MINUTES OF THE REGENTS‘ COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Date: Thursday, November 21, 2002

Place & Time: Kaua‘i Community College
Performing Arts Center
2:26 p.m.

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

Other Regents Present: Regents
Dowling
Ikawa
Kaneshiro
Kawakami
Kurisu
Thurston

Others Present: Evan S. Dobelle, President, University of Hawai‘i
Walter S. Kirimitsu, Senior Vice President and University General Counsel
Rose Y. Tseng, Senior Vice President, University of Hawai‘i and Chancellor, UH-Hilo
Deane Neubauer, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs
Christopher Lu, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
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 meetings of the Regents‘ Committee on Academic Affairs held on September 12, 2002, were approved as circulated.
Established Status for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Astronomy, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo

Senior Vice President Tseng requested that the Committee approve a change of status for the Bachelor of Science degree in Astronomy from provisional to established status in the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo.

The growth of astronomy both within the University and as an economic force in the State of Hawai‘i and Big Island community is one of the science and technology success stories to which we may point with pride. Because this growth has been so strongly driven by the unique attributes of Mauna Kea and the rapid development of related technologies, Astronomy programs within the University have developed from a research and graduate education base with little effort devoted to astronomy education and training below the postgraduate level. The UH Hilo baccalaureate Astronomy program represents the University’s first effort to extend astronomy education to a level accessible to the young people of this State, and thus is a promising venue for enhancement of the society and economy of the entire State.

The Bachelor of Science degree in Astronomy was proposed in 1992 and implemented in 1997, largely for the dual purposes of: (1) providing the training needed for high school graduates from the State of Hawai‘i to obtain careers in a field of importance to the State, and jobs in Mauna Kea observatories; and (2) exploiting the astronomy resources of Mauna Kea and the UH-Hilo University Park in terms of an undergraduate astronomy program of exceptional excellence and national prominence. Astronomy is more important to this State and to this University than is the case with any science anywhere else in the country. With the development of the observatories in the Mauna Kea Science Reserve and the observatory base facilities in University Park, UH-Hilo has literally become a world center for astronomy, the only university campus that is sited at the world’s largest collection of research facilities in a particular science.

Prior to the establishment of the UH-Hilo astronomy program, the University
provided no career training in astronomy that was accessible to high school graduates from the State of Hawai‘i, and most of the 300+ high-quality technical jobs in Mauna Kea observatories were filled by recruits from out of state, a consequence of the lack of a trained, local manpower base. There is thus a clear and compelling need for an Astronomy undergraduate program within the University to complement the graduate and research Astronomy program of the UH Mānoa campus. In providing the training needed for careers in astronomy, the program fulfills several strategic themes and priorities of the strategic plan at UH-Hilo and conforms to many of the elements included in draft discussions of the UH strategic plan now under development.

Five years from its inception, the UH-Hilo Bachelor of Science degree in Astronomy remains the only tertiary astronomy program in the State of Hawai‘i. Its enrollment has grown from initially 0 to a current enrollment of 54 students seeking degrees; enrollment growth over the last two years has been 50% and 40%, respectively. The Astronomy program is now one of the largest in the country, and almost certainly far larger than that of any university campus of comparable size. The program has attracted substantial federal funding (in excess of $1M to date, exclusive of research grants) and favorable notice of national agencies (NSF, NASA). The program awarded its first two degrees last year and expects to award seven more this year. The program shows every sign of growing into one of unique importance to the University and the State of Hawai‘i, and appears to be satisfying the purposes for which it was established at a level that justifies its continuation.

Regent Nunokawa asked if there was collaboration between the Hilo and Mānoa astronomy programs. Senior Vice President Tseng responded that both departments work very closely together and some Hilo students are currently working with one of the Mānoa faculty.

Regent McElrath moved to approve the Bachelor of Science degree in Astronomy, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, permanent academic status, effective Spring 2003, subject to the Regents’ policy on established academic programs. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Establishment of a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Performing Arts in the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo

Chancellor Tseng requested that the Committee approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Performing Arts in the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo effective Spring 2003.

