

UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA

Faculty Alliance

With proposed amendments JR 10/11/11

Friday, September 16, 2011, 3:00-4:30pm

Via audio conference: 1-800-893-8850, bridge 2151251

Fairbanks site: 208A1 Butrovich

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to order and Roll Call

Dan Monteith, President, 2011-2012 Chair; President, UAS Faculty Senate
Nalinaksha Bhattacharyya, President, UAA Faculty Senate
Robert Boeckmann, 1st Vice President, UAA Faculty Senate
Cathy Cahill, President, UAF Faculty Senate
Jon Dehn, 2009-2010 Alliance Chair; Past President, UAF Faculty Senate
John Petraitis, 2010-2011 Alliance Chair; Past President, UAA Faculty Senate
Jennifer Reynolds, President-elect, UAF Faculty Senate
Mike Stekoll, President-elect, UAS Faculty Senate
Sherry Tamone, Past President, UAS Faculty Senate

Pat Ivey, Executive Officer
Carla Beam, Vice President for University Relations and President, UA Foundation
Paula Donson, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs; Strategic Direction Lead

2. Adopt Agenda

MOTION: passed

“The Faculty Senate moves to adopt the agenda for the September 16, 2011 meeting as amended. This action is effective September 16, 2011.”

3. Approve Minutes

TABLED to next meeting.

4. Report of the Chair

Dan Monteith discussed the Board of Regents meeting September 22-23 in Juneau and asked for input regarding his presentation to the Board at that time.

5. Public or Guest Comments

Carla Beam introduced herself and explained she would be attending as many Alliance meetings as she could to observe and listen. She is still working her way through the governance process, having had no previous experience with such a system. She explained that UAF received some huge donations from mining companies and from BP. There are not enough development officers to tap all the potential. Development is undergoing an external review. Hope is that the review will give support to the need for additional development officers. The head of Pogo mines speaking to the \$1 million donation said UAF puts out outstanding mining students. Industry values what we are doing; the problem is having enough staff to go after the potential. BP donated a gas facility to the pipeline training center in Kenai through Joe Paskvan. Having facilities that will house the state of the art equipment companies want to donate is a problem. The Anchorage community is excited about the sports arena and development efforts are occurring at campus building openings and other campus/community events, including the 40th anniversary of the WAMI program and the opening of the new UAA health sciences facility.

6. Old Business

6.1 Strategic Direction Update: *Paula Donson*

Paula Donson announced that the Faculty Alliance would serve as the steering committee for the Strategic Direction effort, to develop questions for the focus groups and to identify themes from the data collected from the internal and external meetings.

Everything at this point is tenuous depending on the input from the Board of Regents. Alliance members advised that they are not compensated for being members of the Alliance. Donson envisioned that steering committee activities would be conducted as part of the regular Alliance meetings. Donson advised she would do all the staff work, collecting and sorting data, generating reports and providing it to the Alliance to vet, discuss and provide additional direction to Donson. The Alliance would provide the strategic oversight.

There will be approximately ten meetings in each of the four areas of the state. The alumni will be part of the focus groups. Administrators in each of the four areas will distribute notice of the meetings in their areas. Carla Beam will provide contact information on leaders in smaller communities that don't have a campus who would then provide additional information on who in the smaller communities should be involved in the meeting. Donson will be collecting the data from the focus group meetings and reporting that data to the Alliance for further analysis and input.

Donson is preparing slides and requested permission to present the slides to the Alliance at the next meeting on October 12 and provide a detailed overview of the process and what might occur at the focus group meetings.

Alliance comments:

- Have a faculty member at each of the community forums who would then report to the Alliance? Develop the role for the faculty member so the appropriate faculty member could be selected. The role of that faculty member would be to observe and report impressions to the Alliance. Explore the faculty role more at the October 12 Faculty Alliance working session with Paula Donson.
- Given that the legislature is the greatest funding source, should UA have a forum with the legislators or at least make sure legislators are included in the community forums?

Beam responded that once the budget is approved, Michelle Rizk, Chris Christensen, Kate Ripley and Carla Beam will develop legislative strategy. The legislature only meets for 90 days and the legislative strategy at the same time has to be tight but yet fluid. Beam's view is that the best advocates during the session are the legislator's constituents, so during the community forums, the resulting data can be shared with those community leaders and through them to their legislators.

6.2 E-Lab Task Force Update

John Petraitis sent the task force role. Dan Julius asked for a list of questions to ask his colleagues at other institutions and to share with other executives and with SAC. He actually sent it out moments ago. It will be hard to bring the E-Lab Task Force until January. SAC will discuss the E-lab task force at the next meeting. Academic Affairs office has been in contact with the System Governance office to transfer funds for the project. John Wiley and Sons has a lot of publications offers webinars and has one September 27 on how to offer lab courses online. Task force people should attend this.

