

MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2025

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

[Meeting Video](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at the University of Hawai'i (UH) at West Oahu, Campus Center, Room C208, 91-1001 Farrington Highway, Kapolei, Hawai'i, 96707, with regents participating from various locations.

Quorum (11): Chair Gabriel Lee; Vice-Chairs Laurie Tochiki and Laurel Loo; and Regents Neil Abercrombie, Lauren Akitake, Joshua Faumuina, William Haning, Wayne Higaki, Michael Miyahira, Diane Paloma, and Ernest Wilson.

Others in attendance: President Wendy Hensel; Vice President (VP) for Administration Jan Gouveia; VP for Academic Strategy Debora Halbert; VP for Legal Affairs/UH General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; VP for Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos; VP for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer Garret Yoshimi; VP for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; Interim VP for Community Colleges Della Teraoka; UH-Mānoa (UHM) Provost Michael Bruno; UH-West O'ahu (UHWO) Chancellor Maenette Benham; Hawai'i Community College Chancellor Susan Kazama; Kapi'olani Community College (KapCC) Chancellor Misaki Takabayashi; Leeward Community College (LeeCC) Chancellor Carlos Peñaloza; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Yvonne Lau; and others as noted.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 29, 2024, AND NOVEMBER 21, 2024, MEETINGS

Chair Lee inquired if there were any corrections to the minutes of the October 29, 2024, and November 21, 2024, meetings which had been distributed.

While not offering any corrections to the minutes, Regent Abercrombie expressed his concerns about the lack of follow-up information provided to the board on matters discussed during the October 29, 2024, and November 21, 2024, meetings particularly with respect to the pursuit of legislative funding for student housing at UHM, as well as the state of, and plans for, the Hale Noelani residence hall; the project labor agreement entered into between the university and local trade unions for the institution's major construction projects; and the use of existing balances within the community college's tuition and fees special fund reserves to cover the actual costs of instruction associated with a summer tuition pilot project beyond the tuition revenue generated and the relation

of this action to address expenses associated with hazard pay awarded to certain university employees.

Regent Higaki raised a point-of-order stating the purpose of this portion of the meeting was to affirm the accuracy of the minutes of prior meetings as provided in the materials and approve, or make any necessary corrections to, the minutes as drafted. While Regent Abercrombie's concerns are well taken, Regent Higaki stated such discussions should not be taking place during the approval of the minutes.

Chair Lee acknowledged Regent Higaki's point-of-order stating Regent Abercrombie's concerns would be more appropriately addressed later in the meeting. He once again asked if regents had any corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes for both meetings were approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Board Secretary Lau announced that the Board Office did not receive written testimony and no one signed up to provide oral testimony.

IV. WELCOME TO PRESIDENT WENDY HENSEL

Chair Lee welcomed President Hensel to her first board meeting and, on behalf of the board, wished her well as she begins her tenure as President of the UH System.

V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Hensel began her inaugural report by expressing her gratitude to the countless number of individuals who have supported her transition to leading the university's 10-campus system including the board, members of the UH administration, President Emeritus David Lassner, legislators, faculty, staff, students, and business community leaders and organizations. She then reflected on her visit to the UHWO campus earlier in the week, which marked the beginning of her statewide listening tour of university campuses and education centers planned for her first 90 days in office, expressing her gratitude for the UHWO 'ohana and stating the main purpose of this undertaking was to gain a better understanding of the university system and the community which it serves so she could be as effective an advocate for the institution as possible; spoke about her plans to share what she has learned from these campus and education center engagements with the board and community so as to collectively craft a future vision for the university; offered insights into her collaborative approach to working with State and federal lawmakers; touched upon some of the State legislative briefings involving the university which have already taken place, or are scheduled to take place later this week and emphasized the university's commitment to transparency in our actions and being good stewards of our resources and people; noted her confidence in the existence of transformative opportunities ahead that build upon the excellence already in existence at UH; and expressed her belief in the importance of regularly engaging with students so as to never lose sight of the mission of a university, especially in light of the uncertainty surrounding institutions of higher learning due to an increasingly polarized national political landscape. She also shared some highlights from her first 16 days as President such as the unveiling of a donation by President

