

**MINUTES**

**BOARD OF REGENTS**

KianaRose Dulan, Sam Peck, Kayla Oshiro, Christie Ann Nitta, Kyla-Marie Turner, and Dustin Miguez.

Kaipo Hata, Ethan Hope-Cruz, Cardenas Pintor, Christie Ann Nitta, Karla Hayashi, Sonja Giardina, Rosiana “Nani” Azman, Ashley Maynard, Bronson Azama, Kyson James-Foree, Mariko Quinn, Erin Centeio, Jaret Leong, Kanoa Ventura-Barreto, Shannon P maika i Hennessey, Sam Peck, and Dustin Miguez provided oral comments on the presidential selection process.

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

[Written Testimony Received](#)

[Late Written Testimony Received](#)

Prior to beginning discussions on the noted agenda items, Chair Nahale-a went over the basic premise of, and rationale for, having a Committee of the Whole, which in essence was the board, address matters associated with the selection of the next university president.

### **III. AGENDA ITEMS**

Board of Regents Special Meeting Minutes of

phrase “on all aspects of the presidential search” thus providing the Advisory Group with a broader, unfettered scope of work.

Several regents expressed their preference for the Advisory Group’s scope of work to remain more narrowly focused.

While she understood and respected many of the concerns cited in the testimony, Regent Paloma shared her thoughts on some misconceptions included in several of the statements made. She also spoke about the voluntary nature of the board, noted the

Chair Nahale-a called the meeting back to order at 12:10 p.m. and announced that the board met in executive session to discuss the matters as stated on the agenda.

### **III. AGENDA ITEMS (Continued)**

Regents resumed their deliberations on Agenda Item III.A.1., reiterating the importance of developing a balanced, collaborative, reasonably inclusive, and robust approach to selecting the next university president. Regents also spoke about the challenges of formulating a comprehensive list of tasks for the Advisory Group to undertake at this meeting; noted possible scenarios for developing the Advisory Group's tasks including allowing the entity to submit a list of recommended duties to the board for approval; went over methods by which the Advisory Group could be assembled; highlighted the ability for university constituencies and community stakeholders to provide input on the presidential selection throughout the process; and continued to underscore the board's intent for the Advisory Group to play a more active role in selecting the next university president.

To assuage concerns about inclusivity raised by a number of stakeholder groups, Chair Nahale-a suggested further amending the original charge of the Advisory Group by removing the phrase "as requested" and inserting the following language in its place "to ensure .19 -abl6(i)6(ng)10( l)-4(ang)10(uag)10(e i)ao moardJ -1110(e )4(c)4(or) (i)5.9(v(enes)4)1

and the motion was seconded by Regent Akitake. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

Vice-Chair Lee suggested the inclusion of a representative from the UH Alumni Association, the UH Foundation, and either the Hawai'i Business Roundtable or the Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i on the Advisory Group, with each being selected in a manner similar to what was proposed for the shared governance organizations. Regent Higaki proposed adding a member of the Association of Emeritus Regents to this list. Regent Mawae recommended representatives from the UHM and UHH Athletic Departments also be included on the Advisory Group.

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## Board of Regents

Chair Nahale-a remarked that the next matter of business would be to select the two regents who would work with the four Advisory Group members selected by their respective shared governance organization to compose a list of additional persons for inclusion in the Group. He then asked if any regents were willing to undertake this role.

Regent Akitake nominated Regent Tochiki and Regent Abercrombie to carry out this assignment. Both Regent Tochiki and Regent Abercrombie declined the nomination.

Vice-Chair Lee and Vice-Chair Wilson volunteered to accept the task as noted by Chair Nahale-a.

There being no other regents coming forward, Chair Nahale-a asked for a motion to approve assigning Vice-Chair Lee and Vice-Chair Wilson to undertake the task as previously noted.

Regent Haning moved to authorize Vice-Chair Lee and Vice-Chair Wilson to undertake the task of working with the four Advisory Group members as previously stated by Chair Nahale-a and the motion was seconded by Regent Loo. A voice vote was taken and noting the abstention of Regent Mawae, the motion carried with all other members present voting in the affirmative.

