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FACULTY CONGRESS MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

March 21, 2018

Architecture Auditorium (ARCH 205)

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. MINUTES:

- March 15, 2017 Congress Minutes [[DOC](#)] (*DRAFT*)

Motion to approve minutes made by Senator D. Vincent, approved by acclamation.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Sorensen-Irvine presented the names of the three finalists for the Director of the General Education Office and gave the times and dates of their public presentations. She discussed the combined Bachelor's/Master's guidelines and presented her Board of Regent's presentation for October 19, 2017. She explained that she will be giving a five to seven minute presentation highlighting UHM's successes and strengths.

- Combined Bachelor's / Master's Guidelines update [[PDF](#)]
- MFS presentation to the BoR [[PPT](#)]

Chair Sorensen thanked the Senate Committees for their work and made a call for the committee positions still-vacant, which are open to non-Senators. She presented a list of items the Senate is working on with the administration.



4. BUSINESS:

- **MFS Bylaws revision**

- Chair Sorensen asked for a motion to proceed for an electronic ballot on the Bylaws revisions. Senator R. Paull moved and Senator C. Measures seconded. A senator asked if the Congress would have time to discuss the amended bylaws. Congressman D. Ross said he thought the Congress should have time for a discussion, since the changes are quite major. Senator D. Vincent explained that with the electronic vote, the old and new bylaws would be presented and there could be an electronic discussion. Congressman D. Ross proposed an amendment to postpone the Congress vote to allow time to find a way for a better discussion, since the Senate's new website is difficult to maneuver. Congressman D. Ross proposed amendment was not seconded. Motion to proceed with an electronic congress vote passed 28 in support; 8 against; and 2 abstentions.

- **Guest Speaker**

- Conversation with Vice Chancellor Michael Bruno
 - UHM Budget
 - Strategic Initiatives competition
 - Academic Reorganizations
 - Miscellaneous items included retention, enrollment, Sinclair Library, Library resources, etc.
 - Open Q&A session

Vice Chancellor Bruno was introduced at 4:14 PM and started out by saying the faculty *is* the University. He said that he will also be sharing university successes with the BOR.

VC Bruno said that despite the fact of being well-funded by the state, there are still budget issues and constraints. He commented that we don't have as sophisticated a system for recruitment and retention as many other institutions. In the past, the budget hasn't been directly linked to recruitment and retention. Our first year incoming and first to second year retention is up. Overall numbers are down, and administration is working on finding out why. Our sister institutions in the state's enrollment numbers aren't calculated exactly like UHM's, making comparisons difficult. Today President/Interim Chancellor Lassner transferred a large amount of money from system to UHM to use to boost enrollment and retention. Part of the emphasis is to improve student life and success and the culture of



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the campus better to support it. Graduate student numbers are down, and the administration is working on improving that. Tuition is considered to be a problem with UHM being higher than many peer institutions on the Mainland. He stressed how important it will be to have accurate numbers if rolling back tuition becomes a potential issue. A number of facilities issues are being discussed to make the campus more inviting to students. Senator G. Crookes thanked VC Bruno for considering lowering tuition. Senator C. Measures commented on student life and using data and information to assess student needs, and VC Bruno replied that his office is working with students and meeting weekly to address this. He also said that data suggest students want to attend UHM to learn from world class scholars. New materials coming out of admissions that emphasize the faculty and the quality education they can offer students. Senator D. Ericson brought up the potential for recruiting international students, especially graduate students, but that tuition for international students has gone up precipitously. VC Bruno said he's discussing this with President Lassner and has looked at the numbers from different countries. The Office of Graduate Education has 100 non-resident tuition exemptions (NRTE). President Lassner has agreed to provide NRTE's to every Fulbright scholar admitted to UHM *in addition* to the 100 NRTE's already given.

President Lassner wants data to drive decisions. Senator M. Cooney asked why we even charge graduate students tuition if they're working on research or teaching assistantships, and VC Bruno explained that these students do not pay tuition. M. Nassir, GEC member, asked VC Bruno about his feeling about General Education, and its ongoing review. VC Bruno said he supports Gen Ed, but he couldn't speak from an "expert" position on the topic and said that is why the University is bringing in a group of outside experts to assess the program. He said that in the midst of all of the changes, he was reticent to discuss Gen Ed in more detail. A congressman brought up the issue of disturbing incidents involving student conduct and "hate groups". VC Bruno said that not a day has gone by that he has not been involved in the discussions, but he couldn't comment on it since investigations are ongoing. Yesterday Interim Chancellor Lassner sent out a request to faculty to form a task force (focus group) to look into this. There are a number of rules and policies at UHM that are in silos and don't allow for easy coordination of a solution. When is free speech hate speech? When does it constitute a hostile work environment? When does it make people feel threatened? What constitutes disruptive behavior in a classroom? Since public universities are grounded in diverse opinions and open discourse, this is a tricky issue. There are many areas of disagreement on campus. A congressman asked about the recent research review done on campus, and asked what VC Bruno thought of the report. He said he was somewhat disappointed, given the stature of the review team. He thought their meta message was that the units that have had great success are those who have taken full advantage of who we are and what we are in terms of mission. The report was one reason why we initiated a new competition this year emphasizing research projects. The most successful proposals (which haven't yet been announced)



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took into account where we are and how research is relevant to the state of Hawaii and our location in the Pacific.

VC Bruno mentioned that the budget is being examined by a number of groups, including the Senate, and each unit is being closely looked at to make improvements, where possible, from the previous year. A congressman asked how VC Bruno's position as interim VCAA is affecting his role as VCR. He replied that his days are much longer, but he is working hard at keeping up the research end of his job. He's started a series of monthly meeting with deans and directors, and he meets bi-monthly with department chairs. He thinks a benefit of filling both roles has helped break down "artificial" divisions between the positions and the understanding of who faculty are and what they do. UHM recently got a grant from Castle Foundation to support undergraduate research.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sorensen-Irvine adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stacey Roberts, MFS Secretary
Approved on October XX, 2018.

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