UNIVERSITY of ALASKA

Faculty Alliance

Lee Gorsuch Commons, Room 106
Sharon Gagnon Lane, Anchorage
Thursday, August 27, 2009, 10:00am-5:00pm
Friday, August 28, 2009, 8:30am-4:00pm

DRAFT MINUTES

1, Call to order and introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:20am

Present:

Jon Dehn, Chair of the Faculty Alliance and President, UAF Faculty Senate]
Jonathan Anderson, President, UAS Faculty Senate
Genie Babb, President, UAA Faculty Senate
Cathy Cahill, President-elect, UAF Faculty Senate
Jill Dumesnil, Past President, UAS Faculty Senate; Past Chair, Faculty Alliance
John Petraitis, 1st Vice President, UAA Faculty Senate
Marsha Sousa, Past President, UAF Faculty Senate
Sherry Tamone, President-elect, UAS Faculty Senate
Patt Sandberg, Chair, UAA Faculty Senate Graduate Affairs Board joined the Alliance meeting on August 28, 2009.

Pat Ivey, Executive Officer

2. Adopt agenda

MOTION: PASSED

"The Faculty Alliance moves to adopt the agenda for the August 27-28, 2009 meeting as amended to strike item 7.4. This action is effective August 27, 2009."

3. Approve May 8, 2009 minutes

MOTION: PASSED

"The Faculty Alliance moves to approve the minutes for the May 8, 2009 meeting as amended. This action is effective August 27, 2009."

Amendment: page 3, item 7.2, italicize "Jonathan".

The May 7 motion relating to the development of policies or guidelines pertaining to providing background check information to hiring committees was resent to Beth Behner on August 27 by email.

4. Report of the Chair

Jon Dehn reported on the Board of Regents meeting in June and in August and SAC activities. He spoke in some detail about the process for approving academic programs and the RFP for search committees to select the new president. The Alliance chair will sit on the presidential search committee.

The Alliance recommended that the Board of Regents consider inviting the other two senate presidents or their designees to also serve on the search committee. Jon Dehn will inform Regent Henry about this recommendation.

There is a reference to distance education in the academic master plan. Pat Ivey was directed to find out if the legislative audit results had been published yet and if so, to obtain a copy for the Faculty Alliance. This item was placed on the Alliance for discussion at the next meeting.

5. Public or Guest Comments

There were no public or guest comments

7. Introduce Master Plan

The Alliance went into executive session to discuss the academic master plan. Members made multiple recommendations that the Alliance chair will carry forward to the Systemwide Academic Council

6. Administrative Council and Committee Assignments

7.1 Systemwide Academic Council

Since SAC and the Research Advisory Council have been merged, the Alliance discussed its representation on SAC so that not only will faculty be represented in teaching, research and service discussions but also to provide continuity in membership from year to year.

MOTION: passed

"The Faculty Alliance moves to appoint John Petraitis as the second Alliance member on the Systemwide Academic Council. This action is effective August 28, 2009."

Rationale: Traditionally, the Faculty Alliance rotates the chair position between the MAUs. This fiscal year, the chair is from UAF. Next fiscal year, the chair position moves to UAA and John Petraitis is in line to be Alliance chair. This arrangement of having the chair and de facto chair-elect of the Alliance on SAC provides much needed continuity.

ACTION: The Faculty Alliance intends to change its constitution and bylaws to formalize the chair-elect position and the rotation schematic which has been an unbroken tradition since 1994. Draft changes will be considered for first reading at the next Alliance meeting.

MOTION passed:

"The Faculty Alliance respectfully moves to advise the Systemwide Academic Council that Faculty Alliance silence on an issue or materials generated by SAC should never be taken as the consent of the Alliance or the faculty as referenced in the July 9, 2007 SAC meeting minutes. This action is effective August 27, 2009."

