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MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

NOVEMBER 21, 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 Lee called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at

human resources related matters over the course of more than 40 years at the university. President Lassner also addressed some of the inaccuracies and untruths about the situation being promulgated online and in social media posts; acknowledged Mr. Angelos' leadership and role in some of the accomplishments cited by himself and his supporters but stressed that, such a list of achievements, while important, does not capture the totality of the performance of an executive; and spoke about the passion of fans, donors, boosters, and sponsors for UHM Athletics and his own love for the athletic program.

Chair Lee asked whether it was the university presidents or university athletic directors who make the decisions concerning things such as conference membership and the discontinuation of travel subsidies. President Lassner stated UHM Athletics programs are affiliated with two athletic conferences, the Mountain West Conference and Big West Conference, both of which are overseen by boards comprised of the presidents of each member institution. While athletic directors serve in an advisory capacity to the presidents and the administrators of the athletic conferences, including the conference commissioners, regarding conference matters, all responsibility for making decisions on issues such as conference membership or travel subsidies rests solely with the university presidents who vote as the conference board members.

A. Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Update

Earlier this month, the university came to terms on a PLA with local trade unions for the institution's major construction projects. For the edification of regents, President Lassner explained that a PLA is a collective bargaining agreement negotiated between unions and the project owner which establishes universal terms and conditions of employment for specific types of construction projects and, according to the United States Department of Labor, serves as an ensure timely completion of projects at or under budget; provides employers with a reliable source of highly skilled workers; increases diversity and support equitable workforce development; and improves worker health and safety on the job. He then provided background on, and the rationale for, the university signing on to a PLA, highlighting a directive sent to all Executive Branch agencies requiring their adherence to the terms of a PLA for public works projects in excess of \$1.5 million, which was signed by the Governor in December of 2023, as well as the need to secure union support for updates to the university's Plan Review Use Permit being sought from the Honolulu City Council, and noted this action brings the university in line with all of the other State agencies. After consulting with board leadership on this matter, it was determined board action with respect to the PLA would not be necessary, particularly since the agreement is not anticipated to have direct cost implications and is expected to have little-to-no impact on the university. Nevertheless, the administration and board leadership decided it would be in everyone's best interest to inform regents of this agreement at a public meeting.

B. Marine Education Training Center (METC)

The university currently leases approximately 7.6 acres of land located on Sand Island from the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for use by Honolulu Community College (HonCC) as a METC as well as UHM's School of Ocean

and Earth Science and Technology's (SOEST) Marine Program. Since 2002, HonCC's METC and the Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) have been working together to develop a learning center that combines the voyaging and cultural expertise of PVS and the educational background of METC into a new, experience-driven format of training for future students, a partnership which was formalized in 2003 by the signing of a

garner significant amounts of philanthropic donations over the past 10 years due, in large part, to the leadership, honesty, and integrity exhibited by President Lassner, which has instilled a tremendous amount of public confidence in the stability of the university and led to individual donors believing contributions made to the institution are a sound investment. He then proceeded to report on UHF's fundraising efforts for the current fiscal year highlighting the receipt of just over \$43 million to date, a roughly eight percent increase over the \$37 million received at the same time last year, and the closing in on almost \$700 million raised towards the \$1 billion goal of its comprehensive capital campaign. Even more encouraging was the fact that over \$100 million are in the donation pipeline, and while not guaranteed funding, UHF has great confidence in the majority of those gifts being realized by the end of the fiscal year. As such, UHF feels it will see a significant increase in donations made to the university in comparison to last year's figures and is happy with the progress being made in these matters. VP Dolan also spoke about a steady increase in the amount of monies funneled through UHF to university programs for things like research and general expenses which really makes a baseline difference in the various programs at the university and the people involved in these endeavors; noted staffing at UHF has gotten better and continues to improve; and stated UHF is preparing for the presidential transition and has been in communications with incoming President Wendy Hensel about upcoming fundraising activities and future efforts related to the generation of philanthropic donations for the university.

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majority of funds received by UHF for the university are designated for the institution's academic and research programs with only about three to four percent of the monies raised being earmarked for athletics.

Regent Haning asked if he could meet with VP Dolan at a later time to discuss, and be further educated on, the relationship between UHF and the University of Hawai'i Alumni Association. VP Dolan stated he would gladly meet with Regent Haning to talk in depth about this issue and suggested Maile Au, UHF Associate VP of Alumni and Community Engagement, be invited to attend as well.

Regent Wilson inquired as to whether the UHF fundraisers located on the various university's campuses were UHF or university employees. VP Dolan responded that these individuals are UHF employees.

VI. QUARTERLY GOVERNANCE REPORT –

- 2. Approval of FYB 2025-2027, Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Budget Request for UH to be submitted to the Governor and the State Legislature**
- 3. Approval of an Indemnification Provision in a Contract Issued by the Board of Trustees of Leland Stanford Junior University**

adjustments for the university president included in this fiscal year's operating budget request. He expressed his belief that this ask could be especially contentious at the Legislature and, as such, requested the administration c

There having been a motion that was moved and seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and noting the excused absence of Regent Higaki, the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (closed to the public)

Regent Wilson moved to convene into executive session, seconded by Vice-Chair Loo, and noting the excused absence of Regent Higaki 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 12:50 p.m.

Regent Paloma left at 2:07 p.m.

Chair Lee called the meeting back to order at 2:15 p.m. and announced that the board met in executive session to discuss the matters as stated on the agenda.

IX. AGENDA (continued)

A. Personnel Actions (A-1 for approval)

Regent Wilson moved to approve the appointment of Ms. Victoria Rivera as Assistant Vice President for the Office of Research Administration and Compliance as