University of Alaska  
Statewide Academic Council (SAC) Meeting Notes  
March 12, 2015  
9:30am – 12:30pm

Present:  Rick Caulfield (acting VPAAR), Susan Henrichs, Sam Gingerich, Dan White, David Valentine, Tara Smith  
Absent:  Virgil Fredenberg, Karen Schmitt, Helena Wisniewski  
Guest:  Gwen Gruenig

1. **Approval of the summary of the 02.18.15 meeting**  
Meeting notes from February 18, 2015 were approved. There was a quick review of guidelines about who participates in SAC meetings. In line with BOR policy and regulation, it is agreed that provosts are expected to be present at all meetings as are research leads and Faculty Alliance representatives. However, given variations in schedules especially for faculty representatives from semester to semester, faculty representatives asked about sending an identified alternate who would attend in the absence of the faculty representative or research lead. SAC members agreed that continuity of representation is highly desirable. No recommendation was formalized on this topic; it is unresolved.

It is agreed that research-related topics requiring SAC discussion should be placed near the top of the agenda to enable research leads to depart when such topics are addressed.

2. **Policy and regulation revisions**
   a. Policy & Regulation 09.02 – Student Rights and Responsibilities  
      • SAC approved and will forward to President and BOR for action.  
      • NOTE: In subsequent discussions with General Counsel’s office, SAC was encouraged to hold off on this because GC will revise the draft in light of very recent Title IX guidance received from the federal government.
   
   b. Regulation 10.07 – Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity  
      • SAC approved and will forward to President for action following legal review.
   
   c. P04.04.070. Emeritus Status  
      • SAC approved and will forward to the BOR for action following legal review.

3. **New program proposals or deletions**
   Two degree proposals will be brought forward at the April BOR meeting:  
   1. Master of Security and Disaster Management at UAF  
   2. Conversion of Bachelor of Science in Engineering at UAA
UAS anticipates proposing elimination of several degrees and certificates at the June meeting: 1) Masters of Business Administration, Certificate in Residential Building Science, Associate of Applied Science in Power Technology/Automotive Option.

4. **Data on UA Graduate Employment in Alaska** – Gwen Gruenig
   Gwen and her staff are working on a summary of academic program performance that will be presented at the April BOR meeting. Working on program performance matrix and refining data. Further work will incorporate data gathered by McDowell Group in its survey of graduates.

   There was discussion about the possibility of ISER expanding its recent report on UAA graduates status in the workforce to include UAF and UAS graduates. UAF indicated that it is in conversation about this just now with ISER; UAS will be following up as well.

5. **Status of April BOR report on SAF Theme 3 – Productive Partnerships with Public Entities and Private Industries**
   Susan Henrichs agreed to compile this report for the April BOR meeting, drawing upon Statewide IR data and information provided by each university. She shared an outline that provosts are using. The deadline for this is early in the week of March 16.

   On a related matter, acting VPAAR Caulfield consulted with Regent Powers about the April ASA meeting agenda. Regent Powers indicated that a report on Developmental Education was not expected on the April agenda.

6. **Feedback on SB241 presentation to the Alaska Legislature**
   Rick Caulfield provided a brief overview of the presentations made about teacher education to the House and Senate Education committees. He indicated that provosts and Education deans would be meeting by audio on Thursday, March 12 along with AVP Steve Atwater to discuss outcomes and next steps from the legislative presentations. Atwater is consulting with chairs of these Education committees about their expectations for future SB241 reports.