7.2 Human Resources Council

2009-2010 Liaison: Jill Dumesnil
2009-2010 Alternate: Genie Babb

7.3 Instructional Technology Council/ITEC

2009-2010 Liaison: Marsha Sousa
2009-2010 Alternate: Jonathan Anderson

~~7.4 Research Advisory Council – *Jonathan Dehn 2008-2009 (RAC now merged with SAC)*~~

7.5 Business Council
2009-2010 Liaison: Jonathan Anderson
2009-2010 Alternate: Cathy Cahill

7.6 Student Services Council
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2009-2010 Liaison: Genie Babb
2009-2010 Alternate: Patt Sandberg

7.7 Retirement Committee

2009-2010 Liaison: Sherry Tamone
2009-2010 Alternate: Cathy Cahill

8. Board of Regents Academic Program Proposal Form

Either the August 11 version is not the latest version or none of the changes discussed on Aug 13 and the changes recommended by President Hamilton were included. The Board of Regents is looking for more of a synthesis of the information so the Board of Regents can understand it. The August 11 version is not helpful. The original form is clearer.

MOTION: PASSED

"The Faculty Alliance moves to ask Regent Jacobson to participate in the September 18 Alliance meeting to help the Alliance understand the regents' information needs for new programs. This action is effective August 27, 2009."

9. Proposed Motion Relating to Board of Regents Meetings in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau

MOTION: PASSED

"Faculty Alliance respectfully requests that the Board of Regents hold at least one meeting per academic year each on the Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau campuses to allow the regents to experience the culture of that campus while school is in session and to provide the faculty staff and students the best opportunity to interact with the Board of Regents. This action is effective August 27, 2009."

10. Review Faculty Alliance Calendar

MOTION: PASSED

"The Faculty Alliance respectfully moves to amend the 2009-2010 Alliance calendar to change the time of the November, January and February meetings to 3:00-4:30pm. This action is effective August 28, 2009."

Amended 2009-2010 Alliance Calendar:

August 27-28, 2009, on site, Anchorage
Friday, September 18, 2009, 2:00-3:30pm by audio conference
Friday, October 16, 2009, 2:00-3:30pm by audio conference
Monday, October 19, 2009, 8:30am-4:00pm, President's Retreat, Fairbanks, site Room 501, Akasofu Building (IARC)
Friday, November 20, 2009, 3:00-4:30pm by audio conference
Friday, December 11, 2009, 2:00-3:30pm by audio conference
Friday, January 22, 2010, 3:00-4:30pm by audio conference
Friday, February 19, 2010, 3:00-4:30pm by audio conference
Friday, April 16, 2010, 2:00-3:30pm by audio conference
Friday, May 14, 2010, 2:00-3:30pm by audio conference

11. Senate Reports

UAF - The senate reevaluated senate membership, had trouble getting a faculty headcount to do that because many faculty have joint appointments and can only represent one on the senate. This leaders to updating the constitution and bylaws and to configure to the current lay of the land. The senate is reviewing the cure curriculum and weighed in on the electronic bookstore problems. Brian Rogers was made permanent chancellor. The senate will form an ad hoc research committee because UAF is a research university to discuss classified research and address the larger programmatic research issues, such as large stimulus funding for equipment, and supervisors taking principle investigator names off grants and putting on their own names. The senate proposal to allow term funded academic faculty to be promoted is stalled at the unions. Approximately 75 percent of the UAFT faculty is term funded and at least one term funded faculty member has been term funded as an assistant professor for 26 years. The senate has also discovered some faculty at some of the rural units are not represented. These term faculty contracts are renewed every year and can be rehired at a higher level but are generally not. There is also a lot of concern about the mandatory move to Google mail, the elimination of Meeting Maker and the lack of ability to access Google Mail if

the fiber optic cable goes down, and the ability of advertisers to access contact information such as home mail addresses.

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Researchers are paying three times more for IT service because they have to hire their own IT staff because they can't get timely IT service. Human resources has been reorganized so that everyone can do everything to eliminate bottlenecks in the hiring processing. Also, distance delivery mechanisms aren't working and that will be worked on. Rogers asked MacTaggart to come in and do a similar report just for UAF. The report was just made public last week.

UAA – The senate is more focused on the coming year than last year. Bookstores don't make money and the UAA bookstore is facing the same economic pressure vis a vis textbooks. Goals, increase communication between admin faculty and students, support the accreditation process. Accreditation has been streamlined so that departments only have to file two or three pages. Deans will gather the information and give it to accreditors. The accreditation process includes filing a series of reports, revising and revising. Have to develop themes, strengthen institutional programs, reinforce mission, etc. One thing accreditors want to see is whatever is in our academic plan in the future will be aligned to the academic plan. UAS is reporting now under the old accreditation system. Three years from now, UAS will begin to report under the new system.

