

Faculty Alliance Minutes  
December 12, 2025  
3:30-5:00 pm  
[Zoom Link](#)

Members

<p><u>UAS</u> Ali Ziegler, President UAS Faculty Senate David Cox, President-Elect UAS Faculty Senate Brian Blitz, Past-President UAS Faculty Senate</p> <p><u>UAF</u> Leah Berman, President UAF Faculty Senate Debu Misra, President-Elect UAF Faculty Senate Jennifer Carroll, Past-President UAF Faculty Senate</p>	<p><u>UAA</u> Matthew Cuellar, President UAA Faculty Senate Megan Ossiander Gobeille, President-Elect UAA Faculty Senate Jackie Cason, Chair, Faculty Alliance and Past-President UAA Faculty Senate</p> <p><u>Ex Officio:</u> Brian Smentkowski, VP and CAO</p> <p><u>Support:</u> Sharon Dayton Noel Romanovsky</p>
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1. Call to order
2. Approval of Agenda  
Leah approves. Matthew seconds.  
Approval of [November Minutes](#)  
Leah approves. Megan seconds.
3. Guests:
4. New Business & Updates
  - a. Check in
  - b. FIF Award distributions complete. Kudos to Sharon Dayton. [2026 FIF Awardees](#)
  - c. Juneau trip–Feb. 25-26. Travel will run from 24-26, with meetings on the ground Wed. and Thurs. See the [Legislative Fly-In](#) folder in the shared drive. We need to work on our [2026 Talking points for legislative visits](#). See also, <https://www.uaafsa.org/> (draft of their legislative priorities below.). The Hotel is reserved and confirmed. Noel will work on the Travel Arrangements in January upon return after the Holiday break.
  - d. President Search Updates. <https://www.alaska.edu/pres/pres-search/>. Feedback window has been extended to 12/19 at 8pm AK time. JT will have the website updated soon.
  - e. Update on Academic Portfolio Analysis following meeting with Regents 12/5 (Brian)
    - i. Summary of Jackie’s notes from the Alliance Chairs discussion with Pres. Pitney regarding PARs not moving forward in February.
      1. The decision to postpone discussion of PARs at the February BOR meeting has something to do with the inherent challenges in holding a meeting in Dillingham. It's not a moratorium on new programs, and there's a possibility for a special meeting between February and May, during which the Board could review new PARs.

2. Framing any new programs as a return on investment and connecting them to recruitment, retention, and graduation goals is a good move. Inputs and outputs need to be balanced as we approach further fiscal tightening, and that's where the point about discontinued programs came up. It's also a good idea to foreground the fact that "new" programs may not be new but may be an adaptive/innovative reconfiguration of existing assets to better meet the needs of students and the workforce. It could be as simple as a new name that better aligns with the language prospective students and professions use to talk about a program.
  3. Faculty do well to prioritize the list of programs accordingly.
  4. The decision to move anything forward still rests with the Provost and Chancellor and what they think they can manage with the resources available. The President is not likely to supersede the authority of campus leadership but is open to further discussion with campus leaders, and that is something Debu emphasized strongly--encouraging the President to let them know they can make arguments in support of particular programs, without arbitrary limits. The goal is to make any proposal strong so that it gains approval.
- f. Update on proposals to increase tuition transparency. (Brian)
- g. Policy Updates [BOR policies [located in shared drive folder](#)].
- i. See [Retirement](#) and [Non-Retention](#) . Any thoughts on feedback or response to the changes?
  - ii. 12 month payroll distribution (9 over 12). An Alliance Joint Resolution was sent Dec. 1, 2025, and receipt has been acknowledged. Thank you to Matt for generating a draft and others for suggested edits.  
[Joint Resolution in Support of a 9-Over-12 Month Pay Distribution Option...](#)  
 I believe we'll see a survey of faculty and staff in the spring to determine the scope of the change.
  - iii. Revise the charge of the common calendar committee? Remove some common calendar stuff (spring break; W deadline)?
    1. [CCC Memo to AC - AY 2029.pdf](#)
    2. [CCC UA calendar proposal AY 2029.xlsx](#)
    3. Link to the [Common Calendar Committee google drive folder](#)  
[Bylaws for Common Calendar Committee-signed 11\\_17\\_2017.pdf](#)
  - iv. Seeking clarity and confirming understanding on promotion risks. According to the [CBA](#) (9.2.4 b), if a faculty member goes up for early tenure and the Chancellor denies them, then the faculty member keeps their job and must wait until their mandatory year to go up for tenure again. However, according to [Chapter 04.04 - Faculty | Board of Regents](#) (scroll to section E), the last sentence says, "If the decision of the chancellor is to deny tenure, the faculty member shall be offered a terminal appointment." I suspect this is not accurate, since P04.04.047C uses the mandatory year language.
  - v. Hiring policies--are these a matter for shared governance?

