

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
2465 Campus Road, Campus Center Room 211A
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

General Senate Meeting #15 of the 102nd Senate
Wednesday, October 29, 2014

OPENING

Call to Order

President Nishihara called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in CC 310.

Roll Call

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Present: | President Nishihara, Vice President Zakimi, Treasurer Takara, Secretary Belisario, Senators-at-Large Lee, Nishihara, Omokawa, Onishi, Senators Baxa, Borge, Bui Pham, Callihan, Candelario, Coria, Dela Cruz, Elarco, Garma, Grunenwald, Kamakea, Kawagishi, Kamoshida, Kwon, Mandado, Mitsui, Nguyen, Oshiro, K. Samiano, M. Samiano, Sanchez, Shon, Tagaban, Wainwright [32] |
| Excused Absent: | Senators Lawi-An, Schulz, Uyeda [3] |
| Unexcused Absent: | [0] |
| Excused Late: | Senator Oshiro [1] |
| Unexcused Late: | [0] |
| Excused Early Departure: | [0] |
| Unexcused Early Departure | [0] |
| On Leave: | [0] |
| Advisor: | Bonnyjean Manini [1] |
| Guests: | Robert Bley-Vroman [1] |

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Senator Nguyen Motion to accept GSMM #14.
Senator Grunenwald Second.

Senator Nguyen Motion to correct all grammatical and typographical errors.
Senator Sanchez Second.
Motion carries.

Motion Carries.

Official Correspondence

- i. Interim Chancellor Robert Bley-Vroman
Chancellor Bley-Vroman Thank you for inviting me. This is my first time meeting ASUH and it's great that I'm here. I've been at UH since 1987, which is about 28 years. I've been a professor and for a while chairperson of the LLL Department and now I'm serving as interim chancellor. Former Chancellor Apple and I have a great connection and he made it easy to transition. There are several big challenges that affect us. One of it is our finances. Since 2009, state funding for UHM has fallen by \$61 million. Tuition has increased by \$30 million. What we see is a decline in public funding for state universities and the burden is falling more on students. The consequences for us is 1) massive cuts and 2) as the funding basis shifts to tuition and fees, students are paying more. Parts of our programs in this university is funded by your monies so the services being paid by students should be preserved. Professors here have to figure out how much of their salary goes to grants and to their assistants. We are trying to work on an allocation to the budget. I've instructed all of the deans and directors that they need to preserve the core instructional mission of their college. It would mean that the dean of LLL for example, can't cut half of the 100 level language courses to save money. In the mean time, we have to get additional funding from the legislature. We would need \$50 million more to be spent on the university for us to sustain ourselves. We need greater public support for education. For the bi-annual budget request, we asked for monies to pay for our electrical bill. 1 cent equals 1 kilowatt of energy, which translates to \$1 million to our electric bill. We would like HECO to pay part of this cost. It would make it much easier to tell the BOR to not raise tuition.
- Senator Grunenwald* Is HECO a public entity? And do they get their energy from the state?
- President Nishihara* In short, HECO is monopoly.
- Chancellor Bley-Vroman* They buy oil and make energy from it. An alternative is to get the state to control electricity cost. Students are the best lobbyists to tell the legislature that something is important. One strategy that we can do is work together to put some sort of break in public funding. It's tricky because UH gets a lot of bad press. You've seen some of it in the past couple days. We have not been very good at telling our great stories. Hawaii is not a huge population state. We are also in the middle of the pacific but it puts some constraints on us. But what we have at UH is a world-class university. We have programs that are equal to anything else in the world. People can actually go here and graduate in 4 years. We have fabulous research enterprise. We have relatively small classes. In fact, we have many of the attributes that you expect in an elite university but we are not sons and daughters of the rich and powerful. We are not like other places and this is why I think UH is special. UH's programs compare favorably to all the universities I've been to.
- Senator Garma* The dollar amount that we need from the state to alleviate the burden from the students is?
- Chancellor Bley-Vroman* The current stretch we are facing is the HECO price increases. The idea is to cut this. If there were a way to get state funding, then that would be best. We've also asked for \$3 million to help with Title 9 for the athletics program.
- President Nishihara* Kelly and I have a break down that the UH System is asking for. I will forward this to you.
- Chancellor Bley-Vroman* We really need your help. You also need to believe that we will spend these monies, if given, in the most useful way.

- President Nishihara At Caucus, we were told by President Lassner that they wanted more freedom with the budget. He proposed this change where merit based aid will be based on a minimum fixed amount. Do you have the same view?
- Chancellor Bley-Vroman Manoa gives back 20% back to merit and financial need aid. We are committed to using this full amount. Uniquely to this system, merit matters here. Manoa does not intend to use that flexibility and did not ask for it. Also, merit based aid is a motivation factor for students. More optimistically, if we have more capacity, we can handle more students and that's more money.
- Senator Nguyen Thank you Chancellor Bley-Vroman for being here. You mentioned the sparsity on what the students get and what the students are paying for, but since the 3 years I've been here, I've heard many times that we have to cut budgets and tighten our belts. Do you have anything in minds to get other means of funding instead of cutting our budget?
- Chancellor Bley-Vroman Every program faces different problems. If I talk to C-Grants, that would be a different conversation if I was sitting down with the Botany Department. There are so many different parts and constraints which is why I'm not generally in favor of across the board budget cuts. I realized that the budget committee has its work cut out for. What we need to do is come up with a mechanism for that. Please don't hesitate to ask me other questions after the meeting. Thank you for having me.

REPORTS

Executive

President

President Nishihara Welcome new senators! Before I say my report, let's go around and introduce ourselves.
All senators introduce themselves.