Emeritus Lassner of a bust of Alice Ball, a renowned UHM alumna and pioneering chemist, who was the first African-American woman to earn a master's degree in chemistry and developed a groundbreaking treatment for Hansen's disease; UHM's achievement of being ranked 92nd among 660 research universities and 68th among public research universities worldwide according to the National Science Foundation, which is a reflection of the tremendous work being done by faculty research and innovation leaders; the launching of a bus driver training program at LeeCC as part of the campus's broader commercial driver licensing initiatives so as to address and meet the critical workforce needs in this area; and visits made to each residence hall on the UHM campus to see first-hand the state of campus student-housing facilities and garner feedback from students living in these buildings. While challenges remain and much work needs to be done with respect to student-housing at UHM, President Hensel stated the overwhelming response from students with whom she spoke regarding student-housing at UHM was positive.

VI. UHWO CAMPUS PRESENTATION

Chancellor Benham called attention to UHWO's value proposition, mission, and vision, stating they provided guidance to all aspects of campus life from administrative, operational, and academic endeavors to social activities, and discussed the principles upon which each are grounded. She then proceeded to talk about the nine degree programs offered by the six divisions that comprise UHWO and the Academy for Creative Media (ACM), in addition to the concentrated areas of study contained within each program, noting their interdisciplinary nature provides UHWO with a unique ability to quickly respond to workforce and real-world needs; review Fall 2024 enrollment statistics by academic majors and new concentrations; offer details about, as well as trend data on, the various course and program instruction modalities available at the institution, noting UHWO's history of affording the largest percentage of online courses among the four-year campuses within the university system; and speak about some of the challenges facing UHWO, particularly those involving student enrollment and recruitment, and strategic actions being taken to address these issues, such as the establishment and implementation of an enrollment management plan metaphorically based upon the concept of an educational 'auwai and the automation of student recruitment efforts through the use of a Customer Relationship Management, or CRM, system.

John Stanley, Director of Institutional Research at UHWO, provided an overview of UHWO's interactive quick-facts dashboard which includes information on topics such as student demographics, enrollment, graduation rates, tuition revenues, and chosen academic programs of study, highlighting some of the more noteworthy data points which are indicative of the institution's uniqueness like the sizable populations of students who are of Native Hawaiian or Filipino ancestry, who are older, who actively reside on the neighbor islands, or who have transferred from other campuses. He also went over trend and projection data related to several of the items contained within the aforementioned dashboard including retention and graduation rates and enrollment; reviewed postgraduate outcome statistics for students earning an undergraduate degree from UHWO relative to those at peer institutions; and talked about some of UHWO's

academic successes as reflected in the data presented which, in his opinion, was due in large part to the synergy between academic affairs faculty and staff and student support services.

Faculty Report

Dr. Stanley Orr, Chair of the UHWO Faculty Senate, summarized the operations of the Faculty Senate and its standing committees, which are primarily focused on the review and vetting of, among other things, academic and student affairs policies, curriculum, distance education delivery, and general education course hallmarks and designations. He also reported on several initiatives undertaken by the Faculty Senate over the past year, including the ongoing examination of potential revisions to the organization's charter, the establishment of a special work group on project-based learning which is eyeing a new designation pertaining to general education, and the formation of a special work group to review and possibly offer revisions to policies on micro-credentialing.

Student Report

Sydney Whitley, President of the Associated Student of the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu (ASUH-WO), emphasized the primary role of this entity was to serve as an advocate for students while striving to refine campus infrastructure and learning environments in order to improve educational experiences and better meet student needs. She reported on some of ASUH-WO's efforts in this regard during the prior academic year including serving on campus-wide committees to elevate student concerns and perspectives among faculty and staff, providing funding to support a number of student success programs, and increasing funding for a cap and gown loan program for graduating seniors. She also spoke about a substantial increase in the number of students who are actively participating in institutional governance through their involvement in Chartered Student Organizations and highlighted several of these organizations's activities over the past few semesters.