1. Gökhan Karahan spoke to the UAA Faculty Senate to advocate for Faculty Engagement in Hiring practices. UAA Senate plans to pose a resolution in February (not yet written).
  - a. [Summary of request](#)
  - b. [Hiring Matrix](#)

## 5. Information/Discussion

- a. Academic Council–Charter revision underway (Brian)
- a. System Governance Council reconstituted [System Governance Council Constitution](#). Likely to coordinate legislative priorities and focus on Student First Agenda.
- b.  UAF-Faculty Federal update\_ Department of Education Title III funding.pdf
- c. Board of Regents Updates. See documents in shared drive folder  November 2025
- d. Characterize the *faculty role in enrollment, recruitment, retention, and graduation*.
  - i. Draft:  Resolution 2025/2026-291-3: PATH support
  - ii. Draft:  Faculty Involvement in Recruitment, Retention, and Graduation
  - iii. [Signed UAF resolution](#)
- a. *Paid Consultants*. Consider a resolution or motion requesting that administration consult with Faculty Senates before hiring outside programs/consultants (e.g. Gardner Institute) to conduct analysis. Context: UA has been spending a lot of money hiring outside consultants for various academic and fiscal analysis, even though there is a great deal of internal expertise that could be tapped. We might further resolve that administration.
- b. Academic Freedom Watch–what challenges to academic freedom are we seeing?

## 6. Faculty Senate Reports and Updates

- a. UAA
  - i. Faculty Senate Meeting on 12/5 - half way through the year
  - ii. Waiting for UAA response to the 9 over 12 request (response was “We will work on a response and hoping to have it out to you before the December break.”)
  - iii. Academic computing committee AI statement
  - iv. Faculty engagement in search processes
  - v. Committees working on tasks:
    1. The General Education Council (GEC) reported a new GEC website and an updated Faculty Technology Survey is now available.
    2. ACDLITE is underway on an AI Resource Repository with vetted tools, PD opportunities, a calendar, discussion spaces, and sample syllabus statements. Revisions to the university’s AI Statement Resolution will be brought to the Faculty Senate in February. ACDLITE is also reviewing concerns about agentic AI (AI that acts on a user’s behalf). Institutions may address risks through policy or pressuring LMS vendors to block such tools, though Blackboard/Anthology currently lacks an effective method to detect or prevent them.
    3. For Faculty Senate Diversity Committee, updates were shared on the review process for Intercultural Fluency GE courses.

4. LAC reported progress on textbook affordability grants (now discontinued but being replaced with other OER support), strategic planning efforts, and commendations in UAA's accreditation report. Committee priorities include advocating for library funding, supporting strategic plan engagement, improving social media presence, and boosting community engagement. Meetings will continue on second Mondays at 4:00 p.m.
  5. RCAC continues on collecting university-wide information about research activities.
  6. Currently revising FEPPs, great work being done by ad-hoc committee at UAA.
- b. UAF
- i. Search for CTC dean is in its final stages and CLA dean search is in progress.
  - ii. Search for UAF Chancellor is under a slight pause for the search to dovetail with the President search, with the coordination of search committee WittKieffer
  - iii. Faculty Senate had planned to approve 5 new programs to send to BOR but was stymied by the discussion that (a) no new programs would be approved in February and (b) that BOR is very hesitant to approve many new programs. Faculty Senate will develop and provide a prioritized list of programs to give to the provost to help her determine what UAF's priorities are for proposal of new programs. We hope that there will be a special meeting in April so that any approved new programs can make it into the Fall 2026 catalog, which needs to be finalized in May.
  - iv. We have approved a new minor in Economics and a new Graduate Certificate in Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation, which do not need BOR approval.
  - v. Faculty Senate passed a resolution expressing significant concerns with the Barnes & Noble Bookstore bundle.
  - vi. A motion is expected in February concerning a major change to curriculum, allowing all courses to double-count across GER, degree, major, and minor requirements, with the exception of 12 separated credits in the BA.
  - vii. The provost laid off roughly half the staff (14 staff) at the Center for Teaching and Learning and offered different contracts in different departments/areas to other staff, taking the department from 31 positions initially. CTL will also have a different reporting structure. Faculty and staff were quite upset about the process that was used for this restructuring.
- c. UAS
- i. Search for a new Dean of Career Ed is underway.
  - ii. Working on drafting a resolution to the compact and go from there.
  - iii. Having major issues with banner that appear to be impacting our enrollments due to the course search feature specifically

