Draft Minutes

Sunday, September 20, 2009, beginning at 10:24am
UAA Gorsuch Commons Room 107 and by audio conference
Bridge 1-800-893-8850, pin 2117820

1. Call to order, roll call and introductions

   Coalition Speaker: Peter Finn
   Speaker Pro-Tem Nicole Carvajal
   Student Regent Ashton Compton
   ACPE Student Commissioner Jennifer Chambers

Voting Members:

   UAA Student Governments:
   Kachemak Bay Branch Student Association – Absent, excused
   Kenai River College Student Union – Chelsey Dorman
   Kodiak College Student Government Council - Absent
   Matanuska-Susitna Student Government Council – Absent
   Prince William Sound Community College Student Association
     Absent, excused
   Union of Students of UAA – Michaela Hernandez

   UAF Student Governments:
   Associated Students of UAF – Nicole Carvajal
   Kuskokwim Campus Student Government - Absent

   UAS Student Governments:
   United Students of UAS – Juneau – CJ Reeves
   United Students of UAS – Ketchikan – Misty Archibald
   United Students of UAS – Sitka - Absent

Others
   Adrian Triebel, President, Associated Students of UAF
   Allison Murrell, Senator, Union of Students of UAA
   Ryan Buchholdt, Assembly Speaker, Union of Students of UAA
   Todd Marshall-Closson, Production, Kenai River Campus Student Union, Past Coalition Speaker
   Kathy Cox, Communications, Kenai River Campus Student Union
   Pat Ivey, Coalition Advisor and Executive Officer
   Leslie Hernandez, Coalition Coordinator
2. Adopt Agenda

**MOTION**: passed

"The Coalition of Student Leaders adopts the agenda as amended. This action is effective September 20, 2009."

3. Speaker's Report


Speaker Finn thanked the Coalition for electing him to the speaker position. He completed orientation in August, traveling to Fairbanks and meeting with President Hamilton and various system executives. He intends to meet with all the UAF and UAS chancellors as soon as he can and has already met with Chancellor Ulmer.

The Coalition Speaker was appointed to the presidential search advisory committee and is currently the only enrolled student on a 15 member committee. He called for Coalition input on what he should be bringing to the search committee.

He will be going to Juneau on Wednesday to meet with the Business Council regarding student wages and will attend the Board of Regents on Thursday and Friday. He submitted a written report to the Board of Regents, cited above.

4. Student Regent, Student Commissioner and Student Government Reports

4.1 Student Regent, UA Board of Regents

http://www.alaska.edu/bor/

Regent Compton also had orientation at statewide, met with the president and a number of individuals on a number of important topics. She met with Kit Duke who works on the campus master plans, with Michele Rizk, the statewide budget director, Gwen White, the director of institutional research, Beth Behner, chief human resources officer. On the 15th the Board met with the presidential search firm representative.

4.2 Student Commissioner, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

http://alaskadvantage.state.ak.us/page/247

Jennifer Chambers was appointed by the governor just before the July ACPE meeting. At the July meeting the commission considered reauthorization for a number of bible colleges and other institutions, and discussed the Sheldon Jackson College teach out, and problems with scholarships promised by SJ but not awarded. The commission requested a two part hearing; the first to determine whether laws were broken and another one to determine if anyone sustained loss or damages. Also discussed were the new credit requirements stating it was because investors wouldn’t buy bonds and ACPE wouldn’t have any money to give loans. A number of people who didn’t get student loans aren’t returning to school. This will be a main topic at the October ACPE meeting.

4.3 Student Government Reports
**USUAA:** President Michaela Hernandez reported she and Vice President Mallory Givens have been working on platform items.

One action item is mental health and were successful in getting UAA to eliminate the $15 fee per mental health session so now those sessions are free to UAA students.

Hernandez is also working with student orientation officials, trying to get them to incorporate student perspective into the orientation and work with them on preview days for prospective students held at various times during the school year.

She initiated a large advocacy campaign related to tuition increases and has visited with a large number of students, advising them what the proposed tuition increases really mean. She prepared advocacy packets for senators who will be obtaining signatures this week and hopes to have an opportunity for students to testify to the Board of Regents by audio or video conference. The USUAA administrative assistant created a tuition web link for students to access and comment. These will be compiled and sent to the regents.