Nālimakui and Kūlana o Kapolei

Kawena Komeiji, Chair of the Nālimakui Native Hawaiian Council (Nālimakui) touched upon a few of Nālimakui's accomplishments over the past year such as the sponsoring of campus events, programs, and exhibits designed to promote Native Hawaiian knowledge and culture, subsidizing the costs associated with UHWO Hawaiian Healing haumāna traveling to Lahaina to assist those affected by the Maui wildfires, submitting a biennium budget request which included positions to support Native Hawaiian students at UHWO, and establishing a protocols subcommittee and developing a protocol request form. She also commented on a few of the challenges being encountered by Nālimakui and some of the organization's future plans and recommendations.

Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer, Konohiki for Kūlana o Kapolei, stated that, through the embodiment and practicing of the five established pahuhopu, or guiding principles, of UHWO, all of which were inspired by the views of Hawai'i's indigenous culture, campus organizations are able to foster a dynamic learning environment rooted in Native

Hawaiian values. She expounded upon the essence and meaning of the five pahuhopu and spoke about events organized and hosted by Kūlana o Kapolei to infuse members of the UHWO 'ohana and general community with the concepts of each guiding principle.

Regent Faumuina questioned whether there were noticeable variances in student success rates between the different modalities of course instruction offered at UHWO. He also asked about the number of degree programs which can be fully completed via distance education. Mr. Stanley replied that UHWO continuously monitors and assesses student success rates and, to date, has found no differences in data for this academic performance metric based upon modality of course instruction. As for the number of degree programs which can be fully completed through distance education, Chancellor Benham stated UHWO offers 35 such concentrations.

Regent Haning asked about the status of UHWO's relationship with the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART), and the impacts, if any, fixed-rail transit is having on the campus. David McDonald, Vice Chancellor for Administration (VCA) at UHWO, remarked that UHWO has a positive working relationship with HART and the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Transportation Services (DTS). Chancellor Benham substantiated this comment stating UHWO and UH System representatives hold regular meetings with officials from HART and DTS to discuss any challenges being experienced by the campus, or concerns it may have, with the fixed-rail system. Additionally, she noted anecdotal evidence suggesting more students are beginning to utilize the rail system and spoke about a collaborative project between DTS and ACM to design an immersive experience for riders transiting from the Keone'ae rail station to campus.

Referencing earlier comments about the use of CRM as a means of tracking students enrolling at UHWO, Regent Miyahira inquired as to whether the system is tracking students individually or by the high school from which they graduated. Chancellor Benham clarified that CRM was being utilized more as an admissions and recruitment tool to better inform potential students of the programs and opportunities available at UHWO. VP Yoshimi added that, while CRM can definitely be used to track the progress of students through the university system and will most likely be utilized in this regard in the future, its primary use, at the moment, is for outreach and recruitment purposes. Regent Miyahira expressed his belief in the future value of CRM in terms of looking at student needs and the university's ability to fulfill them along with the dissemination of information about the campuses as is currently being done.

Following-up on Regent Miyahira's question, Chair Lee asked if UHWO was the only campus not using CRM. VP Yoshimi stated that the university is a little behind the curve in being able to implement CRM on a system-wide basis. While UHM and the community colleges have already been using CRM for outreach and recruitment, UHWO is only beginning to do so and UH-Hilo is just getting started in this area. Nevertheless, the ultimate goal is to converge all of the university's outreach and recruitment efforts onto a common platform. President Hensel also commented on this issue stressing the importance of establishing a baseline standard of care for every student who goes to UH wherever they sit which requires a certain consistency in technology and support. She further stated the efforts to establish CRM as a single platform used by every campus

throughout the system is a big game changer and is something the administration has already been talking about quite a bit since her arrival at the university.

