

Leeward Community College Faculty Senate

Legislative Relations Committee Report

January, 2021

Fifth Meeting of academic year 2020-2021 held Jan. 5, 2021

Members

Erika Molyneux, Naiad Wong, Weirong Cai, Faustino Dagdag, Cara Chang, Didier Langlare & Reina Ojiri, & Fa'amaile (Betty) Ickes

Visitors

Michael Oishi

Topics

- In progress formulating a document to:
 - Express our solidarity as faculty
 - Ask for solidarity from legislators
 - Express list of general concerns as faculty
- Legislative Timetable still appears blank, but expected to be out anyday (re: conversation with Senator Kidani's aide, Scott Fuji (See notes above).
- State Budget has been published. See [University of Hawaii Budget](#).
 - [Na Pua Noeau](#) appears integral to much of the money and positions budgeted for campuses
 - Budgets system wide monies for mental health professionals.
 - Adds Creative Media positions to UHWO
 - Minor CIP:
 - Gallery in FA Building
- Spoke with [Debi Hartmann](#) at UHPA (Dec. 17, 2020 - Thanks Jim West for the suggestion)
 - Kalbert Young - Legislative Person for UH (CFO - Financial person) (Mike Unebasami's equivalent for UHM - Handles all Legislative communications.)
 - UHPA can only put calls to action out to personal emails (we too cannot use UH Gmail for personal legislative actions due to legality issues)
 - [Legislative Action Center](#) (Resource for following important information and for taking action).
 - Recommends transparent communications within Leeward CC before going to legislature
- Amy Perusso Town Hall Meeting
 - Mentioned Taxes on top 1% & on real-estate trusts to help close deficit
 - Tax top 1% & on real-estate trusts to help close deficit (to benefit state and, by extension, UH system)
 - A number of ideas presented were originally brought up by UH system faculty
 - May follow legislator's Facebook page for more information
 - This is **not** meant as an endorsement of a legislator or policy but addresses an issue affecting finances that have impact on stakeholders in the UH System.
- [Summary of House Committee on Higher Education](#) (Dec. 17)
 - [Testimonies given to the House](#)

- Rosie Viera, Co-Chair of All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs and UH Maui College Faculty Member
 - Rene Hutchins, Windward Community College Student Government President and Chair of UH Student Caucus
 - From Federal level, UH & UHCC System to get 1.5x amount of money from before...
 - Still a deficit, because many monies are earmarked for specific purposes - strings attached, like with CARES Act)
- [Higher Education Committee Hearing, Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2:30](#)
 - Committee member to attend
 - meeting not yet held at time of committee meeting but will have passed before Faculty Senate January Meeting
- Faustino Dagdag, member of Legislative Relations Committee & Hawaii Chamber of Commerce will report on findings from:
 - Dan Kouchi, Hawaii Chamber of Commerce Assistant Vice President of Government Affairs and Alliances
 - legislative watchdog for education

UHPA

[Monday 01/04/21 UHPA Report](#)

- Lawsuit over on-again, off-again furloughs filed
- Furloughs on hold until 6/30
- Successor contract impasse will occur Feb. 1 if no agreement met.
- No retirement incentives yet
- Committee members raised concerns about Faculty having taking on additional financial and workload burdens in light of pandemic and deficit:
 - additional workloads related to new working modalities
 - multiple TPRC assignments
 - Costs of technologies used for teaching usually shouldered by college
 - Others?
 - Ideas: Lower enrollment for writing intensive classes
 - Ask for help! Recognize faculty voices are being suppressed
 - => Would like union to address & either limit or compensate faculty for these in new round of contracts.
 - Best person to contact? (Jim West told verbally during A&H meeting) to get these on the agenda...

Upcoming Events

- Presentation on Legislative Process by Stephanie Kim, Director of [UH Government Relations](#)
 - Thursday, January 14 from 4-5 (email erikaj@hawaii.edu for Zoom link)
 - Associate Vice President Mike Unebasami (point person with Legislature for all CCs) is planning on attending.
- *Insights Hawaii* on upcoming legislative session
 - Thursday, 1/14, at 8 p.m
- Campus Meeting with VPCC Lacro and AVPAA Unebasami
 - Tuesday, January 19, at 3:45pm

- <https://hawaii.zoom.us/j/92825555125>
- Meeting ID: 928 2555 5125
- Passcode: 751910
- [Chamber of Commerce Chamber Week 2021 \(January 19 - 22\)](#)

Action steps for next meeting

1. Ask about priorities of Higher Education Committees Chairs.
2. Continue making contacts in legislature.
3. Note additional items of faculty concern to bring to legislators' attention.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 5, 2-3pm