



FACULTY CONGRESS MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2016

Architecture Auditorium (ARCH 205)☐

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cooney called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. MINUTES

The minutes from the October 21, 2015 Congress meeting were approved by acclamation.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

- The chair shared that there are many issues that still affect the functioning of Mānoa. Chair Cooney encouraged us all to attend BOR meetings.
- Welcome and introduction of Rep. Choy.
 - Chair Cooney welcomed Representative Isaac Choy to the congress meeting. Chair Cooney said that the State of Hawaii is our major shareholder. Fifty-two percent of our operating budget comes from state g-funds. Twenty-nine percent comes from tuition. Fifteen percent is from non-g funds, and 4% is from RTRF. Chair Cooney encourages UH Mānoa and legislator interactions, saying that this would be better for UH Mānoa and the state as a whole.

4. GUEST - Representative Isaac W. Choy (4:00 pm - 5:00 pm)

- Rep. Choy introduced himself as an accountant and an auditor. He made remarks about the budget situation at Mānoa. He said the deferred maintenance at Mānoa is \$500M. He said he found no budgets for repairs. He said we are missing a building, no construction management, lawsuits from everywhere, no one can tell him the role of a VP vs. a chancellor, etc. Rep. Choy is asking for legislative control of the University of Hawaii. He said you see bills on repairs, sexual assault, etc. He said there is a lack of management at the university. "Where am I trying to lead you?" he asked. "What's the end game?" "Everything we do at the University of Hawaii must be the education of our children." He said he believes that in the future the majority of jobs will require some form of college education. He put in a bill for free community college, but it would cost \$64M. He only has \$3M, so he wanted to start with Kauai, because they're the smallest, and their entry to college is less than 40%. John Morton told Rep. Choy that \$1.5M would help him accommodate every student in community college with some financial need. He said he believes the state economic engine can only be advanced by a capable workforce. We must prepare for the global economy. He said it will take great professors, graduate students, and great students, as well as competent administration. He believes UH is the only institution in the state of Hawaii that can fulfill our educational goals. Choy said the university has been coming to the legislature to cover for its mistakes. The university



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must stop blaming others for its mistakes and bring a flawless product to the legislature. He said that money is a good scorekeeping tool. He said the state is in trouble. He said if you look at the state financial statement, we have a \$3.8 billion dollar negative balance, which means we have more liabilities than assets. We need to increase revenues. We have a lot of needs: homeless people, hospitals, and prisons. We will have to increase revenues, which means we would have to increase taxes. The UH mirrors the state of our state. To make things work, we have infrastructure that's not sustainable. If we maintained the campuses, we would not have enough money to hire professors. From a political perspective, the faculty are in a bad position. Choy thinks autonomy hurts the UH. It means that some legislators want the UH to solve its own problems. Rep. Choy said that he encouraged his peers to fund the university. Apparently the administration has proposed to charge students a fee to improve the facilities. A \$3M increase in fees would cover maintenance of bonds for \$50 -60M. This would not cover the costs of the backlog. Further, it would put the costs of repairs on students who are not born yet.

- A faculty member suggested that faculty be put in charge of administration.
- Rep. Choy said he put in a bill to study the break-up of the system. Rep. Choy believes that community colleges should be on their own because their mission is different. Rep. Choy said he thinks Mānoa should be on its own. He did not advertise this bill. It died in its second committee.
- A faculty member said we have sympathy for a number of things that Rep. Choy brought forward. The faculty member worried faculty would be collateral damage from assaults on the administration.
- Rep. Choy restated several times that he needs better managers at the UH. But if the legislature is blamed for problems at UH, he wants to micromanage UH, as a legislator.
- A faculty member asked about HB 1625 HD1. He said that the bill includes the deletion of \$45M from the university budget. He said that the deletion would have a major impact on the university and the state of Hawaii, as it would render hundreds of people unemployed. Rep. Choy said that funds were "fungible." He said this was a "notice to system" to look at the issues. He said that he did "not think a dollar would move." System has gone to Rep. Choy and said they "didn't have the levers" to move, so he was giving them the levers. Rep. Choy said he would look into implications.
- A faculty member said that if we shut down the ORUs, it will not save the state any money, but it will cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars. Rep. Choy said the need for general funds is growing. And we have negative equity in our general fund.
- Rep. Choy asserted that it costs the state \$1.08 for every federal dollar that UH brings in. A faculty member said that he thought that federal funds brought more money into the state than it cost.
- A faculty member said that she employs eight Native Hawaiian undergraduates in her lab. She suggested that Rep. Choy invite ORUs to the legislature to present their work and "impeccable products" that he asked for. She made an appeal that the researchers be invited to go to the legislature and tell their stories.



- A faculty member asked about bill 1700, which mandated a cut of \$50M from the Mānoa budget. Rep. Choy said it is a directive to the UH System office to look into how the money is being used.
- A faculty member said we would like the money to come into our departments, and we will take care of our students, and take care of the administration after. She said that we are spending too much on administration, and at the same time we are not able to offer classes.
- Rep. Choy said that he took money out of E/M salaries to pay for graduate student increases.
- Rep. Choy said that g-fund support for the university has been going down. Rep. Choy said that the university has other sources of income, such as grants and tuition, and that the legislators have the sense that, if we have other sources of income, we should use those sources. The K-12 DOE does not have another source of income.
- A graduate student made a point that the federal grant funds are not fungible the way the state funds are.
- Rep. Choy asked to see specific numbers for grants at UH and would like to look at a specific project, because he usually sees numbers in the aggregate.
- An administrator made the point that we are a Research Intensive university, and that research helps the reputation of the university, and that brings in students and tuition funds as well. He was concerned that there would be a negative spiral if we do not have the research enterprise.
- A private citizen said he retired from the state of Maryland and came to Hawaii. He said that the University of Hawaii had a great strong reputation for its research. He suggested that cuts to UH research will actually increase the need for g-fund support. He said that the state DOT has issues with spending allocated funds, and the state Dept. of Housing has issues as well. Rep. Choy said that the judiciary has more backlog in repairs than any other government group. Rep. Choy is asking us to join him to make UH the best it can be.
- A faculty member said that cutting research will cut 600 jobs, and it will take 1-2 years to rebuild.
- Rep. Choy thanked the faculty members for their time. He said that he wants the UH to be the best. He said the reality is that an economic train is coming down the track. He said it's up to us at UH to build a good future for our kids.

5. BUSINESS



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- Briefing on the status of shared governance of UH Mānoa
Presented by the Senate Executive Committee

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by SEC Secretary Ashley Maynard

Approved on October 19, 2016