

U N I V E R S I T Y *of* A L A S K A

Faculty Alliance

Minutes

February 8, 2013

3:00 p.m. via audio conference

Telephone bridge: 1-800-893-8850 Pin 2151251

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

Members present:

Nalinaksha Bhattacharyya, Past President, UAA Faculty Senate

Robert Boeckmann, President, UAA Faculty Senate

Cathy Cahill, 2012-2013 Alliance Chair, Past President, UAF Faculty Senate

Mark Fitch, 1st Vice President, UAA Faculty Senate

Virgil Fredenberg, President-elect, UAS Faculty Senate

Dan Monteith, 2011-2012 Alliance Chair; Past President, UAS Faculty Senate

Jennifer Reynolds, President, UAF Faculty Senate

Mike Stekoll, President, UAS Faculty Senate

David Valentine, President-elect, UAF Faculty Senate

Staff present:

LaNora Tolman, Executive Officer, System Governance

Guests present:

Dana Thomas, Vice President of Academic Affairs

2. **Adopt Agenda**

Adopted

3. **Approve Minutes from last meetings**

Attachment 1

The minutes from January 18, 2013 and December 14, 2012 were approved with recommended changes:

Changes in 12/14/12 minutes:

Under the report of the chair, what is the BoR engaged and interested in?

The board is interested in everything.

Regarding the UAA collaboration, participate in what? Eboards are encouraged to host a dialogue between the unions regarding upcoming negotiations.

Changes in 1/18/12 minutes:

Bhatta was present, not absent.

December 14, 2012 and January 18, 2013 minutes were approved with above recommendations.

4. **Report of the Chair**

The normal monthly meeting between Cathy and President Gamble was cancelled due to the president's schedule in Juneau. Cathy, Dan, and Robert were invited to speak to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee re: textbooks and cost. Saichi Oba prepared a report and it is included as an attachment to this meeting's agenda.

Robert discussed the possibility of shadowing Cathy to various meetings in preparation for the take over as Chair of Faculty Alliance next year.

5. **Public or Guest Comments**

Dana Thomas encouraged faculty to prepare for the SDI meeting in Anchorage on February 20 and to pay attention to the effect statements and offer alternatives and refinements. Feedback is not needed for every topic area. Pick your favorites and focus on them. He also gave the reminder to stay on top of the metrics as well. He thanked Robert, Dan, and Cathy for serving on the textbook panel.

Topics at the Board of Regent's retreat: The board wants to spend more time talking to the deans. The deans influence the direction of institutions. They would like deans to attend the BoR meetings when on campus. Dana mentioned at the retreat two areas of program review: scope and rigor. Academics are reviewed every five years, but not non-academic programs even though they are in the policy. Dana said he would be happy to revise the policy. The chancellors spoke up and said they need to implement the non-academic program review – policy at the MAUs will expand to meet board policy. The BoR brought up the desire to have struggling programs listed for deletion to come to them, and if the programs are central to Alaska, considering not allowing the deletions. In addition, the BoR would like a common student satisfaction survey. AGB says boards see a survey regularly. Provosts have concerns regarding the survey selected.

Dana stated he is trying to make reporting consistent and clear, and less of a surprise.

6. **External Administration Committee/Council Reports and Appointments**

6.1 **Statewide Academic Council**

Alliance Members: *Dan, Cathy, Robert*

SAC is working on SDI Metrics.

Dana Thomas stated the American Council on Education (ACE) just recommended that 1800 institutions accept for credit five MOOC courses. Dana wrote to SAC and asked if the Faculty Senates should be asked to review the five courses and consider the courses for acceptance of credit. If they are accepted by other institutions, they will probably be submitted to us as transfer credits. He also brought up dual enrollment for high school students, especially when high school teachers are delivering the dual enrollment courses. This is a partnership with K-12 conversation. A policy needs to be established on how to work with K-12 on the dual enrollment.

Cathy said the Policy and Regulation review is ongoing. Board is interested in program deletions and being clear about deleted programs and where the resources go - what is going on, where why and how. The metrics and textbook costs are continuing as well as preparing and responding to BoR requests.

6.2 **Human Resources Council**

Liaison: *Jennifer*, Alternate: *Virgil*

No meetings have taken place. Jennifer will contact Michelle Rizk to see whether the HRC will be resurrected or not. Jennifer will send Virgil an Email with the information.

6.3 **Student Services Council**

Liaison: *Robert*, Alternate: *Mike*

Robert and Mike were unable to attend the last meeting, but Robert shared the agenda topics:

- BoR Policy and Regulation review
- Issue with the tuition waiver for senior citizens – additional language is being added to the policy
- Student achievement and attainment metrics - Robert will share the excel spreadsheet with the Alliance for further discussion at a later date

6.4 **Informational Technology Executive Council/ITEC**

<http://www.alaska.edu/pmo/governance/itec/>

Liaison: *Mark*, *Dave*, and *Susan Feero (UAS)*

There has been no meeting since November. There will be a meeting the end of this month. According to Dana Thomas, Ashok Roy leads ITEC.