**ASUAF:** Representative Nicole Carvajal reported that the ASUAF application form for the legislative conference will be placed on the web so students can apply on line by mid October.

Five ASUAF representatives will attend the Board of Regents meeting and testify on the tuition increases and student employee wages.

The Gay Straight Alliance has been very active to get sexual orientation into the non discrimination policy. An anti-gay banner has created controversy on campus. ASUAF helped the GSA create and place a Stop the Hate banner beside the other one.

Carvajal also met with Fairbanks legislators and aides this summer regarding need based financial aid and the new ACPE credit check requirements and received a lot of data.

President Triebel reported that the executive side has been working on platform items such as obtaining discounts for students in the community, to have a larger voice in decisions about how the SIREN fee of $20 passed by the students to make UAF more sustainable will be spent, and starting high school outreach, and summer sessions issues. ASUAF will have had two barbecues and spoke with 800 incoming freshmen.

**USUAS-JC:** Acting President CJ Reeves reported UAS just got a new student services director and USUAS is looking at a change in advisors. USUAS-JC is also currently undergoing elections for permanent president and three senators. We worked on student orientation, went to classes and asked for input as to what students wanted so USUAS-JC could better target its money to what students want to see. Also working with their peer health and wellness program which is funded through a grant instead of student fees. Also working with NANA to improve services and encouraging them to move to Coca Cola who offers free
services and products for student events. There is also a huge increase in transfer students at UAS.

The legislative conference dates have not been decided yet.

**KRCSU:** President Chelsey Dorman reported that KRCSU is looking for a new vice president. She is looking for co-funding to bring a comedy show called Sex Signals to campus. It costs $3200 per show and the show will already be up here in April at Elmendorf AFB and hopefully, costs can be shared. KRCSU also established the CACHE community service program which is basically a Craig’s List type enterprise where people can earn services by giving services to others to reduce the economic footprint. For example, one person might offer babysitting services and earn CACHE dollars to exchange for window washing. There is a web site which Todd Marshall Closson will send to the Coalition.

**USUAS-KC:** President Misty Archibald reported that the mission for the student government was to help students and the community at large. Ketchikan is a non-traditional college where students are older and have families with children so the student government is focusing on more clubs with a family focus, having family nights and more family oriented activities. The student government received funding from Toastmasters to create a Gavel Club on campus. The student government hopes to establish a recycling committee and work with mental health agencies on suicide prevention and putting unused funds into an endowment to provide scholarships. Also seeking support from students to increase KPC’s network capacity. KPC’s servers are beyond capacity and shut down all the time.

5. Guest Comments

There were no guest comments.

6. Discussion Items

6.1 Presidential Search

[http://www.alaska.edu/bor/pres-search/](http://www.alaska.edu/bor/pres-search/)

Speaker Finn is the only enrolled student on the search committee. Thus far, he has indicated to the committee that we need a president who will keep tuition as low as possible, focus on raising money from the legislature and private sources, and have an open avenue of communication with the Coalition and member student governments.

Other suggestions included having a president who

- is not so focused on growth but rather focuses on improving the quality of what we have while at the same time not impeding necessary growth, and
- focuses on sustainable practices both in the academic arena and in building and maintaining structures
- a communicator who can explain tuition increases and what it means to them.
The candidates will not be revealed until the finalists are decided upon. Until then, everything is confidential. A presidential search firm will seek out candidates. Later on, there will be a web site for additional nominations. The committee will make recommendations to the Board of Regents and the regents will cast the deciding vote and hire the president.

6.2 Goals and Objectives

Goal One: AAIP

Suggestions from president’s retreat discussions

- Phone Campaigns
- Reaching out to different departments
- Obtaining letters of support from groups
- Attending legislative forums and weekly legislators teleconferences to get students to talk to legislators to keep AAIP on their radar
- Students writing letters and postcards
- Tabling outside financial aid offices to get students who are denied student loans to support AAIP
- Inject AAIP into personal conversations
- Register to vote
- Commercials; use YouTube.com to talk about AAIP

Most important: Phone calls, letters to editor, and letters/postcards to legislators; signed petitions in support of AAIP

Marketing: student leaders obtain digital photos of students with sign “I support AAIP” and compile them; photos of students with quality stories, and (1) put them on a jump drive with Coalition logo and give them out to the legislators at the student legislative conference, and (2) play the photos as a slide show in front of the Capitol.

Postcards: Need a postcard template. Speaker will contact UAA advancement and statewide public affairs to design the postcards. Postcards can be purchased online for $1000 which includes shipping.

Tabling: Use netbooks and have talking points so students can write and send emails of support on the spot.

Voter Registration: Register students to vote and ask them to support AAIP. Go to Division of Elections and get set up to be a voter registrar.

Facebook: Getting people to support AAIP on Coalition facebook.com page. Update Wikipedia page to include AAIP.

Work AAIP comments into newspaper online comments.
Student Government Commitments:

ASUAF: 200 phone calls, 1,000 petition signatures, 300 emails and letters, 400 post cards, 700 photos, register 50 voters, 20 letters to the editor over the course of the campaign.

USUAA: 100 on Facebook, 3000 signatures, 200 phone calls, 1000 postcards, 50 registered voters, 500 emails, five letters to the editor over the course of the campaign.

USUAS-JC: 300 signatures, 200 postcards, 50 emails, 20 registered voters, 10 phone calls, 50 photos, 10 letters to the editor

KRCSU: doesn’t respond to call outs, is a very personal school; photo essays will happen; 50 postcards; 50 photos, one letter, 75 signatures, 15 registered voters.

USUAS-KC 30 photos, 50 postcards, 10 phone calls, 20 letters, 50 emails and four letters to the editor; will go to high school and talk with students about this.

6.3 Juneau Legislative Conference-Dates and Theme

CJ Reeves will head up an ad hoc committee, consisting of Nikki Carvajal, Chelsea Dorman and others, to flesh out the conference. Conference dates should be decided as soon as possible. USUAS-JC will decide when the conference will be. The ad hoc committee should have the theme ready for the November Coalition meeting, sooner if possible. The theme should be AAIP based.

6.4 Need Based Financial Aid Strategies

See Goals and Objectives in 6.2 above.

6.5 Board of Regents Meeting September 23-25, 2009

Student leaders will testify on the tuition increase and student employee wages.

6.6 Distance Education

It is hard to do distance education courses especially upper division courses. The main point of contact for distance education throughout the system is John Monahan, john.monahan@alaska.edu.

ACTION: Coalition members will meet with their faculty senates and provosts about this issue and report back at the next Coalition meeting.

6.7 Student Loan Denials

http://gov.alaska.edu/coalition/studentloans/2009-08-06paskvaninquiryletter.pdf
Nikki Carvajal explained the numbers of people who were denied supplemental student loans because of the new credit check requirements as a result of HB 109. Carvajal explained that legislators were led to believe this would not inconvenience students. However, data subsequently proved that high percentages of students were denied student loans. Some were able to get a co-signer but many were not. Only 53 percent of the total applicants were able to obtain student loans.

**ACTION:** The Coalition will monitor this situation closely, and asked the ACPE student commissioner to look into the situation. Coalition members will ask their student loan officers how many students attending UA who were denied actually did not return to the university because of it. Coalition members will also contact their legislators about this situation.

7. **Action Items**

7.1 **Tuition Increases**


**MOTION:** passed

“The Coalition of Student Leaders moves that, in order that tuition remain affordable, tuition increases should not exceed 3 percent for lower division courses and 5 percent for upper division courses. This action is effective September 20, 2009.”

Rationale: As tuition costs have risen, college becomes less accessible. Adequate need based financial aid is not forthcoming to the extent needed by students the University of Alaska. The university becomes less and less accessible to students. The Coalition requests that the regents keep tuition as affordable as possible and allow the Coalition time to successfully pursue need based financial aid legislation.

