

Faculty Alliance Minutes  
November 14, 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
  3. No Meeting Minutes of Retreat in Anchorage
  4. Guests: Jeanette Okincyc  
Security Updates: Security Awareness Training 91% completed the training. Popular was to test out the training. Changes to DUO notifications - the text message function will go away. Phone calls will be disconnected. These changes will take place after December 18th. Reduction of phishing e-mails.
  5. New Business & Updates
    - a. Check in and Retreat debrief
    - b. Update on AI Council (Jennie)  
Should be an AI policy in the Syllabus.
    - c. Updates on chancellor and provost searches at UAF (Leah)  
President Pitney has announced her retirement. They have engaged an outside firm for the President search. Provost search is on hold until the Chancellor search is completed.
    - d. FIF Reviewers met and made selections. Award recipients should be notified this week. Sharon Dayton finished the formal request memo to President Pitney. Jackie is preparing a thank you message for reviewers that invites constructive feedback.  
 Memo President FIF 2025-6.docx.pdf ; [2026 FIF Awardees](#)
- Excellent job everyone working so well together. A much smoother process.

- e. Review dates for 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 . Debu will lead on Juneau planning, with scheduling help from Mike Davis. Who can help with priorities? Notify Noel of the following: Full legal name. Confirmation and travel dates.
6. Old Business and Policy Discussions
- a. Update on campus discussions regarding accelerated bachelor degrees. [V714: Commission Opens Process for Accelerated Bachelor’s Degrees - NWCCU](#). (Matt/Ali)
  - b. Policy Updates [BOR policies [located in shared drive folder](#)]
    - i. Alliance Response to proposed changes to Protection of Minors policy.  Alliance Response to Protection of Minors Regulation .docx.pdf [Redline](#). [Clean Copy](#). A revision has not yet been shared.
    - ii.  Audit&Compliance\_Services (Response deadline is Nov. 3, 2025). No comment submitted.
    - iii. 12 month payroll distribution (9 over 12)
      - 1.  FS Resolution for 12 Month Pay  
Nickole Conley, CHRO, replied by email to my question on this issue in a meeting with President Pitney: “I sent my team an email to get a better understanding of the challenges with deferred pay (9 months over 12 months). Currently, we have this as a potential project, but it needs more vetting and a better understanding. As I mentioned, if implemented it would be at minimum a year out. As soon as I have more details, I will be sure to share them.”
    - iv. Common calendar committee proposal not yet taken up at Academic Council
      - 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
    - v. Hiring policies–are these a matter for shared governance?
      - 1. [Search Committee Decision Matrix](#) presented at Faculty Alliance
      - 2. *Visa Sponsorship decisions for International faculty and administrator hiring*. Former Alliance Chair, Gokhan Karahan, has questioned widespread use of the following language: "To be eligible for this position, applicants must be legally authorized to work in the United States without restriction. Applicants who now or may in the future require visa sponsorship to work in the United States are not eligible." According to Nickole Conley, "When a department initiates a recruitment, they are asked whether the position is eligible for visa sponsorship, this is generally based on the funding source for the position. If the department indicates “no,” the language is added to the posting. If they indicate “yes,” no additional language is included."

7. 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
  - i. Faculty speaking time reduced
  - ii. No mention of Compact
  - iii. Regent Escobar offered an amendment to the proposed tuition increase, requesting a 4% hike rather than 3%, with the *intent* to increase funding for student mental health.
  - iv. Metrics established for the Systemwide Attainment Framework. See recent update and proposed metrics, which mention faculty only in relation to Navigate training.  Ad Hoc Committee for Recruitment, Retention, and Graduation
  - v.  Roadmap to Empower Alaska - Strategic Priority Tracking Worksheet - G... was reviewed, and there was a challenge regarding whether the public awareness campaign was complete.
- 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
- 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?

8. Faculty Senate Reports and Updates

- a. UAA
- b. UAF
  - i.
- c. UAS - accreditation is ongoing, site visits in spring. We’re still determining how we’ll respond to the compact. Education Pathways, B.A. passed final review in the senate. We are having some major issues with banner and course searches that appear to be impacting our enrollments. Tips to improve senator engagement?

AY 25- 26 Calendar

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>
<p>November 14, 2025</p>	<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>
<p>December 12, 2025</p>	
<p>January 9, 2026</p>	
<p>February 13, 2026</p>	
<p>March 20, 2026</p>	<p>Adjusted to be after spring break by one week</p>
<p>April 10, 2026</p>	
<p>May 8, 2026</p>	