

**FACULTY SENATE**  
**COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND GRADUATE EDUCATION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**MEETING DATE:** February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**ATTENDANCE:**

Ronald Bontekoe	X	David Duffy	X	Anne Leineweber	X	David Sanders	Tani Sebro (GSO X rep)
Marguerite Butler	X	Tim Dye	X	Laura Lyons	X	Victor Stenger	Bob Cooney: guest
Donna Ching	X	Thomas Ernst	X	Karol Richardson	X	Patricia Steinhoff	X Alan Lau: guest
Danielle Conway-Jones		Judith Inazu	X	Robert Richmond	X	Brandon Yoza	X Mariana Gerschenson: guest
Michael Cooney		Lilikala Kameeleihiwa	X	Kelly Roberts			
William Chain	X			Martin Rayner	X		Gary Ostrander: guest

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION/STRATEGY
<b>I. PRESENTATION BY ALAN LAU</b>	The timeline of his potential candidacy as Interim Director of PBRC: in November, Bob Cooney raised this issue with Alan and also with PBRC. In December, Alan submitted his CV to Marilyn Dunlap. January 24, Alan met with PBRC leadership. Feb 1, Bob Cooney met with the VCRGE, who later responded to the SEC. Feb 14, Alan Lau meets with PBRC faculty for first time. Feb 15, VCRGE meets with Alan Lau. Feb 24, Alan Lau emails his FUTURE Vision and LONG RANGE plans to PBRC. Alan Lau met with PBRC faculty for a second time to discuss his vision for the future.	
<b>ADDITIONAL ISSUES</b>	Alan Lau wants to grow PBRC into a major Center for Biodiversity Research so that a search can begin for a Permanent Director. By contrast the VCRGE clearly still wants to close the unit down. At a time when Coconut Island has had its major building threatened with closure, when the Aquarium is sending investigators to Kewalo, this does not seem like an appropriate time to close PBRC.	
<b>ALAN LAU'S EXPECTATIONS:</b>	He wants to receive a commitment for continued support of PBRC in writing. He needs at least access to the two open tenure track positions in PBRC to begin expansion. He needs some lab space for himself and one researcher. He wants to support cooperative redevelopment of PBRC with Ken Kaneshiro and Kewalo faculty with ultimately a new building for PBRC. Snug Harbor was suggested as a possible consolidation site.	
<b>PROBLEM ISSUES</b>	Both the VCRGE and the Chancellor seem strongly opposed to this plan. Whereas BIODIVERSITY and SUSTAINABILITY are widely understood to be serious and important issues across the Pacific region, this has not been considered as an area for academic expansion by UHM leadership. A major issue is that his proposed re-expansion of PBRC would require at least a minimal allocation of additional funds.	
<b>FUTURE OUTLOOK</b>	Both Alan Lau and the VCRGE (later in this meeting) confirmed that they will meet next week to further consider Alan's candidacy as Interim Director.	<i>Both PBRC faculty and CoRGE membership are in favor of Alan's appointment as PBRC Interim Director</i>

<b>2, PRESENTATION BY MARIANA GERSCHENSON ON JABSOM'S PLAN FOR TENURE AT 0.5 FTE</b>	JABSOM is proposing to tenure all FUTURE faculty appointments at 0.5 FTE G. funds. This is not an isolated decision. This is a change that has already occurred at most mainland Medical Schools that depend on State Funding (rather than major endowments). The problem is that states can no longer afford the high costs of Medical Schools. One defensive strategy is to increase the Research funds brought in by faculty but this source is limited when one cannot retain junior faculty by offering them tenure eligible positions. To do that within the present system requires new tenure lines that are not available where state funding is being cut back. After several years of discussion, JABSOM faculty has approved this proposal.	
<b>PROBLEM ISSUES</b>	How will the remainder of the salary be funded? Typically this would come from research grants.... Does that mean from RTRF? No. From within the research grant itself. However, Medical Schools do have other funding sources: from their high tuitions, from faculty practice plans, etc. that are not available to other units, so we would expect to maintain salaries whenever possible. But what if another UHM unit with high research income wanted to follow this path. Their faculty might have different risks that would need to be carefully considered.	<i>No vote taken. This issue merits further discussion in a full senate meeting.</i>
<b>3. MEETING WITH THE VCRGE</b>	The VCRGE wanted to discuss several issues that need to be brought to this committee's attention: First: While RTRF returns to UHM have reached all time highs in the last few years, this situation is unlikely to continue over the next few years and we should become accustomed to expecting reduced returns from this source. Additionally, the legislature is aware that RTRF funds are not always fully expended in the year they are accrued, giving the appearance of a float of 18 to 19n million dollars per year that the legislature would like to get their hands on... Or at least require us to use to pay our electric bills. Second: Conflict of Interest is becoming a more important issue at UHM as well as at the Federal level. UHM has been redesigning its Conflict of Interest forms and approach, so we should take this seriously. Third: the concept of redefining our Graduate Programs is again being taken into careful consideration. There are preliminary proposals that would require significant new money to fund. So look out for this as a developing area of concern. Peter Garrod is getting data together and Susan Hippensteele is also involved in this important initiative designed to make our programs more competitive.  After his prepared presentation appeared complete, the VCRGE was then asked what he intended to do about the PBRC Directorship. He stated that two weeks ago he had met with Alan Lau, but that he wanted to go back to talk with PBRC faculty. However, he will be meeting again with Alan Lau next week. However, nothing has been heard from President Greenwood as to her views – and this is an important point to consider. He would like to resolve such questions as soon as possible.	<i>The committee then further discussed this situation. Apparently Kewalo faculty have considered mediation formats. One person has offered to help (but does not herself want to be involved in such mediation).  One member will put together some additional information on Kewalo's viability as a research site following a meeting with Hafner.  It was pointed out that other options are still on the table.</i>

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