UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA

Faculty Alliance

Friday, September 21, 2007, 10:30am - Noon
Fairbanks site: Butrovich Building, Carter Conference Room 204
And by audioconference

Draft Minutes

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

   Members present:

   Bogdan Hoanca, President, UAA Faculty Senate
   Anne Bridges, 1st Vice President, UAA Faculty Senate
   Jon Genetti, President, UAF Faculty Senate
   Marsha Sousa, President-Elect, UAF Faculty Senate
   Shirish Patil, Past Alliance Chair and Past President, UAF Faculty Senate
   Cathy Connor, President, UAS Faculty Senate
   Jill Dumesnil, President-elect, UAS Faculty Senate

   Executive Officer: Pat Ivey

   Others present:

   Dan Julius, Vice President for Academic Affairs.
   Doug Causey, Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies, UAA

2. **Adopt Agenda**

   MOTION: passed

   "The Faculty Alliance moves to adopt the agenda for the September 21, 2007 meeting as amended to include the RAC memo relating to approval of grant proposals. This action is effective September 21, 2007."

3. **Approve August 25, 2007 minutes**

   Postponed until next meeting.

4. **Report from the Chair** – *Bogdan Hoanca*

Board of Regents meeting – The two main issues at the Board of Regents meeting were the operating and capital budgets, and the five percent tuition increase. The budget discussions went fairly well. There was general agreement that the university wasn't getting enough, that in the last 20 years the university has only received enough funds to meet fixed costs only three times. They talked about splitting BIOS funding into two segments. They will continue discussions on that. They talked about how successful the university had been in meeting high demand jobs and the high costs of doing that. The regents changed the April Board of Regents meeting to accommodate the national meeting they will be going to. Regarding the five percent tuition increase, students viewed this as a five percent discount given the history of ten percent increases over the past several years. The student success portion of the 08 operating budget is $2.8 million of which $1.2 million will be used for meeting high demand job areas, and $1.6 million for student success initiatives.

Dan Julius said there has been talk of bringing key university faculty and administrators together to just discuss the student success issue, determine where we are from a system and MAU perspective and then develop a game plan for the next two to three years. This has been discussed with the provosts. He wanted to have a couple of meetings with Shirish. The Alliance has done a wonderful job of bring the issue along thus far and now the participation needs to be expanded to a fairly broad spectrum of individuals because K-12 touches this, curriculum touches this, student financial aid and services touches this. Julius hopes to come back with a date to bring a fairly large group together.

Bogdan Hoanca and Dave Veazey will be working on a date and list of individuals to invite. Dan Julius said he was working on the dates of November 1 and 2. Julius will draft the agenda and pass it around for review. Part of the gathering would entail breaking into separate MAU discussions. He anticipates including about fifty people.

Hoanca thought that the student success task force members from each MAU should be included.

4.1 **RAC Memo Relating to Approval of Grant Proposals** – *Doug Causey*
May 4, 2007 Memo from Craig Dorman
http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/2007-05-04.proposal-procedure.pdf
President's response to Alliance request
http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/2007-05-17.presapprove.pdf
Doug Causey said he wanted to provide the background and context for the memo. Some of the confusion arising from the memo was that it appeared to appear from nowhere and was confusion. The memo was not written well. RAC plans to submit very soon a memo clarifying what is intended. The original proposal came from instances where senior research executives heard about several faculty members whose grant proposals were blocked at the college level for reasons that were very unsatisfactory.

Regarding oversight on proposals and research, there are some things we look at very carefully such as: Is the proposal something that, if funded, can be supported by the university. For example, supercomputer time would have to be pre-approved by the supercomputer center, and lab facility availability and equipment would have to be known beforehand. The reason is that the grant is not awarded to an individual

2

faculty member. Grants are awarded to the university. Oversight is purely structural and has nothing to do with the content.

What research executives heard was that proposals were being block at the college level, for example, because the approver had a grant proposal in to the same funding agency. This was inappropriate and was the genesis of the memo.

The purpose of the memo was to state in clear terms exactly who was responsible for what was submitted from the institution (the research officers) and to clarify that if a proposal was stopped at the college or department level, then the faculty member has the right to appeal to the vice provost for research. The only disapprovals would be structural unavailability; that the university did not have the structure or resources to support the proposal once awarded.