- a. Change to Executive Policy Chapter: Chapter 6, Tuition, Financial Assistance, and Fees- An update from Student Caucus

- President Nishihara We pretty much touched upon this in Chancellor Bley-Vroman's report. President Lassner came to the Caucus meeting and I asked why the change in the Executive Policy Chapter and he said he talked to the Chancellors and this would be the best.
- Senator Grunenwald I think the fact that he stated that he will not cut aid, then why should we as students want to do that?
- Senator Garma I think it's still good to change it to a fixed dollar amount. I don't think it will affect us as a campus if they do either or.
- Senator Nguyen We shouldn't be concerned about whether or not this interim chancellor agrees with this or not. We don't know if the new chancellor will have the same mentality as this one.
- b. UH Manoa Budget Process Task Force
- President Nishihara As interim chancellor stated, I am sitting on this task force. They meet once a week. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns you would like for me to bring up. This task force is to help tackle general and tuition funds at UH Manoa.
- Senator Kawagishi Can you go over what the actual charge of the committee was? What is the explicit outcome they are expecting to gain?
- President Nishihara The interim chancellor is looking for a method to allocating these funds and favorably a formula but not a formula for the whole G funds. As a committee, we are to give recommendations to the chancellor on what to do.

Senator Nguyen It's very strange because the interim chancellor said there's no cookie cutter method. Do you know what that method would be?

President Nishihara It is what it is. To say we can apply one model here doesn't mean we can adopt everything. Everyone is throwing ideas, pros and cons, and that's what our meeting is about. If there are any financial concerns of your college, please let me know.

c. PM #17: Standing Committee Appointments

Senator Grunenwald Motion to accept
Senator Mitsui Second.
Motion carries.
Motion carries.

d. PM #18: Relating to General Education Committee Appointment

Senator Sanchez Motion to accept
Senator Grunenwald Second.
Motion carries.
Motion carries.

e. Athletic Advisory Board Nominees

President Nishihara We are looking for 2 delegates. Let me know if you are interested.

Vice President

Vice President Zakimi Welcome to the new senators. I will be sending out an updated contact list tonight. In addition, thank you for coming to the workshop today and big thanks to Healani for buying the food and doing the workshop. For the new senators, I will let you know about other workshops. Let me know if you are willing to do Secret Santa and potluck.

Treasurer

Treasurer Takara Welcome to the new senators. Please fill out your rate sheets.

Secretary

Secretary Belisario I sent an email to all the committee chairs and vice-chairs the beginning of this week on what measures you are missing on Kaulike. Please get your measures in by this Friday.

Advisor

Advisor Manini No report.

Standing Committees

Campus Life

Chairperson Oshiro Welcome to the new people in my committee! Thank you to those who came out to the Homecoming fair. I'll be scheduling a meeting in the next couple weeks. As for Homecoming, we are planning on a debrief on how to improve Homecoming next year.

Elections

Chairperson Grunenwald We will be meeting next week Thursday at 7:30 pm. We have to do another special elections for SPAS. Motion to accept the special elections calendar.

Senator Sanchez Second.
Senator Shon The elections starts at 8am.

Chairperson Grunenwald Motion to change the elections time to 8 am.

Senator Sanchez Second.

Motion Carries.
Motion Carries.

External Affairs

Chairperson Nguyen

Welcome to the new senators in my committee! We are trying to coordinate a day to go down to the state legislature to meet with those who will be of importance and relevance to us. We will be working on UHP to get professional head shots of us senators.

Finance

Chairperson Kawagishi

Our meeting this week has been canceled. We are moving on to other projects that we have planned including RIO scheduling for next semester.

Internal Affairs

Chairperson Schulz

We had a meeting last week. We have open committee positions. Please let me know.

Investments and Long-Range Planning

Chairperson Lee

Welcome to the new senators! I'm planning a meeting for the next couple weeks.

Student Affairs

Chairperson Mandado

Welcome to the new senators! 2 weeks ago, we had a good brainstorming meeting. One issue is in regards to student housing. We have a huge list so let me know if you have other ideas.

Senator Mitsui

For the UPASS, my priority has been to ask for an extension of the \$30/semester rate. Couple weeks ago the head of the transportation committee agreed to this extension but yesterday, he said he does not agree. Hopefully we can go to the commission in the next couple weeks. I'll keep you updated.

Undergraduate and Academic Affairs

Chairperson Onishi

We had a meeting today. We conducted interviews and I would like to invite my committee to meet with me after this meeting.

SPECIAL ORDERS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS

NEW BUSINESS

OPEN FORUM

President Nishihara

For new senators, don't feel like you are confined to your two committees. You can help out anywhere and everywhere. I was contacted by Pi Sigma Alpha and they want to invite you to the neighborhood commission meeting. Feel free to check it out.

Senator Shon

I just want to know, when interim chancellor presented, when can we ask questions?

President Nishihara

You could ask at the end of his presentation or you could email it.

Advisor Manini

Your ideas would best serve directed to Vice Chancellor Cutshaw.

Senator Nguyen

I'm also part of SAFC. If any of you have any ideas to enhance student life and stuff like that, please let me know.

Senator Kawagishi Going off of what Senator Shon mentioned, this is part of Manoa's strategic plan. It's going through another 2 year cycle. Energy efficiency is in this and in our next meeting we will go over certain points on the strategic plan. If you have ideas or questions about this, he will actually be here to discuss specifically Manoa. He will go over the 4 pillars of the strategic plans.

President Nishihara For the new senators, we do alternate our meetings so unless I say so we will be having a meeting every two weeks from today.

CLOSING

Adjournment

Secretary Belisario
Senator Candelario

Motion to Adjourn.
Second.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cassandra Belisario
Secretary, 102nd Senate