Summary; SW Planning Committee for the Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities  
March 26, 2010  
Administration Rm. 201, UAA Campus

Present; D. Julius, J. Petraitis, P. Linton, K. Krein  
Audio; S. Henrichs, J. Liszka, C. Swartz  
Absent; J. Everett  
Guests; Genie Babb, Associate Professor, English/President, Faculty Alliance, UAA  
Jill Dumesnil, Associate Professor of Mathematics, UAS  
Suzanne Forster, Associate Professor and Chair, English, UAA  
Falk Huettman, Associate Professor of Biology, UAF

I. Agenda  
The summary of February 24, 2010 was approved (attached).

II. Meeting Dates  
The meeting schedule was reviewed.

III. The Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities Website  
The format was reviewed and approved. Viewers can go to the SW Academic Affairs  
webpage for information (www.alaska.edu/research/sac/ssah).

IV. Role of the SSAH Planning Group  
VPAA Julius discussed the status of the planning group process and said planning group  
recommendations would no longer be coupled with budget recommendations. The  
group decided it wished to go forward with its meeting agenda and while financial  
support for the SSAH was deemed important, it was felt that highlighting and bringing  
attention to the role of SSAH may help as budget priorities are reviewed at respective  
MAUs.

V. Essential Learning Outcomes  
The Committee turned its attention to revisiting the possibility of agreement on  
“essential learning outcomes” at UA in the disciplines represented by this committee.
Dean James Liszka spoke in favor of the LEAP initiatives and their relevance. The link between the SSAH with workforce development (employment opportunities and productivity) was made, as was the need to be accountable to the legislature for “quantifiable” objectives of education. (See email from J. Liszka, “Preparing Students for Success in the Professions,” attached.) The group felt that identification of the competencies associated with an undergraduate education would be advantageous.

Three challenges in regard to committee agreement on learning outcomes were reviewed:

1. Agreement must emanate from faculty rather than be perceived as imposed from the administration.
2. The difficulty of assessing learning outcomes. In other words, how would, for example, “ethical reasoning” be measured. The extent to which faculty would be held accountable for learning outcomes remains an issue;
3. The relationship between current GER definitions and proposed systemwide definitions needs to be clarified. Current BOR policy supports general education requirements (see R.10.04.040, General Education Requirements) and, further, such requirements are designed to ensure that a broad cultural background for students is provided. That being said, categories for the Common Core of General Education Requirements are listed, not outcomes. Also, there presently is not an exact match between GER requirements at MAUs.

It was decided the committee would endeavor to design a common template illustrating GER requirements and LEAP outcomes. It was agreed to assemble a larger group over the summer or next fall, to discuss the desirability of agreement on common essential learning outcomes and if such could be agreed upon across the UA. The Committee also though it desirable to review how BOR recommended common core requirements were being implemented in the system.

A format for discussion of GER and LEAP outcomes across the UA will be developed for discussion on April 29, 2010 by Professors Linton, Babb and Forster. The SSAH committee will also discuss the process by which these matters will be reviewed at respective MAUs.

VI. SSAH Agenda, April 28, 2010, Anchorage, 2:00pm to 4:30pm, Administration 201, UAA
1. Approval of March summary
2. Continuation of Discussion of Essential Learning Outcomes, GERs, process for discussion at MAUs and related questions
VII. **Attachments to the SSHA Summary for March 26, 2010**

1. Meeting Summary of February 24, 2010
2. Preparing Students for Success in the Professions (with Liszka email)
3. BOR General Education Regulations
4. UAS Core Requirements
5. UAA Institutional Learning Outcomes