The following provides a summary of the meeting held in Fairbanks on March 4, 2009.

I. Approval of February Summary

Corrections were offered to the summary from February 20th. A corrected version has subsequently been forwarded to SAC members and will be reviewed for final approval.

II. New Programs/ Degrees

There were no new programs or degrees to approve. However, as a follow up to one issue discussed on February 20th, the procedure for posting degree and certificate information on the UA Academic Affairs Webpage has changed. MAU representatives should forward, through the Office of the Provost, all material they wish posted to Greg Petitto in Academic Affairs with an explanation to Greg and a cc to SAC, and the material will be posted accordingly. Please transmit any information on approved new programs to Jeannie Phillips.

III. Budget Planning Process

SAC is waiting to review the Budget and Planning Guideline Document which is expected to be issued in draft from the SW offices in the coming week.

Clarifications regarding the group comprised of Humanities, Social Science and Arts faculty were reviewed. The Provosts will recommend to VP Julius up to three individuals from each MAU to participate in discussions involving representatives for the Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts.

IV. Accreditation Guidelines

SAC revisited system wide accreditation guidelines that were drafted by VP Julius. A number of additions and deletions were made to the document. Under separate cover the next draft of the guidelines will be distributed to SAC members.

V. Distance Education

A status of the distance education subcommittee working to implement principles agreed upon last May 28, 2008, was provided by John Monahan. Dr. Monahan provided a summary of committee actions to date (regarding the implementation of the May 28th principles) which inform committee actions. He discussed the barriers and opportunities inherent in these conversations and it was agreed he would provide SAC with an updated chart depicting a comprehensive status report of actions being recommended,
and a column on that chart showing ongoing activities that must be changed or augmented if the May 28th principles are to be implemented. The possibility of additional ad hoc groups was discussed. It was mentioned that John will be providing a comprehensive update to the Regents at the next meeting in April and therefore he will be on the April 7th agenda of the next SAC meeting.

VI. Faculty Alliance Report

Jill Dumesnil provided a report from the Faculty Alliance. She stated that discussions concerning the Academic Master Plan were going well from the perspective of the Alliance.

Also discussed was the Alliance involvement with Community and Branch Campus Directors on the topic of course management systems at UA and the extent to which SAC should respond to a recommendation from the Community and Branch Campus Directors on these matters. Through discussion it became clear there was some confusion over the specific issues or questions that SAC is to address. It was agreed that the Faculty Alliance, through Jill Dumesnil, will ask the CBCD for a formal recommendation on the course management issue(s) to which SAC can respond. It was also suggested that the CBCD be asked to frame the question(s) they want to SAC to address in writing as specifically as possible, provide all relevant background information, and advise SAC whether, in regard to the questions or issues to which a response is sought, there is consensus among their group on the issues being recommended to SAC for discussion. Lastly, it was agreed that clarity was needed on the matter of whether the CBCD seeks a response from SAC that addresses course management on one or more of the community and branch campuses.

VII. Academic Master Plan; SAC members were joined by all members of the AMP Committee.

The latest version of the plan being discussed/reviewed was distributed by Provost Henrichs and addressed in detail. All committee members were actively engaged. The committee noted that scheduled audio discussions were also very helpful. Upcoming audio sessions are as follows;

3/17/09, 12:00 noon to 1:30 PM
4/1/09, 9:00 to 10:30 AM

SAC discussed whether time lines set forth in the charge may have to be amended or modified in order to expand the document to meet Regent expectations and provide time for adequate consultation with faculty and administrators at MAU’s. The next iteration of the draft plan will be distributed by Provost Henrichs. In keeping with the
agreement of the committee, the drafts are still confidential and will be distributed to a variety of constituencies when ready.

Also discussed were plans to participate in the next President’s Cabinet which will include the AMP committee. A series of questions that will assist in the framing of the discussion at the Cabinet meeting, arrived at through consensus with the AMP committee, were agreed upon. Under separate cover the questions have been forwarded to the President. It was agreed that AMP members would brief their respective Chancellor’s on the substance of the questions that will inform the conversation at the March 16th Cabinet meeting.

Agenda for SAC meeting scheduled for April 7, 2009 (Scheduled in Anchorage, Room TBA)

1. Approval of March 4th Summary
2. New Programs
3. Distance Education Report with John Monahan
4. Faculty Alliance Report
5. Discussion of Accreditation Guidelines
6. Preparation for BOR meeting

Agenda for the AMP Committee April 7th (1 pm to 4 pm);

Continuation of discussions on subsequent drafts of the Plan.