UNIVERSITY of ALASKA

Faculty Alliance

Friday, September 18, 2009 via audio conference
2:00 – 3:30pm
Bridge # 1-800-893-8850, pin 2151251

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

   Present:

   Jon Dehn, Chair of the Faculty Alliance and President, UAF Faculty Senate
   Jonathan Anderson, President, UAS Faculty Senate
   Cathy Cahill, President-elect, UAF Faculty Senate
   John Petraitis, 1st Vice President, UAA Faculty Senate
   Marsha Sousa, Past President, UAF Faculty Senate
   Sherry Tamone, President-elect, UAS Faculty Senate
   Jill Dumesnil, Past Chair of the Alliance and Past President, UAS Faculty Senate
   Patt Sandberg. Chair, UAA Faculty Senate, Graduate Academic Board
   Genie Babb, President, UAA Faculty Senate

2. Adopt Agenda

   MOTION: passed

   "The Faculty Alliance moves to adopt the agenda for the September 18, 2009 meeting. This action is effective September 18, 2009."

3. Approve Minutes
   http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/minutes/2009/08-27-28.pdf

   MOTION: passed

   "The Faculty Alliance moves to approve the August 27-28, 2009 minutes as amended. This action is effective September 18, 2009."

4. Report from the Chair – *Jon Dehn*

   4.1 Items for Final Report to Board of Regents
   http://gov.alaska.edu/news/report/2009-09.govreport.pdf

The Alliance is delighted regents are holding meetings on Juneau campus during classes.

4.2 Presidential Search
http://www.alaska.edu/bor/pres-search/

A search firm has been hired. The search consultant has been to Fairbanks and is in Anchorage today. Genie Babb is attending meetings related to the search and is unable to attend the Alliance meeting. The committee Jon Dehn is on is the presidential search advisory committee, not a presidential search committee. The Board of Regents is the search committee. The Board feels it is their job to represent faculty and students on the presidential search committee... The advisory committee membership, however, is very impressive.

The advisory committee is not likely to see the candidates until the final three are announced. On September 29, there will be a video conference with the search consultant for UAS. Impressions of the search consultant are pretty good. The firm does about 100 searches of academic personnel per year. The consultant herself was chancellor of the Board of Regents in Ohio. The finalists are due to be brought up in February. The consultant took no tour of any of the research facilities which is problematic.

The plan is to give the consultant names, skill sets and capabilities. The consultant is supposed to have a profile by end of next week and ads in the Chronicle by the middle of November and a pool selected by the middle of December.

The advisory committee fleshed out a set of skill sets and capabilities, including ability to communicate with rural campuses and engage native communities, workforce development and make sure organized labor is on the side of the university, liaise with the legislature successfully, someone who is from Alaska or who has ties to Alaska. Peter Finn also stressed the ability to liaise with the legislature and keep tuition affordable. Commissioner LeDoux wanted strong leadership and a person who would have good communications with K-12 and all state agencies, someone charismatic and able to bring in big bucks. Gail Phillips wanted somebody that would keep universities in their lanes and not duplicate anything, and was strongly pushing for a medical school in Anchorage. Wendy Redman wanted someone who would continue what was already underway and who would have a good relationship with existing chancellors, someone who was a manager but not a micro manager. Grace Schiable wanted someone who would push for good student retention and a good student experience without creating permanent students and restore a traditional function to the university. Others wanted someone who had a good rapport with local business. Dehn wants someone that has a more balanced approach where direction comes from the bottom up in terms of ideas and direction. Faculty are divided on whether the president should have a PhD. Some are admant that the president have a PhD to support the traditional university, reputation etc. Others stress that someone is needed to take

care of the practical side of the house, raise money, communicate etc, and are less wed to the president having a PhD.

The greatest fear is that the university ends up with a president who refuses to acknowledge the uniqueness of this university.

The UAA senate met yesterday and stressed most of the same things; rural campus recognition and support, ability to work with the legislature, ties to Alaska, knowledge of how a university works.

Another point of contention is that the consultant is looking for someone who will stay at least five years. Dehn would like someone who will last a little longer. The university has programs that contribute significantly to the state. Neither those programs nor the long serving faculty need revolving-door presidents. It is hoped that the new president will raise private and corporate funds from donors and corporations as well as state funds from the legislature.

The question of the Board of Regents serving as the search committee opens the door to groupthink and grave errors. The regents are confident that the search firm will provide enough candidates from which the regents can select the final four. The best thing the Alliance can do is to solicit names of people to the search consultant and the regents. Several names were discussed by the Alliance, all of whom have excellent connections, know the university and the legislature and can raise money.

At UAA, there was a lot of discussion at the meetings with the consultant about lack of faculty involvement and the fact that statewide was top heavy and the new president will have to do something about that.

Regent Henry advised Jon Dehn to advise the Alliance that the Board represented the faculty and the students. At least there is a student regent.

The Alliance will draft a memo indicating their willingness to assist the regents in their search. In no way will the Alliance want to usurp the authority of the regents but does wish to assist.

The Board of Regents was advised that there would be considerable public comment about lack of faculty involvement at regents meetings.

There will be a blog and a place for anonymous public comment.

Dehn was complimented for his efforts to get more faculty involvement in the search process.

Contact information for Academic Search consultant

Elaine H. Hairston, Ph.D., Senior Consultant
Academic Search, Inc.