## **A.2. Other Elements of the Presidential Search Process**

Chair Nahale-a requested an update on the presidential search survey being conducted by the Board Office. Executive Assistant Go remarked that the presidential search survey was launched on December 15, 2023, and had garnered 828 responses as of January 3, 2024. He noted the survey will remain open and continue to collect feedback until February 15, 2024. Chair Nahale-a encouraged individuals to continue to share their thoughts with the board on the next university president.

Citing the upcoming start to the spring semester, Regent Mawae asked if additional announcements will be made about the board's ongoing effort to solicit feedback on the presidential search via the abovementioned survey. Executive Assistant Go replied in the affirmative mentioning that a plan is in place for sending out communications referencing the survey over the course of the next several weeks.

Referencing the work conducted by himself, Vice-Chair Lee, and the administration's procurement team to develop the selection criteria for the solicitation of a search firm under authorization granted by the board at its December 7, 2023, special meeting, Chair Nahale-a remarked that it was unclear whether this delegated authority extended to the selection of the search firm itself and suggested the board make clear its intent concerning this issue. He also spoke about the advantages of having himself, Vice-Chair Lee, and a member of the administration choose the search firm as opposed to having the full board make the selection.

Vice-Chair Lee concurred with Chair Nahale-a's assessment of the situation and offered his rationale for the inclusion of an individual from the administration, particularly someone who is well-versed in the university's candidate selection and human resources processes.



Regent Abercrombie expressed a desire to make the process of selecting a search firm as efficient and expeditious as possible.

Regent Haning moved to authorize Chair Nahale-a, Vice-Chair Lee, and a member of the administration to select a firm to conduct a search for the next university president, and the motion was seconded by Regent Loo. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

Going back to earlier conversations about the Advisory Group, Regent Mawae asked if specific parameters governing this body were included in the earlier motion to establish its composition. Chair Nahale-a responded that specific parameters were not included in the formal motion to establish the composition of the Advisory Group. Nevertheless, he hoped that the Advisory Group would take all of the discussions, comments, and concerns raised about the presidential selection process, as well as the guidance specific to this entity contained within the PSPPIG's final report, into consideration when conducting its work. Regent Akitake added that some parameters regarding the Advisory Group had been established in the earlier motion such as limiting membership to 12 individuals total.

Building upon Chair Nahale-a's remarks, Regent Akitake stressed the importance of ensuring the individuals under consideration for membership on the Advisory Group possessed the qualities enumerated in section K.3. of the PSPPIG's final report, particularly with respect to the disclosure of conflicts of interest, and suggested informing those assigned with the task of proposing the membership of the Advisory Group be advised as such. Chair Nahale-a acknowledged Regent Akitake's remarks for the record and asked whether his understanding that these qualifications would also apply to Advisory Group members chosen by the four, officially recognized shared governance organizations was correct. Regent Akitake replied in the affirmative.

Questions were raised by Regent Akitake, Regent Mawae, and Regent Abercrombie seeking clarification on whether Vice-Chair Lee and Vice-Chair Wilson would be serving on the Advisory Group; regents, in general, could serve on the Advisory Group; the total number of individuals serving on the Advisory Group would be 12; and the Committee of the Whole would be voting on the recommended membership once a list of names is submitted. Chair Nahale-a responded by stating that Vice-Chair Lee and Vice-Chair Wilson were only tasked with assisting those chosen by the four officially recognized shared governance organizations to serve on the Advisory Group with making recommendations for up to eight additional members for inclusion on this entity. However, regents, including Vice-Chair Lee and Vice-Chair Wilson, could serve on the Advisory Group should their names be included in the membership recommendation submitted to the Committee of the Whole for final approval. Membership of the Advisory Group would also be limited to a maximum of 12 individuals inclusive of the four chosen by the respective shared governance groups. Chair Nahale-a also noted the possibility of assigning up to a maximum of two regents, due to the Sunshine Law, to work with the Advisory Group on specific tasks should the Committee of the Whole decide to do so.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Nahale-a announced that the next board meeting was scheduled for January 18, 2024, at UHWO.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Nahale-a adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jamie Go  
Executive Assistant  
Board of Regents