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MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON STUDENT SUCCESS MEETING

NOVEMBER 7, 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 10:59 a.m. on Thursday, November 7, 2024, at the University of Hawai'i (UH) at Mānoa, Bachman Hall, 1st Floor Conference Room 106A/B, 2444 Dole Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96822, with regents participating from various locations.

Committee members in attendance: Chair Laurie Tochiki; Vice-Chair William Haning; Regent Joshua Faumuina; Regent Laurel Loo; and Regent Ernest Wilson.

Others in attendance: Board Chair Gabriel Lee; Regent Neil Abercrombie; Regent Lauren Akitake; and Regent Mike Miyahira (ex officio committee members);

President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Academic Strategy Debora Halbert; VP for Legal Affairs/University 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-Hilo (UHH) Chancellor Bonnie Irwin; UH-West O'ahu 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 September 19, 2024, committee meeting which had been distributed. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Board Secretary Lau announced the Board Office's receipt of written comments from Dr. Ashley Maynard regarding the General Education Redesign Update and stated no one had signed up to testimony.

Written testimony may be viewed at the Board of Regents website as follows:

[Written Testimony Received](#)

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Report on Academic Program Actions for Academic Year (AY) 2023-2024

Alan Rosenfeld, Associate VP (AVP) for Academic Programs and Policy, spoke about information contained within the Academic Program Actions Report, which he explained was an annual report that provided details on various programmatic actions that have taken place at both the campus and system level over the prior academic year, and briefly discussed the current program proposal process. He also presented data on some of the major academic program actions that occurred during AY 2023-2024 including, among other things, the number of programs granted established or provisional status by the board and program terminations and stop outs, and pointed out a recent change to Regents Policy (RP) 5.201, authorizing new minors, concentrations, and certificates to be approved either by the university president or at the campus level which, in his opinion, increases the importance of this annual report.

Regent Abercrombie asked if there was any connection between the new Graduate Certificate (GCert) in Veterinary Pharmacy Sciences at UHH authorized by the university president under the authority contained within RP 5.201 and the Associate Degree in Veterinary Technology (Vet Tech) Program currently in existence at Windward Community College (WinCC). He also questioned whether they were the only such academic courses available in the state. AVP Rosenfeld stated he was unsure as to whether there was a connection between the GCert at UHH and the Vet Tech Program at WinCC and that, as far as he knew, they were the only two programs related to this academic course of study in the state.

Pointing out the need for, and importance of, veterinary services on each island, Regent Abercrombie inquired about the existence of traveling veterinarians in Hawai'i and whether the abovementioned programs could have an impact on such a notion. AVP Rosenfeld responded that he was unaware of any traveling veterinarian program in Hawai'i but mentioned the availability of a number of online courses within the Vet Tech Program which provides the opportunity for individuals on any island throughout the State to pursue a career in this field of study and may have an impact on the statewide need for this resource.

Referencing the termination of the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Gender and Women's Studies program at UHH, Regent Wilson asked if this was due to the lack of a statewide demand for this area of study and whether a similar program existed on any campus within the university system. AVP Rosenfeld stated he was uncertain about the statewide demand for the noted degree program but pointed out the existence of a similar degree program at UHM. He also drew attention to the BA in Gender and Women's Studies program at UHH being a provisional program rather than an established program remarking that a decision to terminate the program was made due to concerns raised about its viability after proceeding through a portion of the program proposal process.

Chair Tochiki expressed her appreciation to the administration for all of the work and effort put in to generating the Academic Program Actions Report.

