Minutes of SEC Meeting  
Tuesday, August 19, 2008  
Richard Bowen, Acting Secretary

Members Present:  Jim Carpenter, Steve Ferreira, Alan Titchenal, Joannie Dobbs, Sabina Swift, Mike Kawate, Dick Bowen  
Members Absent: Jim Hollyer

1. Discussion of Pope Greenhouses Repair

Thomas Lin briefed the committee on the history and status of this issue. The need for renovation was identified in 1999. It was determined that patchwork repair would be inadequate and that renovation was needed.

A consultant was brought in to work with a committee on the design phase, which cost $200,000. In 2004 the project went out to bid. However, the project was put on hold because of funding limitations after the Manoa flood in October 2004. The project was again slated to go forward. The estimated cost ranges up to $2.0 million.

Biosecurity became a concern in 2008, with a need to reevaluate polycarbomates and biosafety. This was not dealt with previously in the design phase. However, a simple change order would be all that is needed.

Recently word came from UHM administrator David Hafner that the Pope Greenhouses were no longer a priority for funding. This was done without consulting those affected by the decision. This is ironic because Hafner, when interviewed for his position a year ago, said he would never make a decision without transparency. Yet he has not justified his decision to reprioritize Pope Greenhouses. It is believed that Hafner doesn’t understand the complexity of the situation.

Steve Ferreira described the Pope Greenhouses as non-functioning. They are too hot in the summer because of too much glass. More mesh is needed for cooling. Also the glass vents can’t be opened and there are missing panes of glass. Facilities and Management staff won’t do any repairs because they believe the building is unsafe and has threatened to shut down the facility. Also asbestos has been detected in the window frames. The greenhouses are 30 years old. They should be renovated every 15 years.

The CTAHR administration has voiced its displeasure about the decision and lack of input. Associate Dean CY Hu wrote a memo to several Vice Chancellors. Dean Hashimoto called Hafner and has spoken with other people who might be able to influence this decision.

3 TPSS classes are taught in the Pope Greenhouses. There are 3 main sections. PEPS fully utilizes one section. BOTANY has had one retired faculty and one current faculty using the facility. TPSS has 3 faculty using the facility. Because of the poor conditions, present usage is less than optimal.
The SEC decided to request David Hasner to meet with the SEC and invited faculty. Jim Carpenter would invite him to a special meeting on Tuesday, August 26, or to the next scheduled SEC meeting on September 2.

2. Discussion with Dean Hashimoto

Dean Hashimoto came in during the discussion of Pope Greenhouses and explained his phone conversation with Hafner and his actions to reverse the decision. He asked if we could take this to the Manoa Senate.

He explained the current budget decisions, whereby UHM has initiated a 2% across the board cut. This is manageable. However, the Chancellor is talking about initiating a policy of pulling back one position for every 2 vacancies. Dean Hashimoto’s concern is that the Manoa administration is already slow in getting positions filled, and that this will slow down the process more. He questions whether they are competent to assess and reallocate positions.

Jim Carpenter updated the Dean on the issues of concern to the CTAHR Senate this year, which were identified at the April meeting:

- Redialogue on where the college is going;
- Apathy and what to do to improve faculty morale;
- Condition of working spaces;
- Followup to CTAHR external review
  - How to use the report to better the college
  - Possible survey of students and faculty
- Clarify role of Senate in relation to CTAHR administration
- Organization issues of the Senate
- Housing for new, young faculty
- Followup actions of Extension Committee
  - Support for an Assistant to the Director of Extension
  - Need for more PR on activities of Extension faculty
- Use of CTAHR Plan: Is it being used to drive the college?

Steve Ferreira talked of the lack of ties to industry groups since the collapse of the GACC.

The Dean responded that the college had identified 4 priority areas: livestock industry assessment; organic agriculture; invasive species; and bioenergy. Dean Hashimoto said that process is an important issue for budget decision making. The issue will be having a good process with transparency.

3. Review/confirm organization of Faculty Senate Committee membership.
Joanie (copy from Mike) handed out a spreadsheet showing the names, titles and contact information for all Faculty Senate members for 2008-2009 by department. It also showed the years of service on the Senate and committee assignments.

John Yanagida was assigned to the Instruction Committee. For the 3 remaining Senators not yet assigned, the following committee assignments were recommended:

- Lynn Nakamura-Tengan: Personnel
- Ron Mau: Personnel
- Julia Zee: Extension

Jim Carpenter will speak to these Senators to get their approval.

SEC meetings will be August 19, September 2, October 7, November 10 and December 9. These are all Tuesdays except for November 10. Meetings will be 3:30 – 5:30 pm.

Alan Tichenal said the priorities for the Instruction committee are to look at curriculum duplication and to get away from just approving courses.

Sabina Swift reported that Scott Nelson is the Chair for the Extension committee. Priorities are (1) Assistant Director of Extension position, (2) PR for Extension, (3) T&P issues. Jim Hollyer will put together a web page of information on when agents can apply.

Steve Ferreira said that the Research Committee last year took no action. Ideas suggested for this year are (1) need feedback from C.Y. Hu on Research projects recently funded and the process used for decision making; (2) space committee, including assessment of what we have and how to reallocate space for new faculty; (3) grant development and the role of the new grants officer in CTAHR.

Jim Carpenter asked each of the committees to look at the charter and at the recent CTAHR External Review to get ideas for priorities for committee work. Jim asked each Committee liaison to get to him a list of bullets of priority activities. Each committee should get support for issues by polling of faculty and from existing Senators.