MINUTES OF THE REGENTS’ COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Date: Thursday, July 18, 2002

Place & Time: Campus Center Conference, Room 220
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
3:50 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Regents McElrath (presiding)
Nunokawa
Poe
Yamasato
Ikawa (ex-officio)

Other Regents Present: Regents Dowling
Kawakami
Kobayashi
Kurisu
Lee
Thurston

Others Present: Evan S. Dobelle, President, University of Hawai‘i
Deane Neubauer, Interim Chancellor, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
Charles R. Hayes, Interim Dean, College of Natural Science
David Iha, Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board
Carl H. Makino, Executive Assistant to the Board

Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Regents’ Committee on Academic Affairs held on May 16, 2002, were approved as circulated.

Establishment of a Bachelor of Science Degree Program in Marine Biology, College of Natural Sciences, UH-Mānoa
Interim Chancellor Neubauer requests that the Committee approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Science degree program in Marine Biology in the College of Natural Sciences University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa to be effective Fall 2002.

The Bachelor of Science degree program in Marine Biology will be part of an existing undergraduate program in Biology with a focus on the plant and animal life in the ocean. The geographical location of Hawai‘i provides an unmatched marine environment for the training of students in this field, and the proposed program will prepare students for graduate study in a number of significant areas of study. The best graduates of such a program will be competitive for graduate admissions to any marine sciences program in the world. This program will also train Hawai‘i’s population for careers in teaching, aquaculture, marine resource management, ecotourism, government agencies, and related fields.

The Biology Program is currently staffed by faculty from the Departments of Botany, Zoology, Microbiology and related areas with expertise in marine biology and marine sciences. There is thus already a sufficient cadre of faculty for this certificate. Students will follow a curriculum similar to that of other Bachelor of Science programs with a strong foundation consisting of 34 credits in Math, Chemistry, and Physics. The Marine Biology Program will then require these students to take 20 credits of basic biology and genetics followed by 33 credits in marine biology courses. This will be a rigorous program of study.

There is strong evidence of student interest in this certificate program. A survey of students in the Marine Options Program showed overwhelmingly favorable support for the program. The Office of Admissions has stated that the most frequent inquiry by prospective students is in regard to the existence of a marine biology program. It is estimated that by the fifth year of the program, there will be 160 majors in it. We anticipate that the program may attract new students to Mānoa, both locally and externally.

The proposal had been reviewed and approved by the Mānoa Faculty Senate and the System Academic Affairs Council. This degree program will not require any additional resources or new funding from the University for the initial years of operation. The curriculum will be based upon existing undergraduate courses and a few courses to be developed by existing faculty at no added cost to the University. In developing this program, we have consulted with the Marine Science faculty at UH-Hilo and the Oceanography faculty at Mānoa. The proposed Marine Biology B.S. will complement existing strong programs on ocean science within the system. It is unique in its strong emphasis on biological aspects of marine sciences.

Regent Nunokawa asked why it had taken so long to establish a program that seems so synonymous to Hawai‘i and the Pacific. Interim Chancellor Neubauer stated that comparable education had been provided through the Biology program. However, over the
years the amount of specialization now required that a separate degree for Marine Biology be put into place.

Regent Lee inquired about the projected enrollment. Interim Dean Hayes anticipated around 25 to 65 in the initial two years and approximately 160 within five years.

Regent Nunokawa moved to establish the Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology in the College of Natural Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, effective Fall 2002, subject to the Regents’ policy on provisional academic programs. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Iha, Secretary

Dated: August 5, 2002

c: Chairperson Allan K. Ikawa
Members, Committee on Academic Affairs
President Evan S. Dobelle
Sr. Vice President & Chancellor Joyce S. Tsunoda
Sr. Vice President & Chancellor Rose Tseng
Interim Chancellor Deane Neubauer
Chancellor William A. Pearman