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**MINUTES**

**BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON STUDENT SUCCESS  
MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2024**

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

[Meeting Video](#)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Laurie Tochiki called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at the University of Hawai'i (UH) at Hilo, Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, Hale Kīho'iho'i Room 10, 722 South Aohoku Place, Hilo, HI 96720, 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 Wayne Higaki; 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 Community Colleges Erica Lacro; 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; UH-Mānoa (UHM) Provost Michael Bruno; UH-Hilo (UHH) Chancellor Bonnie Irwin; UH-West O'ahu (UHWO) 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 minutes of the November 2, 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 one individual signed up to provide oral testimony.

Jill Nunokawa provided oral comments in support of granting provisional status for the Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies at UHH and UHH athletics. She also offered remarks about UHM Athletics.

#### **IV. AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **A. Request Board Approval of Provisional Status for the Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies (BAES) at UHH**

Chancellor Irwin briefly spoke about the demand for fully credentialed teachers on Hawai'i Island, as well as throughout the State, and introduced Michele Ebersole, Professor of Education at UHH, to provide information on a proposal developed by UHH's School of Education to address this need.

Dr. Ebersole explained that the proposal to develop a BAES degree program at UHH grew out of a desire to address the critical shortage of qualified teachers in Hawai'i while also serving as part of the university's response to Act 141, Session Laws of Hawai'i, 2022, which required the university to establish K-12 expanded teaching cohort programs in each county for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education. She presented an overview of the request to grant provisional status for the BAES degree program within the School of Education at UHH; noted the program's fulfillment of a clear need to provide undergraduate training toward teacher licensure on the neighbor islands and across the state; talked about considerations taken into account when designing the program; discussed various features of the program including the alignment of curricula with national teacher preparation standards, the use of an in-person instructional modality, and its rural serving nature; reviewed the teacher licensure in elementary K-6 and education studies tracks encompassed by the program; went over the program's alignment with the university's mission and strategic plan, as well as preliminary efforts to establish streamlined pathways for this program with Hawai'i Community College (HawCC); and highlighted support for the program received from community partners and complimentary teacher education programs at UHM and UHWO. If approved by the board and the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board, the BAES degree program expects to welcome its first cohort in fall 2024.

Vice-Chair Haning asked if there was a distinction between the teacher licensure in elementary K-6 and education studies tracks contained within the proposed BAES degree program. Dr. Ebersole replied that the elementary K-6 track will lead to teacher licensure while the education studies track is geared more towards students who want to pursue a degree in education but have a greater interest in educational policy making, working in after school or out-of-school programs, or pursuing advanced degrees in education in the future. She also stated that, should they choose to do so, students who complete the education studies track do have alternatives to obtaining teacher licensure in the future such as through the post-baccalaureate education track currently provided by UHH.

Regent Mawae inquired as to when students enrolled in the BAES degree program will gain hands-on classroom experience. Dr. Ebersole responded that students who enroll in the BAES degree program will be exposed to 10 hours of classroom work during the spring semester of their first year in order to help individuals decide whether or not they want to continue to pursue a BAES degree.

Board Chair Nahale-a offered his comments on the decision to conduct programmatic instruction via an in-person modality which, in his opinion, demonstrated a clear understanding of the educational needs of the community and individuals served by UHH.

Regent Mawae moved to recommend board approval of provisional status for the BAES degree program at UHH, seconded by Regent Loo, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

## **B. Athletics Budget Update**

### **1. UHH**

UHH Athletic Director (AD) Patrick Guillen provided an abridged history of the UHH Athletic Department's (UHH Athletics) establishment and spoke about the numerous community impacts, local and statewide economic benefits, and academic opportunities afforded by UHH Athletics. He also presented a snapshot of UHH Athletics' revenue and expenditure projections for fiscal year (FY) 2024 highlighting the large impact team travel has on the athletics budget; discussed efforts to enhance community engagement and generate additional income; went over the availability and awarding of scholarship funds; displayed a breakdown on the number and origin of student-athletes participating in the 12 sports UHH Athletics competes in; talked about the important role of the Vulcan Booster Club and reviewed some of this organization's activities to support UHH Athletics; noted academic, retention rate, and graduation rate statistics for UHH's student-athletes; and emphasized that the ultimate goal of UHH Athletics was to develop ambassadors of Aloha through academics, community service, and intercollegiate athletics.

Regent Akitake questioned whether an individual from the University of Hawai'i Foundation (UHF) was assigned to UHH Athletics to assist with fundraising efforts. AD Guillen responded that while UHH Athletics does receive assistance from UHF for some of its fundraising efforts, no UHF individual is specifically assigned to UHH Athletics at present. Chancellor Irwin added that UHF is currently seeking to fill two recent staff vacancies to reestablish a Hawai'i Island presence and assist UHH, inclusive of UHH Athletics, and HawCC with their fundraising endeavors.