The memo will be rewritten and sent to the Alliance before sending it to President Hamilton. Causey thought the memo could be rewritten within a month.

Shirish Patil said that the Alliance action came from the memo coming out of nowhere without any explanation even to the Alliance representative to RAC. Patil also said that very often faculty are pushed to meet proposal deadlines and that another layer of review would cause deadlines to be missed. How can we have an effective proposal process when they have to submit proposals to yet another layer of review and meet deadlines?

Causey responded that there are a host of compliance issues that have to be dealt with that require internal proposal reviews prior to submission but at UAA at least, there is provision for expediting the process and in at least one case, review has occurred within a couple of hours. One way of speeding up the process is to increase the level through electronic research administration where a faculty submits the proposal electronically and reviews and approvals also occur there.

Colleges and research administrators will often sign off based on the proposal overview and a detailed budget. At the research officer level, the entire proposal is required.

5.   **Vice President for Academic Affairs** – *Dan Julius*

Dan Julius said he was pleased to be with the Alliance. He and Bogdan Hoanca will be developing a common agenda and some measures and outcomes for the year. He said at this point he was still in the listening and learning mode.

6.   **Old Business**

6.1.   **Outreach Activities Measure** – *possible motion in support*
         http://www.alaska.edu/swbudget/pm/futurepm/facultyoutreach/details.xml
         http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/2007-05-14.outreachmetric.pdf

         The UAA Faculty Senate endorsed the entire Outreach and Partnership metric packet, with the addition of "staff" in the wording.

Draft minutes, Faculty Alliance meeting, September 21, 2007

MOTION - passed

"The Faculty Alliance moves to endorse the Outreach and Partnership measure as endorsed by the UAA Faculty Senate. This action is effective September 21, 2007."

6.2   **Change in ORP calculations** – *Jon Genetti*
http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/2007-09-20.draftORPmotion.pdf

Pat Pitney is unable to be at the meeting today. Jon Genetti continues to research committee minutes and other documents and sent the Alliance an updated motion yesterday identifying concerns and offering solutions. Genetti re-read the motion.

Whereas the legislative solution (SB 125) to the TRS pension liability resulted in the "employer contribution rate" being split into an "employer contribution rate" and "state make-up rate",

Whereas several documents produced by the State of Alaska and the University indicate a major portion of this liability resulted from the employer contribution rate being set too low for over a decade,

Whereas TRS I and II employees are receiving significantly more pension funding than ORP I employees hired on the same date,

Therefore, the Faculty Alliance moves that the University and the State of Alaska take actions to provide fair and equitable contribution rates to TRS and ORP I participants.

Originally ORP was not bargainable because of the link to TRS but this is now a gray area, even to the bargaining units. There are two issues here. One is that there needs to be a fair rate set. Currently that is somewhere around 12.54 percent and the legislature does not understand that there is no healthcare benefits in ORP1. The second is that the rate has been too low for over a decade (since 1993 or 4) when they used the same mortality tables as for the previous actuarial period and not the updated ones.)

Cathy Connor asked if link between ORP and TRS should be removed.

Dan Julius cautioned the Alliance about pursuing action on this without determining whether or not this was a collective bargaining issue outside the purview of the Alliance. The proposal makes assumptions about impact that the Alliance needs to make certain about the impact. We now have a rate that is arbitrarily set rather than an actuarial rate and this affects approximately half the faculty at the university.

Beth Behner has already indicated that HR is considering an additional ORP that would include healthcare benefits. If the Alliance feels strongly about the motion,

Draft minutes, Faculty Alliance meeting, September 21, 2007

Hoanca can take it and discuss it further with administration. Jon Genetti will meet with Senator Joe Thomas this afternoon.

ACTION: The Alliance tabled the motion until Genetti meets with Senator Thomas and a ruling comes from Carl Shepro. Meanwhile the draft can be shared with President Hamilton.

6.3. **Faculty Regent**; *response from the faculty senates and from the staff councils*

Bogdan Hoanca has done the research. Four states have faculty regents. It is not ready and will not be discussed today.

6.4. **Intellectual Property Status**
May 1 Shepherd memo and attachments
http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/2007-05.01.IP-issue-for-faculty-senates.pdf
http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/Faculty Alliance ETT Article14.pdf
http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/UA-Article14 Final Revised Color Principles.pdf
Office of Technology Transfer
http://www.uaf.edu/ott/

Hoanca mentioned that the UAA Faculty Senate endorsed the proposal in concept. This topic is being discussed in the negotiations but the discussions do not necessarily include distance ed problems. At UAF there is apathy and questions about why the senate is discussing this.