Regent Abercrombie inquired about the proximity of the Keone'ae rail station to campus and asked whether shuttles were available for older students or students with physical challenges. Chancellor Benham stated the Keone'ae rail station is about a five-minute walk from the campus. VCA McDonald mentioned the existence of a regularly scheduled shuttle service between the campus and the rail station at intervals which are based upon student demand.

A discussion ensued between Regent Abercrombie, Chair Lee, Chancellor Benham, and VP Young, about proposals for housing and a film studio utilizing university lands near the UHWO campus; the status of, and complex negotiations involved in, potential leases for the parcels associated with each; the integration of these projects with the needs of UHWO students, faculty, and staff, as well as academic programming at the campus and throughout the university system; and the presentation of future updates to the board on these matters.

Citing Nālimakui's goal of fostering improved communications between itself, Hawai'i Papa O Ke Ao, Pūko'a Council, and Kūlana o Kapolei, Regent Paloma informed regents about her intentions of holding a Committee on Kuleana meeting in February to explore the relationships between various Native Hawaiian entities throughout the university system.

Given the shortage of nurses in Hawai'i, Regent Paloma asked for an update on the nursing pathway established by UHWO some years ago. Chancellor Benham stated UHWO is currently recruiting the fourth cohort for its selective admissions pre-nursing pathway program which was established via a unique partnership with UHM's School of Nursing. Upon completion of their necessary general education and pre-nursing degree coursework at UHWO, students in the program become eligible to apply for acceptance into UHM's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. The program has proven to be popular, receiving over 256 applications over the past three years. To date, 72 students have been accepted into the program with 32 of these students continuing on to the BSN program at UHM thus far. While these numbers are good, particularly for such a young degree pathway program, both UHWO and UHM are seeking additional permanent faculty for their respective nursing programs to increase admissions as part of statewide efforts to address the aforementioned nursing shortage.

In light of this information, Regent Paloma asked if students in the pre-nursing pathway program were eligible for financial aid. Chancellor Benham replied in the affirmative.

VII. AGENDA ITEMS

A. A Review of Graduate Medical Education (GME) Programs at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) for Academic Year (AY) 2023-2024

Susan Steinemann, M.D, the Designated Institutional Official for the GME Programs at JABSOM, explained that the annual institutional review of GME programs at JABSOM

is a major component of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's accreditation process. She also highlighted key statistics from, as well as residency and fellowship program successes contained within, the executive summary of the annual institutional review and talked about JABSOM's ongoing work to expand residency programs statewide, particularly on the neighbor islands, along with associated challenges to these efforts. While the board is required to review these materials, it was noted no further action would be necessary since the meeting minutes will serve as certification for the purposes of the review of the executive summaries of the annual institutional review of GME programs at JABSOM for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Citing a recent experience with Maui's emergency healthcare system and given the barriers to significant expansion of GME programs on the neighbor islands noted in the executive summary of the annual institutional review, Regent Akitake asked about JABSOM's strategies for dealing with critical physician shortages being experienced on the neighbor islands, particularly in Maui County. Thomas Samuel Shomaker, M.D., Dean of JABSOM, responded by saying JABSOM is undertaking efforts to break the O'ahu-centric mold of the medical school. While the ability to develop GME and other medical programs on the neighbor islands is a daunting task subject to the availability of financial resources, faculty, and the capacity of on-island medical facilities, JABSOM is committed to help improve the standard of health care being delivered to residents of all the neighbor islands and is actively looking for ways to do so. One such endeavor involves the securing of a lease for a home on Maui which can potentially be used to house medical students and medical residents doing rotations on the island. JABSOM has also been in preliminary discussions with Maui Health Systems about the possibility of starting a medical residency program at their facilities.