6.3 Dependent Audit

September 1, 2011 email from Beth Behner relating to dependent audit results noting that the audit would save approximately \$475,000. What is the actual dollar figure? Apparently JHCC is still working on this. Comments should be directed to JHCC. See <http://www.alaska.edu/benefits/joint-health-care-committ/>. The next HRC meeting is the 3rd week of September, but this needs to be confirmed as the last couple of meetings were cancelled.

Apparently, the word is out that the UA has gone from the best employer in terms of benefits to the worst. At one of the HRC meetings, it was explained that one of the UA purposes for the plan changes is to prevent UA from becoming the "health care plan of choice" by making it less attractive for UA employees to enroll spouses and dependents who have other coverage options, for example through the spouse's employer.

The original report that contains the exact data that resulted in the assumption that healthcare costs increased ten percent has not been forthcoming from Statewide HR. This report was presented by the consultant to the BOR in December 2010, but the only documentation available from that report is a Power Point presentation. The average rate of healthcare cost increases over the past decade has been five to six percent..

6.4. Other Old Business

There was no other old business.

7. New Business

7.1 Policy and Regulation Review

Policies and regulations have been assigned to various executives to review and edit. Alliance members will watch the process closely to make sure substantive changes are reviewed by governance prior to implementation. The tight timeline for completion of this project makes governance very nervous. The Alliance will ask the president to receive the draft revisions early to provide input. The Alliance chair will make this request to the president at the Board of Regents next week. Meanwhile, the chair will send a formal letter to the president requesting this. This is also a good SAC topic.

7.2 Questions For Use in Strategic Planning Focus Group Discussions

Questions will be developed at the October 12 retreat. It was also suggested that the senates provide input on the questions prior to October 12 at the discretion of the senate leadership.

7.3 Retirement Update re TRS

SB 121 affects TRS. The UA state relations is unsure whether or not UA will take a position. Hearings are being conducted and the next hearing is in October.

The ORP trial is stills scheduled for January.

7.4 Electronic Student Evaluations

The premise is that overall, online student evaluation completions have been too low to be useful.

At UAS, a task force has been formed to re-examine the current online student evaluation process.

At UAA, student evaluations have been on line for four years. Faculty have been pressured to increase response rates, so some faculty are giving their students incentives to complete the evaluations, and the danger is that this can skew the data. When faculty set aside part of class time to complete the evaluation, the response rates were high. Distance classes where the instructor has the students complete the evaluations online, response rates were also high.

At UAF, the Senate position is that new electronic student evaluations must have Senate approval, and that more research is needed first.

7.5 Other New Business

There was no other new business.

8. Alliance Goals for 2011-2012

Draft list from 8/27

- * Strategic Direction
- * Policy and Regulation Review
- * Faculty Retention
- * Exit Interviews
- * E-Labs
- * Pre-majors
- * Academic Advising

8. External Administration Committee/Council Reports and Liaison/Alternate Appointments

8.1 Statewide Academic Council

Alliance Members: Dan Monteith, John Petraitis, Cathy Cahill

Nothing further to report. SAC meets next in Juneau September 21.

8.2 Human Resources Council

Liaison: Jennifer Reynolds

No report was given. The HRC meets next week.

8.3 Business Council

Liaison: Nalinaksha Bhattachayra

There is some indication that the Business Council will be eliminated. The move of the decision making has moved to SALT, the Senior Administrative Leadership Team of statewide executives and administrative vice chancellors, has rendered the Business Council obsolete and eliminated faculty, staff and student governance participation.

Action: The chair will write a formal letter to the president regarding the role of faculty in advisory councils.

8.4 Student Services Council

Liaison: Robert Boeckmann

There has been no meeting that Robert Boeckmann is aware of. No meeting is scheduled in September.

8.5 Instructional Technology Executive Council/ITEC
Liaison: Jon Dehn; Alternate: Sherry Tamone

No report was given.

8.6 Retirement Committee
Liaison: Mike Stekoll

No meetings were held.

8.7 Tuition Task Force
Liaison: Sherry Tamone, Alternate: Jon Dehn

No report was given.

8.8 Other Committees/Councils

There were no other committees or council reports.

10. Other Items of Concern

Pat Ivey distributed to governance and to administration a master calendar of system governance meetings which contains deadlines for submitting agenda items.

11 Agenda Items for Next Meeting October 11, 2011, beginning 6:30pm, Fairbanks

The Alliance will meet in the evening October 11 and will have its retreat on October 12 in Fairbanks. Members should send preferred itineraries to kkfackler@alaska.edu.

12. Comments

There were no additional comments.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.