6.5 **Retirement Committee**

Liaison: *Mike*, Alternate: *Bhatta*

No meetings held

6.6 Tuition Task Force

Liaison: *Virgil*, Alternate: *Robert*

No report. Committee has not met yet.

6.7 Alternate at Large: *Mark*

6.8 Other Committees/Councils

7. MAU reports

7.1 UAA

- They are going through a set of faculty evaluation guidelines drafted by a faculty and administrative committee, presented to the Faculty Senate, and presented to the unions in June of 2012. One of the unions agreed upon the guidelines and the Faculty Senate is working on the training and development of the guidelines for the evaluators.
- They are looking at how Faculty Senate should have a role in the research and creative activity issues.
- Discussions occurring about the use of ePortfolios on a trial basis and how to resource it.
- They are encouraging the executive board and unions to talk about common ground before facing negotiations next year.
- A motion for an across-system GER committee was presented. The motion passed was passed last Friday.
- Developing an approach to increase the response rates with the online student evaluations. Considering face-to-face, the timing of the administration online, and the use of incentives.

7.2 UAF

Faculty Senate passed a motion on a subcommittee for common learning outcomes discussions. A number of initiatives are on their way:

- Alternatives to Blackboard pilots are running through the Elearning department this semester.
- An effort is underway in drawing up a list of problems faculty face when doing interdisciplinary teaching and research, and student advising.
- Discussion is in progress about a central access to course syllabi or expanded course descriptions. A survey has been sent out to all faculty to get direct input from them.
- Working on a major update of the blue book – the policy document for the faculty hiring, promotion, tenure and evaluation. The last update was 2006.

- The chancellor has brought up the need for reviewing research programs and service programs and all the student services and administration. The Faculty Senate's Research Advisory Committee will take a lead role with the chancellor to come up with a process for the research program review.

Dana will send the Association of Governing Boards handout called "Prioritizing Academic Programs." It is broader than academic programs and talks about student service areas and research.

7.3 UAS

- Head of Administrative Services, Jim Danielson, is leaving and the current head of IT is taking over his job.
- Passed AAUCGR resolution.
- Looked at ELab revisions and are bit confused.
- Is conducting a Faculty Handbook Revision and making some progress.
- Professional development discussion taking place.
- Approved online student rating format and reporting.
- Created an adhoc committee to put faculty evaluations online.

Discussion took place regarding faculty joint appointment evaluations at each MAU. Mike, Jennifer and Cathy will receive information from Robert.

8. Faculty Regent

Faculty Alliance believes a faculty regent is a good idea and Mark looked into the next step is to get the legislature to rewrite legislation. Talk to regents first – how should it be presented? Dana said the key issue is having a union member on the board and the potential underlying conflict. No other employee sits on the BoR. A current draft has been written up to look like the student regent position with a one-year appointment. Cathy said she could raise the issue in her Governance Report and ask if it could be added as a topic to the board's agenda. Robert suggested discussion with a regent prior before going to the board. Cathy said she would make it work.

9. Textbook Memo

Attachment 2

The statewide report will be presented to the Student Affairs Committee. Cathy asked if there is anything to be highlighted at the meeting. Discussion about the various options of textbook purchases including eBooks purchasing and renting. Cathy asked the committee to research and state, pro or con, any experience they have had with the textbook purchasing system.

10. General Education Learning Outcomes Committee

Motions were passed at both UAA and UAF. Robert says, for the next step, three faculty from each MAU are needed to sit on the Alliance subcommittees for GER. Choose faculty who

have been involved with GER - workshop attendees are a good to start. The sooner the faculty are chosen the better. Robert has been getting Blackboard setup for the committees. Robert needs the I.D. numbers from the appointed names to enroll on Blackboard. Length of service on this committee will go past spring – probably through December 2013. Robert will be a convener between the subcommittee and Alliance. He will post information from the workshop on Blackboard.

11. **SDI – next steps and community health reinsertion**

The SDI meeting occurs on February 20, and 60 or 70 people are coming to discuss themes and who should be doing what at the MAUs. If there are certain topics to be added, send it to Cathy. Dana said the theme statements will be aligned with what is in the budget. Robert will send LaNora the document that was sent out from Paula Donson regarding the SDI process. LaNora will send it out to the Alliance members.

12. **E-labs Taskforce Recommendations**

A re-write will be sent out to everyone.

13. **Human Resources changes**

Michelle Rizk is now interim and Don Smith went back to Anchorage in Labor Relations.

14. **JHCC Health care recommendations**

Discussion took place regarding health care and the JHCC.

18. **Other Items of Concern**

None

19. **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.