In view of this response, Regent Akitake inquired about the timeline for bringing Maui County in line with the counties of Hawai'i and Kaua'i in so far as having third- and fourth-year medical students doing on-island rotations. She also requested an update on JABSOM's hiring of part-time positions for work on Maui. Dean Shomaker replied that the timeline for having third- and fourth-year medical students taking part in rotations on Maui is approximately one year partly because the lease on the house is not expected to be secured for several more months. Once that occurs, JABSOM can start planning for more student rotations on Maui. With respect to the part-time positions, JABSOM is preparing to post job descriptions and begin recruiting for a part-time, half-time physician on Maui and a half-time non-physician support person on Maui. This will be the vehicle by which JABSOM can develop more faculty and begin laying the foundation for an increase in medical programming for Maui County.

B. Request for Action to Approve the Establishment and Naming of the Jacob "Jack" Bilmes Endowed Professorship in Cultural Anthropology at the UHM College of Social Sciences

Provost Bruno provided information on a financial commitment of \$500,000 for the establishment and naming of the Jacob "Jack" Bilmes Endowed Professorship in Cultural Anthropology at the UHM College of Social Sciences. He noted the purpose of this endowed professorship is to recruit, support, and retain talented faculty, as well as to

provide resources to the recipient to enhance research, education, and community outreach in the area of cultural anthropology.

Regent Higaki moved to approve the establishment and naming of the Jacob “Jack” Bilmes Endowed Professorship in Cultural Anthropology at the UHM College of Social Sciences, seconded by Regent Wilson, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

C. Request for Action to Approve the Naming of the Innovation Center Building at the Culinary Institute of the Pacific (CIP) at Diamond Head

Chancellor Takabayashi presented information on a request to name the Innovation Center Building at CIP in recognition of a \$1.1 million and \$2.5 million contribution made in 2017 and 2019 respectively by the Mamoru and Aiko Takatani Foundation to support the CIP at Diamond Head’s capital fund. She spoke about the educational mission of the CIP, as well as the purpose of its innovation center. Upon board approval, the Innovation Center Building at CIP will be named the Takatani Foundation Innovation Center.

Regent Faumuina asked whether his understanding was correct that the request being made was to name a building at CIP, and not the entire facility, in honor of Mamoru and Aiko Takatani. Chancellor Takabayashi responded in the affirmative.

Regent Wilson voiced his strong support for the CIP, which was located on the grounds of the former Canon Club, the United States Army’s officers club at Fort Ruger, and moved to approve the abovementioned request. Regent Higaki seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all members present voting in the affirmative.

On the subject of naming buildings at the university, Regent Abercrombie inquired if there was a formal methodology for requesting such an action. VP Gouveia stated Regents Policy 11.203, as well as Executive Policy 10.203, sets forth the basic framework for the naming of university facilities, properties, and programs. Essentially, the process generally involves a campus submitting a request to name a facility via a memo or some other documentation. If the request meets the guidelines established in regents and executive policies, it can then be brought to the board for final approval.

D. 2025 UH Legislative Pre-Session Review and Legislative Budget Update

VP Young furnished a preview of the 2025 legislative session and updated the board on the university’s biennium operating and capital improvement project (CIP) budget requests, highlighting several key elements of each, including variances between the university’s board approved budget requests and what was approved for inclusion in the governor’s legislative ask. In total, the governor’s budget request for the university includes approximately \$34 million in operating funds and \$260 million in CIP funds over the course of the fiscal biennium which is less than the roughly \$76.6 million and \$712.2 million in respective funding sought by the university in its budget ask. Information about the membership of the current legislature, including the House Committees on Finance and Higher Education and the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Higher Education; briefings that were held regarding the university’s budget; and the legislative

timetable was also presented. Additionally, VP Young responded to concerns regarding hazard pay which were mentioned by Regent Abercrombie earlier in the meeting informing the board about two bills drafted in consultation with the Governor's Office and the Department of the Attorney General to address this issue, both of which are being considered for introduction by the governor.

