AVP Lee said that the idea behind mandatory fees is to give students access and provide opportunity to all students.
Regent Holzman said that undergraduate students were also not in favor of the athletics fee, stating that if there was compelling evidence that the students were in favor of the fee, the argument for the fee might carry some weight.

UH-Hilo Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Luoluo Hong said that UH-Hilo has seven student fees, and five are differentiated between part-time and full-time status. The intent at UH-Hilo is to move all fees to one level, based on studies done on peer institutions.

Committee Chair Dahilig said he had concerns about pro-rating fees according to the number of credits taken, because it could create a have and have-not situation. He is trying to balance the access to facilities with the burden of maintaining services. Regent Holzman said it is important to listen to what the students say. President Greenwood said that she worries about enforcing differential fees and usage of facilities. Regent Holzman suggested doing a study of peer institutions of how they handle the same situation.

Regent Baxa said that he felt that regardless if students are full or part-time, if they are given an equal opportunity to receive services, then they should pay equal fees.

Regent Rasmussen added that it is an incentive to take a larger load of classes, because the dollar-per-credit price goes down. She agrees with Regent Baxa, in that if a student has access, then they should pay the full fee. You can't police usage of services.

Committee Chair Dahilig said that UH doesn't want fees to become an inhibitor to enrollment.

Vice Chancellor Hong spoke about UH-Hilo's fee-tracking system, and that many of the services that UH-Hilo provides are the only places where students can get them (i.e. health care services). Some services are provided at an affordable rate for students because the cost is divided.

Regent Gee said that for now, the policy should be left alone, but that the issue of fairness merits further study for the UH-Mānoa campus.

Regent Holzman said that he is not suggesting not charging fees, but instead charging differentiated fees for part-time students. He would be interested in learning more about peer institutions that do charge differentiated fees, and what is involved in administering differentiated fees.

Committee Chair Dahilig said that in regard to indexing fees, and if the administration were to index fees, would it be advantageous then to not index fees? AVP Lee said that the fees are driven by students, and that can be a reason why fees don't come up regularly for approval. Some campuses initiate fees at different times of the year. UH-Mānoa has a fee committee, and UH-Hilo and UH-West O'ahu both have
processes to ensure consultation. UH is drafting an executive policy to delineate and regulate processes.

AVP Lee proposed bringing to the Board, the possibility of delegating to the President the authority to allow increases and decreases in fees up to 5%. Right now, the establishment of fees and increases and decreases of mandatory student fees are always brought to the Board. If it is more than 5%, it could be determined that those increases or decreases would be brought before the Board at one point in the year.

Committee Chair Dahilig said that student fees pay for civil service employees and as a matter of collective bargaining, in the future there could be benefits increases that could eat up the budget of student programs. He is in favor of administrative delegation that is not to the point where it is programmatic. He believes that programmatic changes need to continue to come to the Board for public vetting. However, he feels that 5% is too high.

Regent Gee likes the idea of delegation to take care of fee changes without Board action, but he also feels that 5% may be high. He thinks 3% is a better number, which is close to inflation.

Regent Williams asked if the fee committee would still vet the process if the President was given authority to approve fee changes. AVP Lee said yes, that at the campus level, there would still be a process to vet the fees. Regent Lee asked if the committee disapproved the fee change, would the President still be able to initiate the fee change. AVP Lee said that in theory that is true.

Regent Rasmussen said that she likes the idea of delegating authority of approving changes in mandatory fees up to 5% to the President because of future increases in inflation.

Regent Williams said that he thinks it is important to grant more powers to the President. However, the most important issue for students is tuition and fees. It is important to have those two issues come before the Board because it provides an open hearing and transparency, giving students a voice and empowering them.

Committee Chair Dahilig said that it would be helpful to have a proposal from the administration on an amendment for Board policy that rolls concerns about the right percentage of increase or decrease, continuing transparency with the process, and whether or not mandatory student fees should be applicable (i.e. distinction between athletics fee vs. broadcast fee vs. transportation fee).

Upon question by Regent Baxa, Regent Williams said that from his experience in student government, the students like the opportunity to present testimony in a public hearing, allowing them to communicate what is important to them. It helps students to feel like they are being heard, which empowers them. He feels that the vetting process works and it doesn't work, because there are times that the students feel that although
they do communicate their opinions, they are still not fully heard. Ultimately, he feels that the vetting process works. If there is a fee that the students want approved, it is easily approved. However, if there is a fee, like the athletics fee, which was very unpopular, it was still approved by the Board.

ASUH President Andrew Itsuno said that he agreed with Regent Williams. The students like to take part in a process with transparency. He is unsure of how the process would work if fee changes were delegated to the President. He would need to get more information from the students before giving a formal response. Committee Chair Dahilig told AVP Lee to consult with the student caucus before completing the proposal.

**Update on UH-Mānoa Student Athletic Fee Incentive Package Negotiations**

Committee Chair Dahilig said that negotiation talks have broken down. Details were supposed to be worked out by the Spring.