B. UH System Academic Priorities and Policy Overview 2024-2025

VP Halbert reported on several strategic academic initiatives being undertaken to increase educational opportunities at the university including projects related to improving cross-campus course sharing; addressing equity issues across the university system and supporting the university's equity goals; the development of internship opportunities by expanding connections with university alumnae; the emerging issue of generative artificial intelligence; and sector convenings associated with workforce development and the advancement of educational opportunities to meet Hawai'i's current workforce needs, emphasizing that these projects were being developed in accord with the five foundational principles and four strategic imperatives of the University of Hawai'i System Strategic Plan 2023-2029. She also highlighted several anticipated executive and regent policy revisions associated with these efforts; provided information on the Hawai'i Promise Scholarship Program, its impact on student success, and approaches used for similar programs in other states which could be analyzed for possible implementation at the university through policy amendments; and noted efforts being taken by her office to think about ways, from an academic strategy perspective, the university can proactively address any changes to the national higher education landscape as a result of the recent federal elections.

Regent Wilson asked whether the hub and spoke concept for educational access was still being used by the community colleges. Interim VP Teraoka replied in the affirmative but noted the university is increasing its focus on the concept of statewide educational access focused on student need whereby academic programs and courses of instruction are provided to individuals in the most effective and efficient manner possible. VP Halbert added that conversations are also taking place regarding, among other things, the concept of cross-campus course sharing to expand course offerings and the smoothing out of curricular and articulation pathways, to address statewide needs in a number of academic areas.

Committee members discussed the importance of regents and the administration keeping abreast of issues and challenges which institutions of higher education may face in light of the changing national political situation.

C. General Education (Gen Ed) Redesign Update

Prior to VP Halbert's presentation on this agenda item, Chair Tochiki called regents' attention to Dr. Ashley Maynard's testimony on this topic which provides a thorough history and overview of this issue.

VP Halbert provided a synopsis of the administration's efforts to examine and revamp the Gen Ed curriculum stating this endeavor began in 2021 amid concerns raised regarding issues such as dated content and program structure and governance, as well as transfer and articulation challenges between campuses; referred to the redesign effort's objectives contained within the committee materials packet; and briefly went over a timeline of activities that occurred on this subject since its inception to the present. She also encouraged regents to visit the Gen Ed redesign website which contains a plethora of detailed information on this subject including various proposals

put forth, the process used to generate these proposals, and faculty consultation efforts. To date, no clear path forward on a Gen Ed redesign plan exists, although internal discussions continue to occur at the campus level and the community colleges have circulated a memorandum recommending a possible course of action. As such, suggested policy changes with respect to this matter have been withdrawn and will not be pursued at this time. Nevertheless, the administration stands ready to support future, systemwide conversations around Gen Ed.

VP Teraoka provided additional information on some of the consultation and discussions which have occurred with faculty, particularly at the community college level, on the general concepts of the university's Gen Ed redesign efforts, apprehensions regarding the various suggested policy revisions, and the possible ways of addressing these concerns. She also spoke about some of the ongoing efforts currently taking place among a number of faculty groups to develop Gen Ed changes and policy recommendations which will be most beneficial to students and have the best chance of achieving consensus.

Chair Tochiki communicated her gratitude to the administration for its attempts to develop a comprehensive Gen Ed policy and conveyed her hope that a collaborative solution to these challenges can be found through further deliberations among the faculty.

Regent Abercrombie shared his thoughts on comments and suggestions made by Dr. Maynard in her testimony, particularly with regard to the establishment of quantitative and ethical reasoning requirements for the university's Gen Ed curricula. He also articulated his belief in the fundamental need for the university to coordinate, collaborate, and support liberal arts education, especially in the area of humanities, given the direction of the nation's political climate over the last several years.

Regents echoed the remarks of Chair Tochiki and thanked the administration for all its hard work on this topic.

Chair Tochiki closed discussions on this agenda item by emphasizing the desire expressed by regents for the administration to update Gen Ed curriculum requirements using a systemwide approach but also noted the importance of honoring the concepts of shared governance when doing so. She also urged all of the parties involved to continue working on the matter and to do so collaboratively and with a sense of urgency because of the potential for significant sociopolitical change on the horizon.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Tochiki adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yvonne Lau

Executive Administrator and Secretary
of the Board of Regents