6.5. **External Review Status**

The external review was discussed at the Board of Regents meeting and members are of two minds about this. One is that we are already doing this in the administrative review; why do it twice, and it would cost a lot of money. The Board external review would be more what the university does in context of state needs.

6.6 **Other Old Business**

7. **New Business**

7.1 **Alliance Constitutional Review**

Rescheduled for next meeting. Hoanca will draft changes. Placed on the Alliance agenda under old business for the October meeting.

7.2 **Student Success Metric Status**

Dan Julius will come back to the Alliance with a plan. It is on the Alliance agenda because it is on the laundry list of proposed metrics for a long time. See http://www.alaska.edu/swbudget/pm//futurepm/details.xml Also,

Draft minutes, Faculty Alliance meeting, September 21, 2007

Goal One on the Board of Regents strategic plan is student success. See
http://www.alaska.edu/bor/2009Plan/2009Plan.xml

The university is funding student success projects without a metric or even a definition of what constitutes student success. Dan Julius will work with Gwen White on the issue.

How would the mandatory intent survey fit into the metric? See
http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/studentsuccess/2007-05-15.mandatoryintentsurveymotion.pdf.

The Alliance passed a motion requesting that the now-voluntary student intent survey in online registration be made mandatory in order to use the survey results to better gauge retention from the viewpoint of the student.

7.3   Other New Business

There was no other new business.

8.   Reports - Administrative Councils

8.1   Systemwide Academic Council – *Bogdan Hoanca*
http://www.alaska.edu/swacad/sac.htm

SAC has not met since formally since the last Alliance meeting. SAC will be setting up a series of meetings with the Alliance.

8.2   Human Resources Council – *Jill Dumesnil*
http://www.alaska.edu/hr/redesign/index.xm
http://www.alaska.edu/hr/forms/hr_council_list_2007.pdf
http://www.alaska.edu/hr/hractivities/hr_project_listing_20070827.pdf
http://www.alaska.edu/hr/hractivities/acas/index.xml

Jill Dumesnil reported that the HRC met and discussed ongoing HR programs and issues and implementing some computerized process. One of the things discussed was the online emergency contact information. There was some discussion about adding a healthcare component for ORP II and III with an opportunity for ORPI to switch to a program with the healthcare component.

8.3   Ed Tech Team –
http://www.alaska.edu/ett/meetings.xml

Steve Hamilton needs to be added to the Faculty Alliance listserve.

8.4   Instructional Technology Council – *Marsha Sousa*
http://www.alaska.edu/acas/itc/index.html

ITT spent most of its time discussing alternate plans so that cut cables etc., will not impact UA operations. They also discussed their security policy. The

Draft minutes, Faculty Alliance meeting, September 21, 2007

external reviewer said we should be protecting UA ids as well as social security numbers.

8.5   Research Advisory Council – *Shirish Patil*

Shirish Patil has not been contacted regarding RAC meetings.

8.6   Business Council – *Cathy Connor*

The Business Council has not met since last Alliance meeting

8.7   Student Services Council – *Genie Babb*
http://www.alaska.edu/acas/ssc/index.html

Genie Babb was not present so no report was given.

9.   **Senate Reports UAA UAF and UAS**

UAA Faculty Senate had several motions, one on intellectual property, one on the metric, and formed two committees and are revising the bylaws.

UAF Faculty Senate had a short meeting and is dealing with impacts of the increased baccalaureate standards and the tenure and promotion trends, and the post tenure review.

The UAS Faculty Senate was swamped with new programs, endorsements and certificates; formed a number of committees and is developing a process for faculty evaluating managers.

10.   **Agenda items October 18, 2007 Alliance evening meeting, Anchorage**

Agenda items may include but may not be limited to those items identified elsewhere in today's discussions.

11.   **Proposed Discussion Topics – President's Retreat October 19, Anchorage**

Student Success would be one of the key topics. Additional items may be added by President Hamilton and/or participants.

12.   **Other Items of Interest**

There were no other agenda items.

13.   **Comments**

There were no additional comments.

14.   **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm.

Draft minutes, Faculty Alliance meeting, September 21, 2007