



Minutes  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i  
Tuesday, March 2, 2021  
Virtual Meeting

**PRESENT:**

Eugene Bal, Kelli Goodin, Ken Hayashida, Chair Donna Ikeda, David Karl, Vice Chair Michael Maberry, Jan Sullivan, Vassilis Syrmos

RCUH Staff: Leonard Gouveia, Nelson Sakamoto, Glenn Yee, Kaylee Hull  
Attorney General's Office: Reese Nakamura

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ikeda at 9:00 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Upon motion made (Maberry), seconded (Sullivan), and duly carried, the minutes of the Dec. 1, 2020 meeting were approved as circulated.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR MONTH ENDED 1/31/2021**

Mr. Yee reviewed the financial statements for the period ending Jan. 31, 2021. The balance sheet reflected a cash increase from last year and RCUH's budget remains on target for FY 2021. Volume of business (the amount of expenditures run through RCUH's system) accelerated in the last quarter while UH extramural awards maintained a positive variance.

Director Sullivan inquired whether there are any awards that sit for a significant amount of time. Mr. Yee explained that if revolving accounts show no activity, RCUH will ask the account owner to close it. These monies go back to the respective college or department; they do not default to RCUH.

Director Bal inquired about the differential in RCUH's volume of business relative to UH's extramural awards. Director Syrmos explained that many extramural expenses are processed by the University and wouldn't be shown in RCUH's volume of business, but will look into it further.

**REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Audit Committee Chair Maberry reported on the committee's meeting just prior to the board meeting. He noted that the committee is pleased that there will be no increase from last year's proposal. The committee recommended approval of N&K's proposed fee for the FY 2021 financial audit. Upon motion made (Maberry), seconded (Goodin), and duly carried, the Board ratified the Audit Committee's acceptance of N&K's audit proposal for FY 2021 ending June 30, 2021.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Gouveia provided an update on legislative bill SB1393. The bill was deferred at the Feb. 16, 2021 hearing, but it was requested that a resolution be presented to the Senate. RCUH submitted a draft resolution to Senator Kim's office on Feb. 25, 2021, which proposed that a joint committee between RCUH and UH review the Internal Agreement. Executive Director Gouveia also noted that Director Syrmos distributed a memorandum on Feb. 8, 2021, which stated that a RCUH Management Fee Work Group was formed and would be led by SOEST Dean Dr. Brian Taylor.

Executive Director Gouveia was told that the committee was charged with evaluating RCUH's management fee to reduce and possibly limit RCUH's fees by the end of the fiscal year, but Director Syrmos clarified that the committee was charged to look at the fee and make recommendations to OVPRI on whether the fee should change or remain the same. Executive Director Gouveia explained that his main concern was the timeline and that it wouldn't be possible to implement changes to the Internal Agreement by the end of FY 2021. Director Syrmos stated that the deadline is not for RCUH, but rather a deadline for the University regarding a recommendation.

Director Karl stated that RCUH and UH are inextricably linked with their joint success and anything the board can do to facilitate collaboration would be to the advantage of the whole. Director Karl suggested that Director Syrmos share the presentation he provided at the UH Board of Regents Research & Innovation Committee meeting and asked for further clarification on why the fee changed from a modified direct cost structure to the current formula. Director Syrmos provided a brief overview on how the management fee changed over time and explained that the existing formula was constructed 20 years ago.

The board granted authorization to Executive Director Gouveia to proceed working with the RCUH Management Fee Work Group.

#### **STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION WITH PETER ADLER**

Dr. Peter Adler kicked off the discussion for the 2022-2026 RCUH Strategic Plan and invited three guest speakers to share their outlook on the next five years: Carl Bonham, UHERO Executive Director; David Lassner, UH President; and Colin Moore, Director of the Public Policy Center.

Dr. Adler briefly explained the overall strategic planning effort and moderated the discussion, which was intended to create a strong backboard of assumptions for RCUH's next five years. He also discussed some initial themes from his one-on-one interviews with board members and RCUH leadership.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

*/s/ Kaylee Hull*

Kaylee Hull  
Executive Administrator

NOTE: Unless otherwise noted in minutes, all motions were passed unanimously.