This proposed program is the result of a process begun in June 2000 to study UH-Hilo’s music program. The College of Arts and Sciences’ Dean assigned responsibility for
this review to a committee. After review by all stakeholders including students and current Performing Arts Department faculty, the committee recommended the termination of the Bachelor of Arts degree in Music and the development of an integrated Performing Arts major that would take advantage of strong student interest and professional expertise in Drama and Dance.

No additional resources will be required to support the drama or music programs. The music track replaces the former Music major and the drama track replaces the current Liberal Studies Drama major. The dance track will require the appointment of a full-time dance instructor; currently, a lecturer is teaching 12 credits of dance per semester, so resources will be diverted from the lecturer budget (A-1) to the instructor budget (A). Technical theater courses are now being taught on a part-time basis by two members of the University Relations staff assigned to operate the UH-Hilo Theater. Once the new program is flourishing, a request will be forthcoming to staff a half-time position in technical theater within the Performing Arts department.

Dance courses now offered on an elective basis are among the highest enrolled courses in the Humanities Division, with several courses enrolling 50 students. It is anticipated that the dance track will attract at least 15 – 20 majors in the first year of operations. There are currently 15 majors in the Liberal Studies Drama Program; it is anticipated that as the program develops, this number will increase. These majors will be divided between the drama performance and technical theater tracks in the new major.

The Music Program has been stopped out for two years in anticipation of the new program. Problems in music enrollment were among the motivating factors in the creation of the Performing Arts Major. It is anticipated that this new program will draw students with keen interest in dance and drama into music courses, as well as maintaining a small but committed core of music track majors, approximately ten. Thus, this new major should enroll approximately 45 majors early in its existence. In the Humanities Division, only Art, Communication and English (with 59, 111, and 94 majors respectively) are larger. Combined with a renewed effort to more fully utilize the UH-Hilo Theater to attract members of the community to the UH-Hilo campus and a strong performing arts base outside of the University in Hilo, the program has the potential to be one of the strongest in the College of Arts and Sciences.

This proposal was reviewed and approved by the College of Arts and Sciences Senate and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in Fall 2002.

Regent McElrath asked why music was still a part of the program. Chancellor Tseng responded that students can still specialize in the music component but the program would be broader than only music. She added that music was also declining in enrollment. This approach met with the approval of the performing arts community which included the music faculty.
Regent Lee asked how many faculty there were in music. Vice Chancellor Lu informed that currently, UH-Hilo has three on faculty.

Regent Poe moved to approve the establishment of the Bachelor of Arts degree in Performing Arts in the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo effective Spring 2003, subject to the Regents’ policy on provisional academic programs. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Establishment of the Hawai‘i Medical Service Association Chair in Health Care Services Quality Research at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai‘i

Chancellor Englert requested that the Committee approve the establishment of the Hawai‘i Medical Service Association Chair in Health Care Services Quality Research Chair in the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai‘i upon Board approval.

In accordance with the Board’s policy on academic chairs, it is requested that the Board approve the establishment of the Hawai‘i Medical Service Association Health Care Services Quality Research Chair at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

An endowment fund at the University of Hawai‘i Foundation was established in October of 2002 with a gift of $1 million from the Hawai‘i Medical Service Association for this purpose.

The proposed chair will provide leadership in health services research in order to improve the health of the people of the State of Hawai‘i. To this purpose the person selected would be expected to provide leadership in the development of health services research; implement health services research; and disseminate the results of that research throughout the community. In addition, the HMSA Chair would be expected to teach and participate in community service, expected of all faculty.

The endowment from HMSA is expected to support this proposed chair with $50,000 annually. The remaining portion of the incumbent’s salary would have to come from existing University resources.

Regent Lee asked if the endowment would be sufficient to cover all the expenses for this Chair. Chancellor Englert informed that the cost for the chair would be approximately $80,000 annually so there would be some funds required from the University’s resources.

Regent Lee moved to approve the establishment of the Hawai‘i Medical Service Association Health Care Services Quality Research Chair at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa with the understanding that the recruitment and retention for this chair shall be in compliance with all applicable policies, statutes, and
regulations. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Iha, Secretary

Dated: December 16, 2002

c: Chairperson Bert A. Kobayashi
Members, Committee on Academic Affairs
President Evan S. Dobelle
Interim Vice President Deane Neubauer