

Report to Faculty Senates
Faculty Alliance Chair
Jennifer Ward
12/1/2023

The Faculty Alliance met on November 17 and our last meeting of the calendar year will be on December 8. As always, please approach your Senate leadership if there is a matter you would like addressed at the Faculty Alliance.

Faculty Initiative Fund

41 proposals were received from across the system and faculty from each university are currently reviewing them. We expect announcements on awarded projects to be given by December 22nd.

Board of Regents matters

The Board met on November 9 and 10 in Anchorage. Because of a snow storm, UAA Campus closed 11/9, so the first day of meetings was conducted over Zoom. The Academic and Student Affairs Committee went into executive session at the end of the day and excluded faculty representation. The Chair is drafting a memo for clarification whether lawful process was followed.

The Board will vote on this [Roadmap to Empower Alaska](#). Please provide your input on the Guiding Principles and System Goals to Alliance leadership by January 15.

The Facilities and Land Management Committee will hold a special meeting on Thursday, December 7, 9a-10a, to receive the UA Land Management Annual Report and an update on the Land Grant Initiative. You can find the agenda [here](#).

Governor Dunleavy has invited Mitch Daniels to present to the UA Board of Regents. Daniels was a former governor of Indiana and a former President of Purdue University and has written extensively on how to revolutionize a university. This will probably be a special meeting in January. [Article about Mitch Daniels in the Chronicle](#).

Shared Governance

The leadership of Faculty Alliance constitutes the Chair (Jennifer Ward) and Chair Elects (Jennie Carroll, UAF, AY25 Chair) and Jackie Cason (UAA, AY26 Chair). Our team meets monthly with President Pitney and VP Paul Layer to bring up concerns and ideas. We have established a process of discussing performance evaluations of executive leadership with the President for a focus on transparency and openness. Chair Ward had a recent meeting with VP Layer and President Pitney on Layer's job performance review and self evaluation and a meeting with Pitney on her self evaluation and the Regents review of her job performance. Both were candid and valuable conversations. Faculty Alliance is moving forward with actions to make this type of review an expected and consistent practice every year.