Regent Abercrombie sought clarification about the \$66,800 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and \$133,776 in FY 2027 for core services at the ACM facility on the UHWO campus contained within the governor's budget request, questioning whether these monies were for positions related to things like building maintenance. He also asked if any rationale was given by the governor for his decision to reduce the original amounts requested by the university for this purpose. VP Young stated the requests mentioned by Regent Abercrombie were for non-faculty, non-academic positions associated with things such as facility maintenance, janitorial, and security services, and that no specific reasons were given for the governor's reduction of the original amounts requested by the university. Regent Abercrombie stressed the importance of funding preventative maintenance of facilities so as to avoid situations whereby buildings deteriorate to the point costs to fix them become astronomical further adding to the university's deferred maintenance backlog.

Regent Miyahira questioned whether there was a basis for the governor's reduction of appropriations related to the debt service connected with JABSOM while at the same time significantly increasing funding for debt service associated with the Cancer Center. VP Young stated the funding presently contained within the governor's budget for the purposes of addressing JABSOM's debt service was presently viewed as being sufficient to augment declines in the amount of tobacco master settlement agreement monies the medical school is anticipating it will receive for the fiscal biennium, monies which are used, in part, to pay for its debt service. With respect to debt service financing for the Cancer Center, the amount appropriated reflects the inclusion of monies which, in prior years, were restricted for use by UHM. For the past several years, the governor has been releasing these funds on the condition they be given to, and utilized by, the Cancer Center. Rather than continuing with this practice, the governor made a decision to provide the funding up front for this fiscal biennium.

Mentioning the absence of funding in the governor's budget for the Hawai'i Promise Program, Regent Akitake asked VP Young to share his thoughts on this matter. VP Young remarked that this was not a surprise to the university administration given appropriations for the Hawai'i Promise Program were also not included in the budget submitted by the governor last year. However, other avenues do exist for obtaining funding for this program including the submittal of a request to include legislation on the matter within the administration's package of bills sent to the Legislature, an action which has already been taken by the university, although VP Young was doubtful of its inclusion. Additionally, legislators can introduce measures related to the Hawai'i Promise Program which the university believes is something that will occur given discussions with individual legislators. While the specific ideas and concepts put forth by legislators might be different from the university's proposals, the administration will have ample opportunity to provide input on these measures taking into consideration the

position of the board with respect to Hawai'i Promise as discussed at previous board meetings.

A conversation took place between Regent Abercrombie and VP Young on the purpose of the university's request regarding the provision of operating funds to make subsidy payments for UHM Athletics, which was something included in the governor's budget, as well as the lack of inclusion of CIP funding for athletic improvements at UHM and the rationale for this decision. Regent Abercrombie also shared his thoughts on the dramatic changes being experienced throughout intercollegiate athletics, particularly with respect to its financial aspects, in light of recent legal decisions which, in essence, allows for the provision of direct monetary compensation to student-athletes. To be clear, VP Young emphasized the request for subsidy payments contained within the university's operating budget request was in no way intended to be used for the aforementioned funding of student-athletes.

Regent Wilson inquired about the impacts, if any, reductions made by the governor to the university's CIP requests will have on the institution's deferred maintenance backlog. VP Gouveia stated the overall deferred maintenance backlog for the university currently stands at approximately one billion dollars. Additionally, she mentioned the necessity of committing approximately \$100 million annually towards preventative maintenance and other modernization projects in order to maintain the backlog at current levels. While the university submits requests for \$100 million in Repair, Improve, and Modernize, or RIM, project funding each year, the institution generally does not receive the total amount of this ask. As such, the university administration fully expects the deferred maintenance backlog to continue to grow.

The meeting recessed at 12:27 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:37 p.m.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (closed to the public)

Chair Lee stated the meeting was running about an hour-and-a-half behind schedule. Due to the pending departure of a couple of board members, he suggested taking up the first two matters of the scheduled executive session at this time. Hearing no objections, he requested a motion to this effect.

