

Faculty Alliance Report to UAA, UAF, UAS Faculty Senates August 2023

from Jennifer Ward, AY24 Chair of Faculty Alliance 9/5/23

Background. The Faculty Alliance is faculty governance at the University of Alaska. Alliance represents the interests of the entire faculty of UA. Faculty Senates at UAF, UAA, and UAS bring matters of importance to the Alliance for discussion and representation to the Board of Regents, President, VP of Academics, Students, Research, and others depending on the issue. We are also a part of the [System Governance Council](#) with quarterly meetings where staff, students, faculty, and alumni also have a forum to discuss issues. The Faculty Alliance [constitution and bylaws](#) are here. [Our website is here](#) and every meeting scheduled will be posted there. The meetings are open and you are welcome to attend.

Introduction/ Alliance Chair. I want to introduce myself and the sitting members of the AY24 Faculty Alliance. I'm Jennifer Ward, Professor of Library and Information Science and Outreach Librarian at Egan Library, UAS. I've been here for over 21 years. I manage our institutional repository (ScholarWorks@UA) with a librarian team from all the universities. I'm passionate about scholarly communications, academic freedom, and educational research, among other things. In the past I have taught with our school of education and got to know teacher-candidates from all over Alaska. In 2012, I spent my sabbatical at the University of Helsinki on a teaching/research project and I would love to go back to Finland again! Or another Nordic / Arctic country! I'm raising a daughter who is now a Junior at Juneau-Douglas High School. I've learned a good deal about faculty governance having served on the Alliance for 2 years (this is my 3rd and final year). I'm also on the Academic Council (a curriculum review committee with VP ASR and Provosts), and several other committees. I was UAS Faculty Senate President last year and now this year the rotation goes to UAS and I am now Alliance Chair.

The other members of this year's alliance are: Ian Hartman, LuAnn Piccard, and Jackie Cason (UAA). Jennie Carroll, Ataur Chaudhury, and Abel Built-Ito (UAF). Glenn Wright, Brian Blitz, and me (UAS). If you have any questions about faculty alliance you can ask any of us. *Our next meeting is on 9/15 and we have a retreat planned for 10/14 where we will develop our team strategies and themes for this year. And, one other thing is we are working to get the Faculty Initiative Fund RFP out to UA faculty ASAP.*

Highlights from BOR meeting August 30 & 31 in Juneau. All Regents were in attendance, including the newest Regent Seth Church and Student Regent Albiona Selimi. You can find meeting agendas [here](#), and BoardDocs is where you will find minutes and recordings of past meetings. The faculty alliance chair sits on the board's Academic and Student Affairs Committee as ex officio, and a few items discussed were: transferring credits in and between UA universities, an approval of an Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology at University of Alaska Anchorage, information presented on a potential agreement between UAS and Outer Coast College, and accreditation and enrollment updates.

I gave a governance report on the morning of the second day, about What UA faculty did last summer. It was meant to be educational to the Regents and to show off some examples of how active we are even when not in the classroom, and it benefits our students. One thing that is being talked about is a new interpretation or narrowing of the Goals and Measures to [Three Pillars](#). The goals of each university as stated last May would not change but would be characterized (if adopted) as "Reputation Enhancement", "Financial Health and Long Term Stability", and "State and Arctic Leadership". The Regents are planning to hold Special meetings to discuss the Three Pillars in between now and the next BOR meeting in November. The meetings will be public and notice will be posted on their [website](#) once scheduled.