The Senate continues to work on streamlining faculty evaluations by students. Problem is students can only submit evaluations on line. Problem is students don't do it. UAS made the transition to electronic evaluations and same problem except for distance students who are used to working on line. The UAS evaluation has the potential to be really good because it allows faculty to identify objectives for their course. A set of 12 objectives is listed and faculty can pick as many as they want to be evaluated on. At end of semester, students are supposed to have access, will answer couple dozen questions about the course. The IDEA Corporations takes the dozen questions, weighs the course objectives against student answers and gives the tailored report. The evaluation form also allows faculty to add custom designed questions, to select learning objectives, and add custom questions. This new procedure openly advertises its warts and will advise when the reports are unreliable, marginally reliable, etc., Unreliable means it is based purely on the number of students who respond. It also indicates whether or not the data are representative.

Reports also compare to national statistics and adjust for anomalies. Right now it isn't reaching its potential because the handshake between Banner, Blackboard etc., and Idea isn't working right. Students don't' think their evaluations are anonymous. As a result, UAS is adjusting criteria for promotion and tenure so that student evaluations only account for 25 percent.

The UAA Faculty Senate also continued updating its constitution and bylaws, advocated for research and graduate programs. The senate had a task force to change the faculty handbook which hasn't been changed on 20 years. Had a retreat and one section to focus on the guidelines and has some concerns about the new guidelines.

The promotion and tenure task force is put together by the Provost. Regents policy for promotion and tenure says in essence that a faculty has to be good in teaching, research and service but provides no guidance. The task force found a gap between what faculty were advised in their fourth year review and feedback they get and then suddenly the

boom is lowered. The guidelines presented to the senate state that a faculty member does not have to be successful in all three years in all categories but does have to be successful in two out of the three. The senate needs to look at this very carefully. The UAF faculty senate has a unit criteria committee that is in charge of overseeing the development and maintenance of unit criteria for promotion and tenure across the UAF MAU.

UAA also has an outcomes assessment task force that produced a report and recommendation to form a committee tied to the curriculum committee of the senate that would only deal with outcomes assessments.

At UAS, program review is based on outcomes assessment plans. Arts and Sciences process is more informal. In business and management, the process is more formal. Last year, UAS, absorbed with their institutional trauma and results, was left with interim deans and interim provost so UAS is searching for all academic leadership positions. There was a a leadership retreat with administration and the faculty with positive results. Accreditors are visiting UAS in October. UAS is also talking about whole structure of academic leadership. The administration sees this as a cost saving measure saying there is no way UAS can have four deans; that the maximum number possible is three. The UAS faculty are very appreciative of the Faculty Alliance support of them. UAS Faculty Senate is very interested in academic freedom not only in the academic arena and in public but also in research, i.e., UAS requires approval of research proposals at the MAU level in the provosts office which held up research in the provosts office for at least two weeks before going to budget and on to the funding agency. UAS says this is the fault of the accrediting agency. The accreditation agency has made a big deal about publishing research and scholarly activity as faculty define it.

At UAS concerned about it's own academic plan which they don't have as a separate document. Anderson is uncertain how the MAU academic plan is viewed in UAF Faculty Senate. The UAF academic plan is only two pages long. The UAA master plan is more comprehensive. The UAA College of Arts and Sciences, the biggest college within UAA, is working on an academic master plan that will dovetail with the UAA master plan.

MOTION: PASSED

"The Faculty Alliance moves that all faculty throughout the University of Alaska system have the academic freedom to seek funding and conduct research in accordance with their workloads and in accordance with Board of Regents Policy and University Regulations. This action is effective August 28, 2009."

The Alliance discussed the issue of making sure that the research money received from the state legislature actually goes to the program requesting it. This item was sent to the UAF Faculty Senate for consideration.

12. Closing Comments - Members remarked on the positive effects of the meeting on Alliance morale.

13. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00pm on August 28, 2009.