1825 K Street NW, Suite 705
Washington, D.C., 20006
740-964-0905
elaine.hairston@academic-search.com

5. Administration Advisory Council Reports

5.1 Systemwide Academic Council/RAC – *Jon Dehn/John Petraitis*
http://www.alaska.edu/swacad/sac.htm

Mike Driscoll chaired the last meeting in the absence of the vice president. All discussion of the Academic Master Plan was postponed and distance education was not discussed. The fact that the Alliance is not opposed to PhDs on any campus that wishes to offer one and can provide the structure to do it astounds SAC.

Bart Quimby made a wonderful form to go with the existing hex form to go to the Board of Regents and the form is a good one.

Regent Jacobsen advised that the Alliance should go through Jeannie Phillips to invite regents to Alliance meetings to discuss the hex form.

There was some discussion about teacher education. The system apparently is being responsive to state needs and teacher education needs to happen at all three MAUs.

5.2 Human Resources Council – *Jill Dumesnil*

The committee hasn't met yet.

5.3 Information Technology Executive Council/ITEC – *Marsha Sousa*
http://www.alaska.edu/pmo/itec/agenda-and-meeting-notes/
http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/2009-09-17.ITEC-ag.pdf

There are a number of problems including the move Google apps and inability to transfer data from the existing mail system to Google.

5.4 Business Council – *Jonathan Anderson*

There is a memo from Pat Pitney saying that Jonathan Anderson sent forward, copy attached about authorizing somebody to oversee faculty time and reporting. For the HR Council, be aware this is happening. The discovery proposal doesn't have any faculty on it.

5.5 Student Services Council – *Genie Babb*

The Council has not met since the last Alliance meeting

5.6 Retirement Committee – *Sherry Tamone*

The committee has not met. The unions are looking for ten faculty who signed up on the class action suit to serve as spokespersons on the ORP issue.

6. Old Business

6.1 Academic Master Plan, Vision Statement
http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/2009-08-28.AMP-markup1.pdf
Corrections have not yet been submitted to SAC. SAC is aware that the faculty are united in not being averse to having PhDs at any campus who wants to have one. There is some indication that the president's cabinet will tear up everything and write a fairly draconian new plan.

Genie Babb's vision statement was added to the Alliance revision of the AMP as were the references to existing policy and regulations. With those revisions, the Alliance revised version of the AMP will be forwarded to SAC, after checking with Genie Babb to make sure it is okay with her.

6.2 Distance Ed Legislative Audit Status
http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/2009-09-15.DE-LegAudit4WorkFlow.pdf

The legislative audit has not yet been received by the Alliance and allegedly has not yet been received by the university. The next deadline is September 24.

6.3 Other Old Business

7. New Business

7.1 Regents Academic Program Proposal Form
Policy http://www.alaska.edu/swacad/files/SACmeetings/BORPolicyPartX_10-04.pdf
Form http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/2009-08-11.BORprogramapproval.pdf

Commonly known as the hex form, dated August 11, 2009 has been revised. Permission has not yet been given to distribute Bart Quimby's form but it is good and hopefully can be received by the next Alliance meeting.

7.2 Constitution Change Relating to Officer Rotation
http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/constitution/2009-09-18.constitution-amendments.pdf

MOTION: passed

"The Faculty Alliance moves to amend the Alliance constitution, Article IV, Section E.1 Elections to read:

The Chair and Chair-elect shall be elected by and from the voting membership by a majority vote, with at least one vote from each MAU required. The Chair and the Chair-elect shall be from different major academic units. The chair position shall rotate to each major academic unit in sequence so that the chair is located at each major academic unit every third year.

This action is effective September 18, 2009."

Rationale: This change reflects what has been the standard practice since 1994. This change is considered a housekeeping item.

7.3 Other New Business

There has been a lot of angst about background checks. At the last meeting of the Alliance last year and the first one this year, there was discussion about who gets to see background check information, just Human Resources or do search committees have access to that information. The Alliance would like to see a written policy to clarify the issue.

8. Senate Reports

8.1 UAA
http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/governance/facultysenate/upload/Faculty-Senate-FINAL-Agenda-09-04-09.pdf

The senate is focusing on revisions to promotion and tenure documents which were written in 1988. The presidential search is also a prime topic of discussion

8.2 UAF

A new senate advisory research committee was formed. President Hamilton attended and said again he will not run for governor. The senate is having big problems with proliferating semesters or "mesters" such as May Mester, Summer Mester etc., and trying to squeeze in core courses into shortened mesters at a time when students can't get their books. People are beginning to think UAF should join forces with the UAA bookstore to get books. UAF would have to hire five staff to reopen the bookstore. UAF is looking at adding fees to the classes so faculty can block order books for the students so they can have books on the first day of class. Accreditation is also on the senate docket.

8.3 UAS
http://gov.alaska.edu/faculty/2009-09-09.UASreport.pdf

A written report was provided for which Jonathan Anderson was lauded.

9. Agenda Items for October 16, 2009 audio conference meeting

Send agenda items to pat.ivey@alaska.edu at least ten days in advance of meetings.

10. Topics for President's Retreat October 19, 2009, Fairbanks

There was no discussion of this topic.

11. Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest except a request to combine this topic and comments in future agendas, but some prefer to keep these items separate.

12. Comments

There were no additional comments.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned approximately on time.