



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

May 14th, 2021

To: Mānoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee

From: Jason Kenji Higa, Chair

Re: **Committee on Research - Spring Report 2021**

Committee members included:

Jason Kenji Higa (Spring Chair, Fall Secretary), Kevin Nute (Vice-Chair, both semesters), Chris Farrar (Spring Secretary), Sayed Bateni (Fall Chair), Steven Businger, Duncan Farrah, Rajesh Jha, Peiling Kao, David Sanders, Anna Stirr, and Jim Potemra (SEC Liaison).

The Chair thanks the Committee and its officers for their service.

COR met on the following dates: January 1st, February 18th, March 25th, April 22nd, & May 6th of 2021.

During the Spring 2021 semester, the committee addressed the following issues and items:

- The UH Mānoa Phase II reorganization, especially as it relates to the OVPRS
 - Reduction of staff and positions in OVPRS
 - Changes in duties and responsibilities in OVPRS
- Legislative and administrative efforts in defining faculty workloads, especially “R” faculty workloads
- Increasing the visibility of all types of research at UH Mānoa and demonstrating its value to the community

Issue(s) Completed:

January 1st, 2021

- COR reviewed and discussed the Phase II reorganization.
- COR discussed concerns about defining or quantifying “R” faculty workloads

February 18th, 2021

- COR continued to discuss the potential impacts of the Phase II reorganization on research at UHM.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

March 25th, 2021

- COR worked on and sent a collaborative memo on March 1st to CAB regarding proposed Phase II changes to the OVPRS and the potential impacts it would have on the functioning of that office and overall research activity at UHM.
- JK Higa & D Sanders met with Velma Kameoka (VC for Research) and Chad Walton (Associate VC for Research) to discuss the impacts of the Phase II reorg on research at UHM.
- K Nute researched how Vice Chancellor/Provost offices are organized at peer/benchmark institutions
 - In combination with discussions JK Higa & D Sanders had with OVCR, it appears that UHM is unique in having both a Vice Chancellor of Research *and* a Vice President for Research and Innovation
 - COR came to a mutual conclusion that neither the OVCR nor OVPRI has an exact equivalent at other peer or benchmark institutions, nor do the duties and responsibilities at either office neatly map to any position at those institutions

April 22nd, 2021

- JK Higa & K Nute met with VCR V Kameoka and Assoc. VCR C Walton on April 13th to further discuss the impacts of the Phase II reorg on research at UHM.

May 6th, 2021

- COR discussed the recent approval of the Phase II reorganization and assembled a list of issues that can be handed over to the next COR.

Issue(s) Under Review:

A complete list of Issue(s) pending further review for the 2021-22 incoming members and any next step(s) or recommendations regarding that issue.

1. Phase II Reorganization

- a. COR has been concerned with the reduction in staff and positions at the OVPRS and changes in the purview of OVPRS, especially as it affects the functioning of the OVPRS and management of RTRF and common research infrastructure shared by researchers at UHM. Any negative impact on the office threatens to also make research and applying for grants more difficult or inefficient for faculty and administrators.
More specifically:



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAI'I®
MĀNOA

- i. OVPRS went from 6 funded positions to 4 positions. The office is now without a Research Program Officer and Research Infrastructure Officer, and will have to take on all the proposed Phase II duties with fewer staff.
- ii. Phase II and the Graduate Council/Division. Some ORUs do not rely on Graduate Division to recruit students and are wondering how graduate student recruitment will work between Grad. Division and research groups.
- b. Potential resources for COR to work with: Velma Kameoka (VC of Research), Chad Walton (Associate VC of Research), Vasillis Symos (VP of Research)

2. Promote and Publicize UHM Research

- a. Show the value of UHM as a Research I university to the legislature and community
- b. Potential resources for COR to work with: Velma Kameoka (VC of Research), Vasillis Symos (VP of Research), Dan Meisenzahl (Director of UH Communications), Jennel Sesoko (Higher Education Marketing)

3. Native Hawaiian Place of Learning and Research

- a. Given the mission of UH Mānoa and initiatives to increase our visibility and efforts as a Native Hawaiian Place of Learning in our hiring and teaching practices, it would be to the benefit of students, researchers, and the community alike to find ways to show how research can benefit the vision of UH Mānoa as a Native Hawaiian Place of Learning.
- b. Potential resources for COR to work with: Kūali'i Council