Day (Friday, 3:30 to 5 pm unless otherwise noted)	Tentative Agenda Items
August 22, 2025	IT Security: Jeannette Okinczyc, Ben Shier
September 12, 2025	Student Regent, Fernando Escobar Megan Buzby, Common Calendar Committee Identify FIF Reviewers Discussion Items
<p>Saturday, October 25, 2025 - FTF Strategic planning</p> <p>AI Resources scattered (just a few examples):  <a href="#">Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) at UA University GenAI Policies and Guidelines</a>    <a href="#">Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) at UA The State of AI at UAF: Fall 2025 Guides: Academic Integrity &amp; AI: Artificial Intelligence (AI)</a>  <a href="#">Generative AI Security Standard   Office of Information Technology</a>  <a href="#">AI Resources   Information Technology Services   University of Alaska Anchorage</a>  <a href="#">Generative AI Guidance</a> (UAS)</p>	<p>Introductions. Brunch with Regents</p> <p>Legislative priorities and plan to schedule meetings. [identify committees, legislation, and legislators we might want to prioritize. Ex. HB9, 10/SB118 (regent), 12, 23, 28, 29, 30, 34, 57, 69, 76, 88, 98, 165, 176, HJR24....Textbook Cost Transparency Act]</p> <p>Thought Leaders Forum or alternative for telling our stories in ways that reach a public audience</p> <p>Tie our stories to the attainment framework—what is the faculty role in enrollment, recruitment, retention, and graduation? Value propositions.</p> <p>Discuss definitions of shared governance and practices to foster effectual shared governance at the senate and alliance levels</p> <p>AI Steering Council</p>
November 14, 2025	<p>Determine Juneau F-T-F dates for February/March Begin planning process Notify Noel of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Full legal name.</li> <li>● Confirmation of dates</li> </ul>
December 12, 2025	
January 9, 2026	
February 13, 2026	
March 20, 2026	Adjusted to be after spring break by one week
April 10, 2026	
May 8, 2026	

## Legislative Priorities

1. BOR budget—adequate funding, student success
2. Funding for scholarships—Fully fund APS
3. Capital funding—deferred maintenance.
4. UAA Annual funding “Fix and Repair” \$4-6m.

HB 10 ADD FACULTY MEMBER UNIV BOARD OF REGENT (Carrick)

HB 28 TEACHER/STATE EMPLOYEE STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM (Story)

*retention*

HB 29 SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE (Vance and Costello)

HB 34 ESTABLISH THE ALASKA INNOVATION COUNCIL (Holland)

**HB 78** DEFINED BENEFITS –TRANSMITTED TO SENATE FINANCE

HB 88 TUITION WAIVERS-(Eischeid)

HB 176 STUDENT FEES-(Carrick)

SB 5 SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE. (Hughes)

**SB 28** RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPTION (Giessel)-COMMITTEE

SB 118 FACULTY REGENT (Senate State Affairs)

SB 107 ALASKA SUNSET COMMISSION (Hughes, Kaufman)

SB 157 STUDENT FEES NOTICE (Gray-Jackson)

GO Bond for deferred maintenance?

Defined Benefits legislation

Supplemental budget

Hiring new UAA Chancellor- delayed

Governor Election -2026