UNIVERSITY of ALASKA

Faculty Alliance

Friday, February 13, 2009 via audio conference
2:00 – 3:30pm, Bridge # 1-800-893-8850, pin 2151251
Fairbanks site: Butrovich Building Room 212A

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present:
Jill Dumesnil, Chair of the Alliance, President, UAS Faculty Senate
Jonathan Dehn, President-Elect, UAF Faculty Senate
Marsha Sousa, President, UAF Faculty Senate
Jon Genetti, Past President, UAF Faculty Senate
Jonathan Anderson, President-Elect, UAS Faculty Senate
Anne Bridges, President, UAA Faculty Senate
Patt Sandberg, Chair, UAA Faculty Senate Graduate Affairs Board

Pat Ivey, Executive Officer

Others Present:

Pete Kelly, Director, State Affairs
John Monahan, Distance Education
Dan Julius, Vice President, Academic Affairs
Wendy Redman, Vice President, University Relations

8. Legislative Update

Pete Kelly, Director, State Relations

The House Finance Committee is generating and operating budget and passing it to the Senate eventually. The HFC chair has grouped all the agencies by similar missions. The subcommittee meetings have been at a higher policy level than before. The university has had an opportunity to present to the subcommittee several times re workforce development, health and education pieces. One of the statutory presentations is on teacher prep and presented February 19 by Regent Jacobson. We have been well received by the legislature in conversations. Next week, the regents, foundation and students will be in Juneau. Discussions don't lead to money because the state has only about $10 billion to work with and a large PERS/TRS deficit. Because the House Finance chair is ill and the governor's amendments haven't been submitted yet.

The federal stimulus package contains about $300-400 million for broad band and could connect rural areas to AK 20/20. If we could get that, it would be huge and would radically

improve distance education delivery in rural Alaska. The other big piece is the money for the research vessel.

2. Adopt Agenda

MOTION: passed

"The Faculty Alliance moves to adopt the agenda as amended to postpone approval of the February 13, 2009 minutes until the next Alliance meeting. This action is effective February 13, 2009."

3. Approve February 13, 2009 minutes

The minutes were postponed until the next Alliance meeting.

4. Report from the Chair – *Jill Dumesnil*

Jill Dumesnil was summoned to the campus directors meeting March 2 and 3 to discuss distance education as chair of Faculty Alliance. She will take Jonathan Anderson with her. Dan Julius said the distance education committee will report to SAC in March and offered to assist. The System Governance Council meets March 3. Dumesnil is in class on that date so Jonathan Anderson will attend in her place.

5. Academic Master Plan Status
NEW: http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/2008-11-20.AMPchargedraft.pdf
http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/2008-08-19AMP.pdf
http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/2008-08-28.trans-motions.pdf

The AMP process is going well. The charge is on the academic affairs web site. SAC is working on it and trading comments on the latest version of the plan. The next all day work meeting is Friday in Anchorage. The original plan was to take the plan to the senates in March.

6. Distance Education Status
http://www.alaska.edu/swacad/files/SACmeetings/2008.10.16-DE-Core-Committee.pdf
http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/2008-07-31.de-auditsummary.pdf
http://www.akdec.org/

John Monahan is very focused on the stimulus package for broad band, interface with K-12 and distance education program areas. The phone companies have formed a broad band task force to put Alaska's best foot forward. Been in touch with Commissioners of education and labor and the telephone companies, library services and that are moving ahead. Along the same lines, there is an Alaska internet speed test week. One of the difficulties in developing statistics on internet speed is that it varies almost from street to street. Virginia Tech has an application that interfaces with Google Map. March 30 through April 4 is speed test week, encouraging users to participate to put together stats to put together a map of what the actual band width is by zip code. The data will be downloadable and analyzable and accessible to anyone. This will give us an idea of unmet need.

Monahan is also attending the community campus directors meeting in Juneau and asking about what the director's issues are so the recommendations from DE don't impede

community campus directors. Monahan requested information on the labor management committee report from 2002. Wendy Redman recommended checking with the labor office.

Monahan would like to have a separate conversation with the Alliance about distance education to identify some impediments and concerns and what would have to be overcome to implement at some point. Wendy suggested focus group meetings and suggested that every catalog include the web site for distance education courses.

Monahan should be invited to senate meetings.

By the end of March, we should have enough information to meet.

