Mānoa Faculty Senate Resolution
October 20, 2010

TO: Howard Karr, Chair
    Board of Regents
    University of Hawai‘i

    MRC Greenwood, President
    University of Hawai‘i

    Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor
    University of Hawai‘i at Manoa

FROM: Susan Hippensteele, Chair
      Manoa Faculty Senate

RE: Transmittal of Resolution Relating to the Proposal to Abolish the Pacific Biosciences Research Center (Proposal)

The above referenced Resolution was presented to the Manoa Faculty Senate at the October 20, 2010 Senate meeting. Two votes were taken. The first vote was to recommend approval of the Proposal. Four (4) Senators voted to approve; forty-eight (48) voted against approval. A second vote was taken recommending against approval of the Proposal. Forty-seven (47) Senators voted to approve; two (2) voted against approval. The end result is that the Senate does not recommend that the Proposal to Abolish the Pacific Biosciences Research Center (PBRC) be approved.

Three standing committees of the Senate reviewed the Proposal and provided reports to the Senate at the October 20 meeting prior to the votes described above: Committee on Administration and Budget (CAB), Committee on Professional Matters (CPM), and Committee on Research (COR). Committee reports can be viewed at http://www.hawaii.edu/uhtmfs/agendas/20101020agenda.html.

Discussion of the proposal during the Senate meeting centered around three (3) primary issues. First, the clear conflict of interest that was created and perpetuated when VCRGE Ostrander, Interim Director of PBRC, began advocating for its closure, and refused to appoint either a permanent Director or a different Interim Director who would not also be serving as evaluator of his own proposal. These conflict of interest issues are clearly laid out in the Committee on Research report which can be viewed on the Senate web page identified above.

The second issue was the inadequacy of the Proposal itself. VCRGE Ostrander has met with SEC and the CAB. Both have asked for information and clarification that was not provided in the Proposal but is specifically called for by M3.101. Issues including relocation of existing faculty and staff positions, cost-savings and budget/position transfer, and research infrastructure have all been cited as inadequately addressed in committee reports and during the Senate meeting.
Third, Senators cited contradictions within the Proposal. There are several units of significant import to the campus and community currently housed within PBRC. The Proposal fails to address the future of these units. And while VCRGE Ostrander modified the Proposal last Spring to exclude Kewalo Marine Laboratory (KML) for the Proposal, it remains unclear where that unit will be located organizationally. VCRGE has repeatedly voiced his intention to close KML by 2013. His rationale remains unclear: there is 20 years remaining on the lease for the property, PBRC faculty dispute his claims regarding cost to maintain the facility, there is no plan to provide KML faculty with the facilities necessary to continue their research, and the contention that Manoa should not have to support two marine laboratories contradicts our mission of promoting research areas in which we are uniquely positioned to excel. We would extend the offer made by our Committee on Administration and Budget to participate in a review of the marine facilities needs of the Manoa campus with the administration.

It should be noted that several Senators stated that they felt unable to evaluate the merits of the Proposal because it was so poorly drafted and argued.

M3.101 provides the Senate 45 days to review any reorganization proposals submitted to us during Stage 3 of the process. This proposal moved to Stage 3 after the close of the Spring 2010 semester and SEC requested additional time for review during the Fall 2010 semester to allow committees that do not meet over Summer to deliberate and submit reports for consideration by the full Senate (which also does not meet over Summer). The Senate wishes to express our appreciation for Chancellor Hinshaw’s decision to extend the Stage 3 review process through the summer and to delay bringing this issue to the board until November to allow time for full committee and Senate review of the Proposal. We look forward to resolution of this issue as soon as possible as it has been a trying one for us all.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.
Resolution Relating to the Proposal to Abolish the Pacific Biosciences Research Center (Proposal)

1. WHEREAS the Pacific Biosciences Research Center (PBRC) has served the University of Hawaii since 1962 and has a proud history and national and international reputation; and

2. WHEREAS PBRC helped incubate such important UH entities as the John A. Burns School of Medicine and the Cancer Research Center and is currently home to the Kewalo Marine Lab, Bekesy Laboratory of Neurobiology, and the Greenwood Molecular Biology Facility; and

3. WHEREAS PBRC faculty conduct research and service in areas, such as biodiversity, minority education, and sustainability, of interest to our campus, community and region; and

4. WHEREAS PBRC faculty and staff, along with the Senate, have asserted numerous process violations have occurred at various stages of the Proposal review process, and

5. WHEREAS PBRC has been without a permanent Director since 2000 and the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education has served as Interim Director since late 2004, despite repeated objections to his continuing in the position, from PBRC and the Senate; and

6. WHEREAS the Proposal asserts that Manoa does not have the resources to rebuild PBRC to the level necessary to sustain it as an effective organized research unit; and

7. WHEREAS while the Manoa Administration supports abolishing PBRC because it claims doing so will save money by avoiding duplicate hires and will produce more efficient use of support staff, and the Administration has assured the Senate that the Kewalo Marine Laboratory is not part of the proposal to abolish PBRC; and

8. WHEREAS the Proposal asserts that PBRC faculty will be relocated to basic science departments of their choice, where they can continue to compete for research funds while strengthening those departments’ abilities to fulfill their mission of research and graduate student training; and

9. WHEREAS the Manoa administration has made a commitment that no current faculty will lose access to their research laboratories or the staff supported by their grants and no filled positions will be eliminated;

10. WHEREAS three (3) Senate committees reviewed the proposal to abolish PBRC and provided conflicting recommendations both in support of (2) and opposed to (1) the proposal;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Manoa Faculty Senate does not recommend approval of the proposal to abolish PBRC.

Susan Hippensteel, Chair
Manoa Faculty Senate

Roseanne Harrigan, Secretary
Manoa Faculty Senate
Hi All – The following information on the PBRC Reorganization has been posted on the Organizational Charts website: http://www.manoa.hawaii.edu/oycfo/neworg_charts/index.html

- Comments received on the PBRC reorg
- OVCRGE response to the comments
- Amended PBRC proposal

The SEC and unions will have 45 days to review and respond.
Martin, would appreciate if you could share the above link with the appropriate persons in SEC.
Michelle, please share the above link with the appropriate unions for their review and response.
If additional time is needed, please let Michelle or myself know. Thank you.
Have a wonderful Memorial Day weekend everyone!

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