Vice Chancellor Hernandez said that UH-Mānoa received the first proposal from the students on February 1, 2011. Both the students and the UH-Mānoa athletic department have adjusted their positions. There are five issues that the two sides can’t agree on:

1. The range of 5% to 8% of the total student athletic fee collected that will go to support a variety of student activities.
2. Goals and timetable for completion of acquiring seats.
3. Use of facilities. The students don’t want to pay for the use of athletics facilities if athletics is not already using them for events or practices.
4. The next fee increase. The students want to create a new athletic fee working group to renegotiate the benefits if there is another fee increase.
5. The biggest issue is the actual seats that are provided. There is significant disagreement on the actual seats and where the students desire to sit, for football, men’s basketball, and men’s and women’s volleyball.

Regent Rasmussen made a recommendation that the 5-8% range be resolved by the Board. Regent Williams said he asked about that at a recent Board meeting, which was reflected in the minutes. UH-Mānoa Athletic Director Jim Donovan said at the meeting that $100,000 was allocated for a concert and that is why there was a range. Vice Chancellor Hernandez said that at no time has the athletic department given any indication of intent to only provide 5%. The concern is for the use of the funds for the enhancement of the student experience at athletic events. Committee Chair Dahilig said that the issue would be brought to Board Chair Howard Karr. Committee Chair Dahilig said that the issue should not be under Board governance. He is concerned that once the Fall semester begins, the issue will still be unresolved.

ASUH President Andrew Itsuno said that the students and athletic department agreed on three items: 1) The composition of the Student Athletic Fee Committee (SAFC), which is comprised of six Campus Student Organizations. However, the
students compromised on allowing a member from the Student Athletics Advisory Board, to get a student as a chair of the SAFC. 2) The students wanted paper tickets, but compromised on requirements for general admission and guest tickets. 3) Seating at Les Murakami Stadium.

IItsuno covered the items that the students dropped during negotiations:

1. Student parking at Aloha Stadium
2. Paper tickets
3. Online streaming of athletic events
4. Club sports program
5. School Spirit award
6. Community building: lunches and workshops during the year
7. Athletic Fee cap

Itsuno said that the students felt "bulldozed" by the UH Administration. No one present at the meetings had the authority to make decisions. He reiterated the five items that Vice Chancellor Hernandez said were points of contention for the students.

Tom Robinson, of the Graduate Student Organization, added that the athletics department sent up a seating area for the students without consultation, which is why there is such a big problem.

Regent Williams said that he would be interested in hearing more from Itsuno. Committee Chair Dahilig requested that Itsuno submit written testimony to the Board staff, and Itsuno agreed.

Vice Chancellor Hernandez said that he wanted to rebut some of the statements that Itsuno made. If the two sides can't come to an agreement, then they would take what they have to the Chancellor so that decisions can be made. The last thing UH-Mānoa wants is to have no access at all. There has been access this past academic year at sporting events. Where there has been no action is in the expenditures of the money collected, which has already been communicated.

UH-Mānoa Athletic Director Jim Donovan responded to the students' claims.

1. Range of 5-8%: The big idea was that it would be used to enhance the student experience at athletic events.
2. Timetable: They can come to an understanding regarding a timetable.
3. Use of facilities. The students could use the facilities as long as they paid out-of-pocket expenses.
4. Next fee increase: The athletic department would follow Board policy in the future, but has no plans to ask for increases in the next few years.
5. Seat locations: The areas where the students want to sit are 90% sold to season ticket holders who pay a premium. The seats in the students' section are the same seats that were previously allocated to students.
In response to some of the earlier claims from students, Director Donovan said:

1. Student parking at Aloha Stadium: $125 for the whole season, the same fee Aloha Stadium charges UH.
2. Paper tickets: A problem because of the potential for reselling them.
3. Online streaming of athletic events: Cost and rights issue.
4. Club sports program: Busy enough maintaining intercollegiate athletics.
5. School Spirit award: Athletic department said it would cooperate on this issue.
6. Community building: Athletic department said it would cooperate on this issue.
7. Athletic Fee cap: Wanted to follow Board policy in the future.

Committee Chair Dahilig said that his concern is that the seating issue comes to a fixed point before the ticket renewals go out, which was scheduled a few weeks after the committee meeting.

Regent Holzman wanted it clarified by Director Donovan that for a $50 fee, the students bought the ability to certain seats in certain sections. If they want to move to a different section, they would have to either pay more money or receive fewer seats. The point of the fee was to raise money, and if the seats were sold at a lesser price, then the athletic department would lose money. Director Donovan agreed.

Committee Chair Dahilig said that he hopes the seating issue doesn’t come back in front of the Board.

IV. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, and no objections to adjourning the meeting, it was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]

Keith Y. Amemiya, Esq.
Executive Administrator and
Secretary of the Board of Regents