7. Fiscal Status of the University – *Wendy Redman*

Wendy Redman reported that she will be doing a report for the Board of Regents next week that will be a little more readable. Statewide administration is extremely dependent on interest income in order to get the general funds to the campuses so we aren't asking for increments for administration. For the last 40 years that was good practice. As a result of the dependence in interest income, statewide has a $9 million hole in the budget. So much of what statewide does is support to the campuses, we are trying to figure out what to do with minimal impact on the campuses. Campuses are large protected this year but might begin to feel it in subsequent years. The campuses will all feel impact from the loss of earnings on scholarships. 30-40 percent of the scholarship endowments will not be able to give scholarships this year. Of the $9 million in statewide, we looked at MacTaggert and then an administrative group of campus based people wrote a report based on MacTaggert. There wasn't a lot in terms of reductions in the report; mostly about how to transfer services and money to campuses. We are now looking at recouping $4-5 million through recruitment slowdowns, not filling positions and travel reductions. There are other opportunities such as raising IT fees to offset IT costs. We haven't done that in twelve years. We are looking at endowments for bridge money. There is a very strong motivation to not go back to the campuses for assistance until we've scrubbed statewide as lean as we and the campuses think we should be. We continue to look at reorganizing human resources and looking at outsourcing. The UA Foundation has sustained the biggest jolt in that there is no money in the foundation to assist the campuses. We will probably centralize back room functions and leave donor services at the campuses. We are looking at ways to reorganize risk management which is paid for at statewide but people are deployed to the campuses. IT is constantly looking for ways to save. Campuses are really not interested in decentralizing IT unless they get a lot of money to do it because they don't have the resources.

8. Legislative Update – *Pete Kelly*
http://www.alaska.edu/state/
UA 10 Year Budget Plan
http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/2009-01-07.trans-state10yrplan.pdf
http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/2009-state10yrplan.pdf
Economic Stimulus Package
http://www.nacubo.org/x11226.xml?ss=pf

See discussion in item 7.

9. Need Based Financial Aid – *Pat Ivey*
http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?bill=SB%20%2033&session=26
http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?bill=HB%20%2094&session=26
http://www.newsminer.com/news/2009/feb/13/fairbanks-leaders-call-college-aid/

Both bills are moving and hearings are planned, the first being on Monday. Students partnered up with faculty and staff and some campus directors who show up informed and ready to go. Anchorage and Fairbanks assemblies have passed resolutions in support of the legislation and on February 23, the UAS assembly will consider a resolution of support.

7. Administration Advisory Council Reports

7.1 Systemwide Academic Council – *Jill Dumesnil, Dan Julius*
http://www.alaska.edu/swacad/sac.htm

SAC is working hard on AMP. Input should be sent to Dan Julius. He is hoping to meet with the senates soon and will meet with the UAA Faculty Senate on March 6.

7.2 Human Resources Council – *Genie Babb*

No report given.

7.3 Instructional Technology Council – *Marsha Sousa*

This group has reorganized into three groups, two of which will report to the ITEC. This is so the prep work can be done by the lower two groups before they come before the ITEC.

10.5 Research Advisory Council – *Jonathan Dehn*

RAC hasn't met separately but is meeting with SAC on the AMP and is very interested in the stimulus plan.

10.5 Business Council – *Cathy Connor*

No report was given.

10.6 Student Services Council – *Genie Babb*

No report was given

10.7 Retirement Committee – J*on Genetti*

The legislation to repeal the defined benefits plan for state employees to go back to the old benefits plan would be great but chances of it happening are slim to none. The shortfall is closer to $10 billion.

11. Senate Reports

11.1 UAA
http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/2009-02.uaasenatereport.pdf

A written report is attached. The UAA faculty senate passed a motion to congratulate the UAA women's basketball team and this was also passed by the assembly yesterday.

11.2 UAF
http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty/08-09_senate_meetings/index.html#156

Items of interest included approval of a PhD in Indigenous Studies and the electronic bookstore

11.3 UAS
http://www.uas.alaska.edu/facultysenate/index.html

Bruce Gifford reported on fall closing; UAS up in head count and credit hours. The advising director presented a proposal for required advising for certain programs. The chancellor wants to add required advising for first time freshmen.

9 Agenda Items for Next Alliance Meeting April 10, 2009, 2:00-3:30pm.

Agenda items should be submitted to Pat Ivey at least ten days in advance of the meeting.

10. Other Items of Interest

There were no additional items of interest

11. Comments

Jon Dehn had an extended email conversation with Representative Fairclough. The exchange was pleasant.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35pm.