Discussions ensued on UHF's relationship with the overall university system, its role in scholarship funding for student-athletes at both UHH and UHM, and its statewide deployment of fundraisers.

Regent Mawae asked about meal access for student-athletes at UHH. AD Guillen replied that UHH student-athletes are afforded meals via the university meal plans. Additionally, UHH Athletics works with community sponsors and the Vulcan Booster Club to provide post-game and other meal options for student-athletes.

Board Chair Nahale-a shared his thoughts on the pride, support, and engagement exhibited by the Hawai'i Island community when it comes to UHH Vulcan Athletics which serves to illustrate one of the benefits of having an intercollegiate athletics program.

## **2. UHM**

UHM AD Craig Angelos began by addressing concerns raised during public comment about potential Title IX issues at UHM underscoring that the UHM Athletic Department (UHM Athletics) is in compliance with Title IX requirements. In addition, he expressed his thoughts on the role of athletics in the collegiate setting, the impact athletics has on the lives of student-athletes, and the direction of Division I intercollegiate athletics at UHM and across the nation. AD Angelos then provided a comparative analysis of actual revenues and expenditures for FY 2023 and projected revenues and expenditures for FY 2024, noting some of the reasons for the variations between the fiscal years and stating that expenditures are only expected to increase for the foreseeable future; delved into a summarized breakdown of estimated revenues and expenditures for FY 2024 on a more granular level; spoke about some of the current and anticipated fiscal challenges intercollegiate athletics in general, and UHM Athletics in particular, are expected to face in the coming years; highlighted areas in which UHM Athletics generated new revenues in FY 2024; and reported on several revenue producing initiatives planned for FY 2025. He also discussed measures being taken to ensure that the mental health needs of student-athletes are met, including the hiring of a full-time mental health specialist dedicated to the mental healthcare of all student-athletes.

Regent Higaki asked for clarification as to what constituted other expenses as indicated on the table of estimated expenses for FY 2024. AD Angelos replied that the other expenses category encompassed incidentals related to things such as rental fees, shipping charges, equipment repair and maintenance costs, and telephone bills.

Regent Abercrombie voiced his concerns about the current trajectory of intercollegiate athletics and the implications this will have on the financial needs of UHM Athletics. He also suggested holding a separate meeting of the Committee on Student Success solely to discuss this topic.

Regent Mawae and Regent Akitake stressed the importance of UHM Athletics investing in facilities, staff, and student support services and programs, with Regent Mawae opining that these are the main factors drawing student-athletes to, and retaining them at, UH. Regent Mawae also stated her belief that doing so will ultimately lead to greater community and fan support for UHM Athletics and, in turn, increase the success of the university's athletic programs.

Referencing the concerns raised about Title IX compliance, particularly with respect to the matter regarding the temporary loss of a track for use by the Wahine Track and Field team, Regent Akitake asked if AD Angelos could provide a written response about this matter to regents. AD Angelos responded in the affirmative but also cited the ongoing work to build a new track and field facility which is expected to be completed by the fall of this year. He went on to discuss some of the processes used in examining Title IX compliance issues including whether actions are being taken to address the matter. President Lassner added that UHM and UHH Athletics also provide Title IX updates annually which may help to address this matter. Regent Akitake acknowledged

President Lassner's remarks but voiced her desire for a written response anyway given that the concerns raised were about a specific issue.

Regent Mawae also verbalized her trepidations about the current lack of a suitable track and field facility for training purposes especially since the women's track and field season has already begun. AD Angelos remarked that arrangements were made with local high schools for the use of their facilities to accommodate this temporary need.

Board Chair Nahale-a expressed his appreciation for AD Angelos and the efforts of UHM Athletics in navigating the complex issues facing intercollegiate athletics, including Title IX. He also supported the idea of having deeper discussions about the athletic programs at UHM and UHH at a future meeting.

Chair Tochiki questioned whether the initiative to create a fund development team for the purposes of increasing fundraising efforts was intended to be complimentary to, or inclusive of, athletic fundraising support received from UHF. AD Angelos replied that one individual from UHF currently assists UHM Athletics with its fundraising efforts. As such, UHM Athletics is seeking to establish a team of individuals to work in conjunction with UHF with respect to fundraising for athletics at UHM.

Regent Mawae requested that discussions on the fundraising relationships between UHM and UHH Athletics, UHF, and the various booster clubs be scheduled at a future meeting in order for regents to gain a better understanding of these interconnections and the various revenue streams available to athletics via these sources.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Tochiki adjourned the meeting at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yvonne Lau  
Executive Administrator and Secretary  
of the Board of Regents