Regent Wilson moved to convene into executive session to discuss the first two executive session items as listed on the agenda, seconded by Regent Miyahira, and with all members present voting in the affirmative, the board approved convening in executive session to consider the hire, evaluation, dismissal, or discipline of an officer or employee or of charges brought against the officer or employee where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved pursuant to Section 92-5(a)(2), Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS).

The meeting recessed at 12:38 p.m.

Regent Higaki left the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

Chair Lee called the meeting back to order at 1:03 p.m. stating the board met in executive session to discuss the matters related to items VIII.1 and VIII.2 as noted on the agenda. He also announced Agenda Item IX.A would be taken up at this time followed by discussions on Agenda Item VII.E. At the conclusion of these discussions, the board would reconvene into executive session to take up the final executive session item listed on the agenda.

IX. AGENDA (continued)

A. Request for Approval to Establish Senior Advisor to the President as a New Executive/Managerial (EM) Classification and Appointment of and Waiver of Recruitment for Kim L. Siegenthaler as Senior Advisor to the President, University of Hawai'i System

Regent Abercrombie moved to approve the establishment of the Senior Advisor to the President as a new EM Classification as well as the appointment of waiver of recruitment for Ms. Kim L. Siegenthaler as Senior Advisor to the President of the UH System, seconded by Regent Wilson, and noting the excused absence of Regent Higaki, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

VII. AGENDA (continued)

E Discussion on Search for a New Athletic Director (AD)

Chair Lee provided background information on the process used to hire former UHM AD Craig Angelos, reminding regents about discussions which took place during the May 18, 2023, board meeting and the June 1, 2023, meeting of the Committee on Personnel Affairs and Board Governance, regarding board involvement in certain hiring decisions made by the administration, particularly when those decisions involved high-profile positions. He noted the purpose of today's discussion was to provide additional guidance to President Hensel, who began her term as University President just a few weeks ago, as she embarks on a search for a new UHM AD and invited regents to share their thoughts on this matter.

Regent Abercrombie expressed his belief in the importance of the next UHM AD having an employment contract and not an at-will agreement similar to the one used with the previous AD. He also strongly suggested President Hensel utilize the services of a search firm, preferably one with experience in Division I AD searches, in the hiring process.

A number of regents offered comments on Regent Abercrombie's suggestions verbalizing their concurrence with his suggestions. Regents also shared their thoughts on the need for the AD hiring process to be as open, transparent, and inclusive as possible.

President Hensel thanked regents for their feedback stating she realizes the significance of this issue to the community and the weight of this decision especially in light of the rapidly changing realm of intercollegiate athletics. She also pointed out the existence of firms specializing in AD searches; noted her office will be reaching out to

these entities so the process to hire a new UHM AD can begin as expeditiously as possible; and assured regents of her intent to exercise the utmost transparency with the community throughout the process.

Chair Lee asked President Hensel for her thoughts on the timing of the search for a new UHM AD. President Hensel replied that she is planning to begin working on the search for a new UHM AD immediately. Her hope is for a search firm to be procured and a search committee to be in place by the end of the summer, if not earlier. Nevertheless, she stated conversations have already been taking place among members of the university administration to start identifying members of the community who would be the right fit to serve on an AD search committee, as well as the development of a process to receive community input on this matter.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (continued - closed to the public)

Regent Wilson moved to reconvene into executive session to discuss the last executive session item as listed on the agenda, seconded by Regent Haning, and noting the excused absence of Regent Higaki, and with all members present voting in the affirmative, the board approved reconvening in executive session to consult with the board's attorneys on questions and issues pertaining to the board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities, pursuant to Section 92-5(a)(4), HRS.

The meeting recessed at 1:17 p.m.

Regent Faumuina left the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

Chair Lee called the meeting back to order at 2:26 p.m. and announced the board met in executive session to discuss Item VIII.3 as stated on the agenda.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Lee announced that the next board meeting was scheduled for February 20, 2025, at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Yvonne Lau
Executive Administrator and Secretary of
the Board of Regents