

MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
JANUARY 18 , 2024

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

[Written Testimony Received](#)

[Late Written Testimony Received](#)

In reference to the remarks made by Ms. Nunokawa, Regent Abercrombie requested that the record reflect audits regarding student housing at UHM are already underway as called for by regents through the board's Committee on Independent Audit.

IV. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

A.

expected to begin this spring, with projections for a selectee to be named in fall 2024 and a contract to be awarded by summer 2025. Given this timeline and the estimated construction schedule, the new Aloha Stadium is anticipated to be open in time for the university's home football opener against the University of Kansas on August 26, 2028.

To date, total extramural funding was just over \$344 million, which is about a four percent increase over same-day figures from 2023, itself a record-breaking year. VP

to these changes. Nevertheless, higher education institutions continue to search for innovative ways to provide intellectual offerings in a well-rounded manner optimally suited for the students they serve.

Referring to a recent informational briefing held by the Senate Committees on Ways and Means (WAM) and Higher Education (HRE) where concerns were raised about the effects distance learning has had on enrollment at the various university campuses and, in turn, their capital needs, Regent Akitake asked Chancellor Benham and Chancellor Peñaloza to share their thoughts on what appears to be a recurring issue among legislators and regents. Chancellor Benham and Chancellor Peñaloza remarked that while distance learning does impact the on-campus presence of students, a number of programs have experienced enrollment increases as a result of the availability of online coursework which has not only benefitted students but the community as well. Additionally, while workforce training courses, many of which involve in-person classes, are witnessing enrollment growth, these numbers are not reflected in the reports and data presented. Both also noted the high percentage of students taking courses online experienced by each campus prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, a trend that continues. However, demand for in-person courses and activities remains strong and is on the rise.

Conversations occurred among Regent Akitake, Chancellor Benham, and Chancellor Peñaloza about improving messaging with respect to enrollment successes relative to the courses being offered especially given the apparent disconnect among legislators, regents, and the university administration on this subject.

For the edification of regents who arrived after the completion of the President's Report, Vice-Chair Lee summarized the enrollment and stadium updates provided by President Lassner and asked if there were any questions.

In light of the president being a non-voting member of the Stadium Authority, Regent Abercrombie shared his fervent views and concerns about the authenticity of the university's involvement in the NASED project and the effectiveness of its participation in matters relative to the new stadium.

A robust conversation took place between Regent Abercrombie and President Lassner regarding the university's relationship with the Stadium Authority and the bearing of its input on the NASED project.

Given Regent Abercrombie and President Lassner's discussion, Regent Akitake suggested placing the Aloha Stadium issue on an agenda for the Committee on Institutional Success (IS Committee) to provide regents with an overview of, and historical background on, this subject. Vice-Chair Lee, as Chair of the IS Committee, recommended waiting until an actual RFP for the NASED project was issued before discussing this topic further. President Lassner offered to provide more background information on this issue to individual regents if they were so inclined to receive this material.

Regent Abercrombie communicated his belief in the exigency of the situation involving the stadium, especially since the Legislature is currently working on

developing the supplemental budget and will embark on crafting the next biennium budget soon thereafter. As such, he asked for clarification as to whether the stadium issue would be placed on a meeting agenda in the near future. Vice-Chair Lee replied that Regent Abercrombie's concerns were noted and would be taken under consideration by board leadership.

V. COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Report from the Committee on Independent Audit

Vice-Chair Lee referred regents to the standing committee report from the December 7, 2023, committee meeting which was contained in the materials packet.

VI. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Review of the Executive Summary of the Annual Institutional Review of Graduate Medical Education (GME) Programs at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) for Academic Year 2022- 2023

Susan Steinmann, 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 some of the key statistics and

funding request as well as opportunities to advocate for items excluded from the governor's proposed budget for submission to the Legislature. In addition, the university is one of only a few State departments that separately submits its budget request directly to the Legislature and the administration has been working with individual legislators to introduce legislative appropriation measures to address some of the university's budget requests including a bill to fund student housing at UHM. VP Young also emphasized the impacts of the Maui wildfires on the State's overall budget noting the anticipated costs for initiatives relating to the restoration of Maui may offer an explanation for the lower CIP amounts included in the governor's submitted budget.

Regent Akitake questioned whether the administration fervently advocated for inclusion of the UHM student housing request in its meetings with the governor(ep)1010()-12 Tw (k)4

expenditures when creating a financial plan; and the exploration of alternative financing strategies and options to contend with both the immediate and long-term needs of UHM student housing.

Noting the dynamic nature of the legislative process where positions can change at

specific data related to student housing at UHM subsequent to the tour including wait list figures for the past several years and reserve fund balances; and presented information on a proposal put forth by the administration to increase bed rates, which have remained unchanged since 2016, by five percent in each of the next three years to

taken by the administration regarding this issue. VP Gouveia replied that the student housing program is financed entirely by the money it generates via room rental rates based on the principle of having individuals residing in and utilizing the facility shoulder the costs for its operation and maintenance.

Vice-Chair Wilson questioned whether KMH LLP's financial analysis was inclusive of future student housing requirements relative to enrollment projections. VP Gouveia responded that the primary goal of the rate study was to ascertain an accurate understanding of the true operational and maintenance costs for student housing on a per unit basis and develop hypothetical rate structures to contend with these expenses. While the report will contain data on the alignment between headcount enrollment and

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (closed to the public)

Vice-Chair Wilson moved to convene into executive session, seconded by Regent Tochiki, and with all members present voting in the affirmative, the board approved convening 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), Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

The meeting recessed at 12:21 p.m.

Vice-Chair Lee called the meeting back to order at 1:45 p.m. and announced that the board met in executive session to discuss the matters as stated on the agenda.

VIII.