

Faculty Alliance Minutes  
December 8, 2023  
3:30-5:00 pm

Members

<p><u>UAS</u> <b>Jennifer Ward</b>, Chair, Faculty Alliance, <b>Glenn Wright</b>, President UAS Faculty Senate, <b>Brian Blitz</b>, UAS Faculty Senate President-Elect</p> <p><u>UAF</u> <b>Jennifer Carroll</b>, President, UAF Faculty Senate; Chair-Elect, Faculty Alliance <b>Abel Bult-Ito</b>, UAF President-Elect <b>Ataur Chowdhury</b>, Past President, UAF Faculty Senate</p>	<p><u>UAA</u> <b>Jackie Cason</b>, 1st VP, UAA Faculty Senate <b>Ian Hartman</b>, Past President UAA Faculty Senate LuAnn Piccard, President, UAA Faculty Senate</p> <p><u>Ex Officio:</u> <b>Paul Layer</b>, Vice President ASA</p> <p><u>Support:</u> <b>Sharon Dayton</b> <b>Noel Romanovsky</b> <b>Mary Burnham</b></p>
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1. Call to order (3:32pm)
2. Approval of Agenda  
Abel made a motion to approve and Ian seconded.
3. Approval of Meeting [Minutes November 17](#)  
Abel made a motion to approve and Brian seconded.
4. Old Business
  - a. Update on Faculty Initiative Fund (FIF) (Sharon, JW)
    - i. The reviewers are in the process of reviewing the 42 proposals, which there are 30 Tier I and 12 Tier II. A couple fully reviewed have been received, however, at the FIF Review meeting on Friday, December 15th all the reviewers a discussion will take place and the reviewers can present their cases for the ones they feel should be approved; if there are questionable ones; and/or the ones that don't make the cut.
    - ii. An investigation to see if any unspent funds from previous FIF awards can be spent, which would allow more than \$360,000 to be awarded. At the same time, some of the recent awardees are questioning whether they can have an extension to their 12-month deadline in order to spend their awards. A brief discussion yielded: it would be nice if funds are not used get rolled over; if an extension is allowed it is to the end of the semester (preferable) or to the end of the fiscal year so the books can be closed; leave the 12 month (one year) deadline in place but allow awardees to ask for an extension; and finally, it could be changed from, for example, one student to another as long as it's within the scope, in the spirit, and it's within the workload of the original proposal. However, if the awardee wants to change something drastically they will need approval from their dean.

- b. [Draft memo](#) / process ASA  
No changes are necessary to the memo, which will be placed on letterhead, signed, and then posted to the Faculty Alliance site. However, there was a reminder that what is discussed in an executive session is that “we are not supposed to talk about what took place in the executive session outside of the executive session,” but “you can express your voice in the room. Some accrediting agencies do not want the discussion of the results aired in public until they issue a final report.
  - c. [Roadmap to Empower Alaska](#) – Guiding Principles, System Goals – comments to Paul Layer by mid Jan / Feb 1, from faculty Senates.
    - i) Requests for feedback have been requested by January. One comment was that the “Pillars” did not say anything about education or the academic mission. It does say “essential to education , research, and workforce,” but instead of saying “State and Arctic leadership” it should say something like “excellence in teaching and research at the university.” Maybe add a fourth pillar or add to the pillar on quality and reputation and have it read “Quality Education.” Feedback, which will be reviewed at the January meeting, should state that education should be a pillar for the university
    - ii) The Roadmap is translated from the original Goals and Measures. Some faculty alliance discussion on there needing to be a more educational focus, but also as a high-level plan we may choose to not spend much time on it.
  - d. Regents [Reading List](#) (shall we revisit, share again with the new group of Regents?)  
The Regent’s Reading List has been included in the orientation packets for all the new regents and maybe they can be reminded that it is part of their packet.
5. New Business
- a. Check-in Academic Council – next meeting 12/14  
Question: Is there an agenda for this meeting? Response: If there is anything that is going through the Faculty Alliance leadership regarding academic program approval, input from the senates needs to be submitted. Agenda items are still being collected from the Provost and others who might want to discuss some items, so no agenda is set but will be out fairly soon.
  - b. Scheduling spring meetings  
One Friday each of the months from 3:30 to 5 pm: January 12th; February 9th; March 8th; April 12th; and May 10th.
  - c. Legislative visits dates  
After a discussion of which dates would work best for everyone and when the legislators would be available for meetings, the Legislative Retreat schedule is: Fairbanks and Anchorage alliance members fly to Juneau on Tuesday, February 27, 2024; alliance members meeting the morning of Wednesday, February 28th; meet with legislators Wednesday afternoon and all day on Thursday, February 29th; and finally Fairbanks and Anchorage alliance members will fly out Thursday, February 29, 2024.
  - d. Introduction: Mary Burnham, new Governance Administrative Support  
Mary was introduced, then Mary spoke briefly about herself.
  - e. Other
6. Faculty Senate Reports

All three of the senates are addressing the Administrative review process and how to proceed concerning Israel and Palestine, especially on whether it is appropriate for this to be addressed by the Faculty Senates.

**UAA** - A resolution was passed to the Provost to not renew the current contract with Anthology's IDEA survey instrument, which is used to gather students feedback on teaching effectiveness, and the senate has set about a process for developing alternatives. A resolution was also passed to pursue re-upping the Carnegie classification as a community engaged campus. Events on campus to build community continue to be scheduled. They are broadly addressing partnerships to connect together faculty, staff, and administrative team members. Finally, an ad hoc committee was approved to pursue the possibility of increasing the level of internationalization on the UAA campus.

**UAS** - Continuing a relationship with Gardener Institute, which looks at disadvantaged students and student's achievement, especially in the first year or 2 of student engagement. In the future, dig more deeply into student retention efforts. The other item that emerged on the radar recently is that a little bit of a battle with the registrar and financial aid offices around scheduling courses that overlap between the spring and summer terms, especially in the outdoor studies program. Hopefully, some discussions and compromises will be worked out for the students. Finally,

**UAF** - The first item that passed, is that UAF will be a test blind institution, meaning that they are no longer requiring ACTs or SATs for admission. However, they will look at them for placement and the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) still requires ACTs or SATs. It is going to have to be made very clear to those students enrolling that they still have to take the exam(s). Depending on legislation regarding reforming the APS, testing requirements may possibly change as well as upping the amount. The second item finally officially formulated and established some language for the synchronous courses in terms of cataloging how many minutes you have to meet, how much work has to be done to define a credit. Upcoming we have the Gardener Institute and the 5 year academic planning to address. In process are 2 items: starting with creating a strategic plan and making action plans to implement it, there are 5 committees and 4 strategic goals; then there is the Research 1 (R1) status initiative which has 9 goals and 9 working groups. with one working group is concentrating on retaining and attracting excellent faculty.