



Testimony to the Board of Regents

May 23, 2013

Subject: **Considerations in the Selection of a new President**

Dear Chairman Martinson and Members of the Board:

As the Board of Regents embark on another search for a President, I would ask the Regents to once again consider a reorganization of the duties and responsibilities of this office to reflect issues of statewide concern, such as the development of a UH System budget and its presentation to the Governor and the State Legislature, rather than operational control over the individual campuses.

During the last discussion by the Regents in 2007 over reorganization of the UH System, my testimony included the following suggestion.

We [UHPA] have long suggested that UH [the Regents] should consider a model where the President becomes the Chancellor of the UH System and the Chief Executive Officer of Board of Regents. The Chancellor's function, on behalf of the Regents, would be the evaluation and oversight of the campus presidents. The functional decision-making [operational], once the Regents made budget allocations, would reside with the presidents.

Recent experience and time have only reinforced my belief that such a change should occur, which would significantly change the criteria by which the Regents would search and choose a new UH System Chancellor to replace the current President.

On a related note, whether the Regents continue with the same UH System President or make a change in the duties of the office, I would refer you to my testimony on July 23, 2009 with respect to the granting of tenure to the President-designate, once chosen. As I stated, "...the Board of Regents are not obligated to follow this "industry" practice [granting tenure] or accept as a fait accompli that tenure must be attached to the position of President for the University of Hawaii System."

I would suggest that Einstein's most often quoted quote on insanity might apply to continuing to do what we have done repeatedly in the past with respect to the selection of a president.

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. Musto, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Attachments (2)

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY