



Governance Report

Volume 17, Number 3, June 2012



Coalition of Student Leaders

Nicholas S. Pennington, Speaker

This has been a very exciting year for the Coalition. As the student governance group, we advocated the importance of the advising component in the Board of Regents' budget request to the legislature, Governor and Lieutenant Governor. We also pushed for needs-based financial aid. We are more than pleased with the outcome! The Coalition is very excited to see the relationship grow between the governance groups, the President, and the Board of Regents.

Our input this year on the Strategic Direction Initiative portrays that we are one university working together for the benefit of Alaska's future. The Coalition is very grateful for the opportunity to work with President Gamble and Saichi Oba on the tuition taskforce for FY13-14. This year, the University has been very supportive of student needs, and we are very pleased to see such understanding and unity within the university. We will be having our annual June Summit in Fairbanks, where the new Coalition Speaker will be chosen and we will set out our goals and objectives for the next year. The Coalition would like to thank the President, Board of Regents, and UA Administration for listening to student needs, and we look forward to the years to come!

Nicholas Shane Pennington served two terms as president of the Kodiak College Student Government Association. He received an Associate of Arts through the Kodiak College and is pursuing a degree in Business Management.



Staff Alliance

Juella Sparks, Chair

With the recent announcement of Vice President Dan Julius' resignation I am reminded again of all the changes in our university system. I have said to you before that I believe with change comes opportunity; opportunities to improve and grow. If this time of change is more than simply the stamp of a new administration, and is a time of opportunity then I have a question for you.

What are we going to do with this opportunity?

President Gamble recently shared with me his “Practical Person’s Guide to Everyday Leadership.” I was struck by the 5 P’s model and “the idea that it all begins and ends with people.” I am again encouraging you to recognize staff as an asset and essential to successfully implementing not only change but a vision for our university’s future. The proposed code of conduct accelerated existing conversations all across the system about our current work environment.

Fundamental to our environment are things like integrity, respect, recognition and compensation. The existing compensation package and process is inherently a challenge and more a challenge every year. We have been blessed with flat or increased funding for a few years but we all have a wary eye on the future. I have been told by the administration that continuously giving increases is not sustainable in part because only half of the costs are funded by the legislature. And of course we all recognize that the cost of our health care benefit isn’t going down anytime soon. The recent decision by President Gamble to create a Health Care Task Force to “think outside the box” looking for solutions is much appreciated.

Let’s make the task force a first step toward real change and a sustainable, quality university. Let’s apply “outside the box” to the strategic directions initiative, compensation, benefits, and Regents’ Policy 04.01.

Juella was born and raised in Alaska and graduated from UAF with a B.B.A. in Management. After several years working for the state and starting a family, she came back to the university to work for Cooperative Extension Service in December, 2002. She was active in student government and moved quickly to being active in staff governance at UAF. Juella has served as Staff Alliance vice chair 2007-2009, chair of the System Governance Council 2008-2009 and president of the UAF Staff Council 2008-2009.



Faculty Alliance

Daniel B. Monteith, Chair

Natural Science GER/Core Labs

Since the January meeting of the E Lab task force the faculty developed a draft of recommendations that have been forwarded to the Alliance. The draft document was discussed at the Alliance meeting January 27, 2012. Alliance members have submitted comments and edits. On February 16th the Alliance comments were forwarded to the Task force for final review. Alliance has reviewed and approved the E Lab Task Force Recommendations at the February 24th meeting.

Since then the Senates have reviewed the recommendations and are working on how to implement the taskforce recommendations within their respective MAU. Each MAU will have final comments

to the Alliance by their May 18th meeting. At the BOR meeting in June, Alliance will report on the progress of each MAU.

This process has provided a model for further faculty review of GERs and Core classes in other areas like the social sciences and humanities. Alliance will work with the President's office to initiate task forces in the other areas. These efforts will work toward more transferability between MAUs and specific courses on the GER/Core level.

Board of Regents' Policy and Regulations

Each Faculty Senate has assigned committees to review the policies and regulations. The purpose and intent of the review is fourfold: to delete sections that are redundant, to edit sections with minor changes, to flag sections with major required changes, and to maintain sections that do not need any edits or changes. Work is ongoing!

Listening Sessions and Transferability

Faculty Alliance members have been attending many of the listening sessions. We are waiting for the final results and summaries for the listening sessions from Paula Donson's office. Three Alliance members who serve on the Statewide Academic Council will participate in the Strategic Direction Planning session on July 23, 2012, in Fairbanks.

Complete College America

The Faculty Alliance members are engaged in a dialogue with the President regarding how we can make the national programs better suit our demographics and student body. Alliance feels strongly that the University of Alaska student body is unique and that the students encounter some different challenges in completing college quicker. Alliance wants to meet the needs of our students. At the time of this report (May 7, 2012) each Senate has recommended that the University of Alaska does not participate in the Complete College America program. Alliance will discuss this matter at the May 18th meeting.

Daniel Monteith

Chair, Faculty Alliance

Dr. Dan Monteith is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Chair of Social Sciences at the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau. While in Chicago he worked at the Field Natural History Museum and Oriental Institute Museum. As a student his summers were spent working in the fishing industry in Bristol Bay. This experience led him to his current research, which is an anthropological study of the Bristol Bay fishery. He holds a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Chicago, and Ph.D. from Michigan State University. He served as Faculty Alliance member and UAS Faculty Senate president-elect 2010-2011 and is currently senate president as well as Faculty Alliance chair.