7.2 **Student Employee Wages**


http://www.alaska.edu/bor/policy/09-05.doc

**MOTION:** passed

“The Coalition of Student Leaders moves to adopt the following resolution.

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO STUDENT WORKER WAGES**

“Whereas, the cost of being a student in Alaska has increased significantly since 2001; and,
Whereas, student worker wages have not been adjusted in eight years; and,

Whereas, student worker wages are not competitive with off-campus employers hiring for similar positions; and,

Whereas, many students depend on income from their places of employment to pay for their education; and

Whereas, student employment benefits the university, student, and the state; and

Whereas, the bottom student wage of $7.50 per hour will soon be below the Alaska state minimum wage.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Coalition of Student Leaders supports an increase of $1.00 per hour for all student wages in the University of Alaska system.

Therefore be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Board of Regents, President Hamilton, Chancellors Pugh, Rogers and Ulmer, Vice Chancellors Spindle, Pitney and Griffin, and the Members of the Coalition of Student Leaders and through them the Associated Students of UAF, the Union of Students of UAA, the United Students of UAS-Juneau Campus, the United Students of UAS-Ketchikan Campus, the United Students of the UAS-Sitka Campus, the Matanuska-Susitna Student Government Council, the Kenai River Student Union, the Kachemak Bay Branch Student Association, the Kodiak Student Government, the Prince William Sound Community College Student Association and the Kuskokwim Student Government Association.

This action is effective September 21, 2009.”

ACTION: The question of disparity in certain positions between wages listed by the Department of Labor and UA student positions will be taken up at the next Coalition meeting.

7.3 Elect Speaker Pro Tem

MOTION: passed

“The Coalition moves to elect Nikki Carvajal as Coalition Pro Tem. This action is effective September 20, 2009.”

7.4 Approve Calendar

http://gov.alaska.edu/Coalition/calander/

MOTION: passed

“The Coalition of Student Leaders moves to approve the calendar as it stands.”
This action is effective September 20, 2009.

7.5 Coalition Budget

MOTION: passed

“The Coalition of Student Leaders moves to approve the Coalition Budget as amended. This action is effective September 20, 2009.”

7.6 Inactive Student Governments

Kuskokwim student government has been inactive for some time. The Kuskokwim student government has a budget this year approved by the Board of Regents in June in the amount of $10,600 with no student government in existence either to approve it beforehand or spend it once approved. The Kuskokwim student government had approximately $8700 in their account of June 2009.

ACTION: The Coalition speaker will work with ASUAF to resolve the situation, and begin by sending the campus director an email or letter asking for clarification on when the Kuskokwim campus student government will be re-established.

Prince William Sound Community College Student Association just held elections. The new president is Elizabeth Byrd. The elections were completed too late to send her to the president’s retreat. United Students of UAS will hold elections at some point. Current president Jeremy Haney runs Sitka campus IT department and has other duties and constraints that largely prevent him from participating in Coalition activities although he makes an effort to stay current on Coalition activities by email and checking the Coalition web site. Kodiak campus is generally doesn’t select a president until well after the semester starts and this year, did not select one before the president’s retreat.

7.7 System Governance Council

The Coalition elects four representatives to the Council each year, one from high density schools, defined as having an enrollment of 5,000 or more students, two from medium density schools, defined as having an enrollment
of 1000-4,999 students and one from low density schools, defined as having an enrollment up to 999 students. Currently Lucas Wilcox from KBCSA serves the low density schools.

The purpose of the System Governance Council is to provide an opportunity for faculty, staff and students to interact with the university president, regents and others regularly to discuss matters including, but not limited to, the following: policies and procedures for, and participating in, the university budget process; the framing of long range plans; university development; enhancing the university's public image and educating the public. The Council also communicates the results of those discussions to the university community. The Council may also coordinate matters of mutual concern to the Faculty Alliance, the Staff Alliance, the Coalition of Student Leaders and the alumni.

**MOTION**: passed

"The Coalition of Student Leaders moves to elect Coalition representatives to the System Governance Council at the next meeting."

8. Other Items of Concern

There were no other items of concern.

9. Comments and Special Orders

There were no additional comments or special orders.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:35 pm.