7. **Invitation from Lt. Gov. Mallott for expanded UA engagement**
   Rick Caulfield provided an overview of a recent meeting with Governor Walker and Lt Governor Mallott about how the UA system can be even more actively engaged in helping the state address its fiscal challenges. The President and several chancellors and provosts were present along with other members of UA leadership. The Governor and Lt Governor view the university system as a vital repository of intellectual capital, and they encouraged UA to bring ideas forward for expanding that role. Ideas discussed included the UA First concept (state agencies first seeking contracts with UA before going elsewhere), enhancing UA’s role in analyzing fiscal challenges (perhaps especially ISER), UA’s ability to provide facilitation/workshops/summits on key statewide topics, the role of the SCOR in guiding research priorities in the state, and the value of having UA graduate students and/or faculty serving as ‘fellows’ involved in policy analysis.
8. **Dual enrollment policy and regulation**

Policy and regulation proposals for dual enrollment first discussed by SAC in December had been developed initially by the BOR/State Board of Education Joint Committee and advanced for consideration of the full Boards in June. Based at least in part on SAC discussions two additional policies were approved and advanced in February. AVP Steve Atwater reports that the joint boards continue to work under the assumption that a final joint version of dual enrollment policy is expected to be approved in June. Given that SAC normally approves academic policy recommendations before they go to the Board, we need to finalize our recommendation no later than the April SAC meeting. Presumably, SAC can either approve the drafts as is or see if the joint committee would support revisions. This topic will be on the SAC agenda for action in April.

Faculty Alliance representatives expressed a concern that this proposed policy needs further discussion, suggesting that perhaps a statewide UA roundtable on the topic may be useful.

9. **College and Career Ready Definition – Next Steps**

AVP Steve Atwater indicated that the latest draft has broad K-12 support including work of consultants. Discussions with UA faculty have focused on suggested improvements that address those areas of the college and career ready definition that clearly fall within the purview of the university. Atwater reportedly discussed with this matter with the President, who is said to favor a succinct statement of what it means to be post-secondary/college-ready. As a step toward addressing this, Faculty Alliance proposed to the President that they engage with Dayna DeFeo at ISER who has done research on various models for such definitions. Alliance representatives will follow through on this and they expect to bring a revised draft back to SAC in April.

10. **Implementation of Lumens non-credit tracking software**

The UA system has agreed to purchase Lumens software for non-credit tracking and reporting. A question was raised about next steps in implementation—to what extent is this a statewide implementation process vs implementation at the level of the three universities? Acting VPAAR Caulfield agreed to consult with Karl Kowalski and provosts about next steps.

11. **SAC meeting time and date for April**

At this time, SAC plans to meet in Bethel from 9:30-noon, Wednesday, April 8. Several members will be calling in.

12. **Faculty Alliance update**

David Valentine reported that Alliance had a very successful dinner meeting with five regents. They were able to share updates about a number of current topics, including common calendar implementation and GER alignment. Alliance is focusing on efforts to be able to respond more expeditiously to BOR and Summit Team ideas and proposals as part of the shared governance process. It expects to bring forward a number of requests to the Summit Team and BOR in the near future, including asking the BOR to accept testimony telephonically at its meetings, working more closely with OIT in analyzing
options for UA-aligned learning management systems, and having a Faculty Alliance representative on the BOR and Summit Team. Alliance has also drafted a memo recommending significant changes at UA Statewide in light of budget challenges and prior recommendations from the McTaggart/Rogers and Fisher reports.

13. Planned April Board of Regents meeting agenda
   a. Policy revisions
      i. P09.02 – Student Rights and Responsibilities [removed—see note 2.a above]
      ii. P04.04.070. Emeritus Status
   b. New program proposals or deletions
      iii. Master of Security and Disaster Management at UAF
      iv. Conversion of Bachelor of Science in Engineering at UAA
   c. UA Graduate Employment Summary (in Alaska and elsewhere)
   d. SAF Theme 3 Report – Productive Partnerships with Public Entities and Private Industries– Progress and Plans

14. June Board of Regents’ meeting
   a. Policy revisions
   b. New program proposals or deletions
   c. SAF Theme 4 Report – Research and Development and Scholarship to Enhance Alaska’s Communities and Economic Growth (D. White in lead)
   d. Workforce Report-Gwen Gruenig

15. Future Agenda Items – next meeting – April 8 in Anchorage prior to Bethel BOR meeting

16. Roundtable