July 15, 2015

TO: Robert Bley-Vroman  
Chancellor, University of Hawaii at Mānoa

David Lassner, President  
University of Hawaii System

Reed Dasenbrock  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Brian Taylor  
Vice Chancellor for Research

Randy Moore  
Chair, Board of Regents

JN Musto  
Executive Director, UHPA

FROM: Robert Cooney, Chair,  
Mānoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee

SUBJECT: University of Hawaii Cancer Center Faculty Senate resolutions

We are in receipt of two resolutions from the UH Cancer Center Faculty Senate (attached) that were passed on July 1, 2015 that we have been asked to pass along to you with our endorsement.

Resolution #1 asks that a search for a permanent UHCC director begin soon. It is our understanding that you have initiated this process and we applaud your decision to move forward quickly on this issue. The SEC requests that the UHCC Faculty Senate be kept abreast of developments in the process and that they be actively involved in the recruitment and selection process. The development of clear guidelines for the process in advance of its commencement is highly desired in order to assure the proper role of faculty and the avoidance of the type of top-down and biased search process that has marred previous appointments with disastrous results. Here also the appointment of an interim UHCC director that has the support of faculty and represents the interests of the Center would greatly facilitate the recruitment process.
Resolution #2 requests that the current interim director be replaced by a cancer researcher selected with input from Cancer Center faculty via a process to begin immediately. As a general principle, the SEC recognizes that when a Dean or Director is suddenly no longer in office and no predetermined successor is identified that it may be necessary for you, as Chancellor, to appoint an interim on short notice. While we all agree that it is not ideal to act without adequate faculty input, we recognize that such a situation may require swift action. On the other hand, such an emergency appointment should in principle be for a minimum period of time and if a permanent Dean/Director cannot be found quickly, a more appropriate interim should be appointed with considerable faculty input in the process.

In the case of the Cancer Center this is particularly important as the current Interim UHCC Director and Dean of the Medical School has announced plans to reorganize the UHCC with JABSOM. The SEC believes that any reorganization involving two level 5 units requires that each organization be represented by leadership that has the support of faculty. In particular, for one individual to represent the interests of both parties is inherently problematic and represents a clear conflict of interest leading to a loss of confidence by faculty in the process. The fact that each of these units has a separate reporting line to the Mānoa administration additionally complicates any potential reorganization when one of the units has been functionally moved into the other prior to a formal reorganization. Furthermore since Dean Hedges has publicly stated the ultimate goal of this reorganization is to remove both JABSOM and UHCC from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and form an eleventh UH campus that reports to the UH System, it is therefore imperative that UHCC faculty play a significant role in this process and are represented by a director that can communicate their wishes in the negotiation process, just as Dean Hedges can effectively represent the interests of JABSOM faculty.

The SEC endorses the requests of the UHCC Faculty Senate and stands ready to assist in any way possible to ensure appropriate faculty participation in the process. While the Mānoa Faculty Senate is not and should not be a principal in the recruitment process of any Dean or Director, it does have a vested interest in assuring appropriate faculty participation as a means of guaranteeing faculty governance in the university and that the process is fair to all parties.
Resolution #1.

TOPIC: SEARCH FOR A PERMANENT DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CANCER CENTER (UHCC)

SUBMITTED BY: UHCC Faculty Senate; as discussed and approved in the July 1, 2015, meeting (Vote: 27 in favor, 1 opposed)

AUTHORS: UHCC Faculty Senate Executive Committee

WHEREAS, the permanent director of UHCC resigned on November 21, 2014; and

WHEREAS, UHCC needs to find as soon as possible a new permanent director in order to have independent representation of all UHCC interests and secure UHCC’s P30 designation from NCI (as also recommended by UHCC’s most recent EAC members who met on June 1-2, 2015); and

WHEREAS a permanent director will need to be in place for at least 12 months prior to the submission of UHCC’s NCI P30 renewal application currently scheduled for September 2016, and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the UH Mānoa administration initiates immediately an independent national or international search for a new UHCC director with faculty input from the UHCC; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the new director keeps control over space in the new UHCC building in Kakaako, all UHCC positions/recruitments and all UHCC budgets including return of indirect costs from research grants, current and future cigarette/tobacco tax revenues (as intended by the law), campus funds, and consortium support; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the UH Mānoa faculty senate executives send a copy of this resolution to the UH Mānoa Faculty Senate for their approval; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the UH Mānoa Faculty Senate upon their approval sends this resolution to all UHM vice chancellors, the UHM chancellor, the UH president, and the UH board of regents.
Resolution #2.

TOPIC: Z SELECTION OF NEW INTERIM DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I CANCER CENTER (UHCC)

SUBMITTED BY: Z UHCC Faculty Senate; as discussed and approved in the July 1, 2015, meeting (Vote: 17 in favor, 8 opposed)

AUTHORS: Z UHCC Faculty Senate Executive Committee

WHEREAS, the permanent director of UHCC resigned on November 21, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the UH Mānoa (UHM) interim Chancellor assigned Dr. Hedges as UHCC acting director on November 21, 2014 and as interim director on January 1, 2015 without faculty input; and

WHEREAS, none of the current executive/management positions is filled by a cancer researcher or an individual experienced in the management of a cancer research center; and

WHEREAS, UHCC currently has no advocate to represent the interests of its faculty and staff during a reorganization process and to ensure the preservation of organizational elements essential to fulfilling its research mission; and

WHEREAS, UHCC needs to initiate the search for a permanent director immediately, as recommended by the External Advisory Committee, in order to renew its NCI Cancer Center designation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the UH Mānoa Chancellor immediately selects a cancer researcher as UHCC interim director with faculty input; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the UHCC faculty senate executives send a copy of this resolution to the UH Mānoa Faculty Senate for their approval; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the UH Mānoa Faculty Senate upon their approval sends this resolution to all UHM vice chancellors, the UHM chancellor, the UH president, and the UH board of regents.