

Faculty Alliance Minutes
January 9, 2026
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
Approved
Approval of [December Minutes](#)
Approved
3. Guests: [Introductions as needed]
 - a. Luke Fulp, Chief Finance Officer, accompanied by Cathy Ewing and Vickie Gilligan from the Financial Systems team to help us better understand a finance project designed to achieve greater tuition transparency.
 - b. Nickole Conley, Chief Human Resources Officer, to field questions regarding pay distribution and any other HR questions that might arise. RE:
 [Joint Resolution in Support of a 9-Over-12 Month Pay Distribution Option for Fac...](#)
4. New Business & Updates
 - a. Check in
 - b. 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.
 - c. Legislative priorities discussed with President Pitney. The budget will be constrained; many will be looking ahead to re-election; though the dividend may face the end of days soon, it will likely be prominent in legislative budget negotiations; need to emphasize that

we're operating responsibly, growing enrollment, preparing future leaders and employees, and meeting workforce needs. The healthcare bills will be an important option for the university. Salary is as important as defined benefits vs defined contributions.

- d. President Search Updates will continue to originate from this site, with the latest news being the distribution of the position profile. <https://www.alaska.edu/pres/pres-search/>.
- e. Program proposals can move forward after the February BOR meeting upon provosts and chancellors request.
- f. Policy Updates [BOR policies [located in shared drive folder](#)]. Go to this folder—[Human Resource Regulations--Affirmative Action Adjustments](#)—to view proposed changes to R04.07, R04.02.010, and R04.03.010 in response to changes in affirmative action policy. The review period runs January 5, 2026, through February 6, 2026.
 - i. 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

5. Information/Discussion

- a. Academic Council—Charter revision underway. Will there be any further consideration of Common Calendar proposals? (Brian) [Next meeting scheduled for Jan. 13].
 - i.  CCC Memo to AC - AY 2029.pdf
 - ii.  CCC UA calendar proposal AY 2029.xlsx
 - iii. Link to [Common Calendar Committee google drive folder](#)
 Bylaws for Common Calendar Committee-signed 11_17_2017.pdf
- b.  UAF-Faculty Federal update_ Department of Education Title III funding.pdf
- c. Characterize the *faculty role in enrollment, recruitment, retention, and graduation*.
 - i. Draft:  Faculty Involvement in Recruitment, Retention, and Graduation
- a. PATH. Consider system-wide adoption of PATH, a software module provided by Leepfrog, the company that makes CourseLeaf, for course search and course registration. See [Signed UAF resolution](#)
- b. *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.

6. Faculty Senate Reports and Updates

- a. UAA
 - i. No new updates, we do not meet in January, but here is what E-Board is working on this week
 1. Academic Integrity Study - Faculty and students are aligning efforts to assess AI at UAA by replicating a study conducted by faculty a few years back.

2. Elections - We are gearing up for our election cycle and we are hoping that we can have the process completed by 2/13 so we can give our incoming senators adequate time to negotiate workloads.
 3. Faculty Hiring - We are working with faculty across campus to prepare a resolution on the role of faculty in tenure-track and non tenure-track search processes.
 4. Still awaiting a response regarding 9 over 12 (we were told it should come before winter break).
- b. UAF - No meeting until February; no updates.
- c. UAS - no new updates (we don't meet in January)

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
Saturday, October 25, 2025 - FTF Strategic planning AI Resources scattered (just a few examples): Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) at UA University GenAI Policies and Guidelines Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) at UA The State of AI at UAF: Fall 2025 Guides: Academic Integrity & AI: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Generative AI Security Standard Office of Information Technology AI Resources Information Technology Services University of Alaska Anchorage Generative AI Guidance (UAS)	<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</p> <p>Begin planning process</p> <p>Notify Noel of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Full legal name.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of dates
December 12, 2025	
January 9, 2026	Guests: Luke Fulp, Nickole Conley
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