

Minutes
Faculty Alliance
May 12, 2023
3:30 - 5:30 pm
[Zoom Recording](#)
Passcode: @Ry2.a4E

Members:

Gökhan Karahan, Past President, UAA Faculty Senate; Chair, Faculty Alliance – absent
Ian Hartman, President, UAA Faculty Senate – absent
LuAnn Piccard, 1st Vice President, UAA Faculty Senate – arrived later
Sandra Wildfeuer, Past President, UAF Faculty Senate – absent
Ataur Chowdhury, President, UAF Faculty Senate
Jennifer Carroll, President, UAF Faculty Senate
Jennifer Ward, President, UAS Faculty Senate
Glenn Wright, President-Elect, UAS Faculty Senate – absent
Andrea Dewees, Past President, UAS Faculty Senate

New Members:

Abel Bult-Ito, UAF President-Elect
Jackie Cason, UAA

Staff:

Possible Guests: Vice President **Paul Layer**, **Tara Ferguson**, **Heather Arana**, **Jackie Cason**, **Abel Bult-Ito**, Ryan Henderson

I. Call to Order

A. Approval of Agenda

Abel approves the agenda. Jackie seconds.

B. Approval of the April 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes

There was no quorum and the meeting was to go on as a discussion with no formal actions or votes. They would wait for Luann to show up for a quorum. Jennifer Ward took over the meeting as the incoming chair.

II. New Business

A. Jennifer Ward becomes the new FA Chair

B. Healthcare Premium Payment Changes

There haven't been healthcare raises for 7 years. There was an over recovery to make up for the difference by employees who don't use their health care rebate. Healthcare costs have been rising steadily since 2012. On average, healthcare costs go up 6%-8% a year and we are just under 5%. The plan continues to grow and we need to manage it. Contracted faculty brought up that they pay their premium plus an additional 40% and that wasn't communicated clearly for those who are not working the entire year and on 9 month contracts. We have moved to a premium payment on a pay period by pay period basis. You will pay for pay periods that you are covered and only for pay periods that you are covered. This is an active disagreement that may lead to a grievance. Michelle Pope stated that their CHRO Memry is aware and it's a priority to fix this within the system tools. Jennie Carroll said that this is an old issue for the last 20 years and it hasn't been addressed. HR has solutions and will help communicate that to staff.

- C. FA Responses to [Budget-Related Memos](#) and [Draft Memos](#) (Andrea Dewees) - Luann showed up to the meeting and they got a quorum. Abel moved to approve of the Memo as is. Jennie Carroll seconded the motion. 5 yes votes, so it passes. Andrea will put on the Faculty Alliance letterhead and Noel offered to help. Abel moved to approve the agenda. Jackie Cason seconded the motion. Abel moved to approve the membership. Jackie seconded. Membership updated.
- D. [Memo to the BOR \(Signatures\)](#) - memo sent to the Board. It was affirming the Faculty Alliance participation in the governance of the University.
- E. Better Process for Introducing New Programs - Gokhan believed that UAA did not have enough time to review the new program. There was discussion and support of the Faculty Alliance to speak up and let their voice be heard.
- F. [GK's Final Comments to UAA FS](#) - Abel stated that they are working on a memo that more discussion can ensue before the decision is implemented to change the advising guidelines. They would have students who have less than 30 credits to have an advisor signature. Basically, students can be on their own after their first year of classes which could potentially have disastrous consequences and this was not done in collaboration with the Faculty Senate at all. This may impact student completion and retention. Conversions continue with the Provosts. Faculty felt like they were not a part of the conversation. They want to be engaged in the process and not dictated. Advisors were also not consulted. Others were informed and not consulted. It should've been worked out with the Faculty Senate and some other groups. It appears to be a violation of our Governance and

disenfranchises every level of the University. . Jackie Cason stated that there is a group that was working on a new advising plan. It's the Student Success Advisory Council. Jennie Carroll said they would like to get the Faculty Senate more involved and to be cohesive in their decision making and participation. The discussion will continue at a later date.

- G. Resolution Recognizing Dr. Andrea Dewees - Jennifer Ward read the resolution and Abel moved to vote for unanimous consent and it was approved. The resolution will be signed and put in the records.
- H. Resolution Recognizing Sandra Wildfeuer - Jennifer Ward read the resolution honoring Sanda and Abel moved for unanimous consent. It was approved.
- I. Resolution Recognizing Dr. Gokhan Karahan - Jennifer Ward read the resolution honoring Dr. Karahan for his strong advocacy, commitment, and support for all levels of shared governance of the University system and Faculty Alliance. Abel moved for unanimous consent and it was approved.

III. Old Business

A.

IV. Informational

A.

V. Senate Reports

- A. UAA - LuAnn provided a brief update on the UAA Commencement Ceremony. They had their officer commissioning for ROTC and they closed out in a positive way. Jackie Cason reported that they will have a replacement governance coordinator, Grace Gallagher.
- B. UAF - Ataur reported that the Senate has new leadership. They had an issue with the students' remote sign up during the second week of registration and now we are asking that before they sign up to have the provision of the instructor for the course they are going to sign up for any level below 300. One new thing is that they are going to transit from the Blackboard to the Canvas. We don't have an option.
- C. UAS - They are on an electronic online faculty evaluation now. Glenn is the incoming president and we don't have a president at this time. We will work on it in August. Jennifer Ward asked if Gokhan submitted a report to the Board of Regents. Jennifer will present it to the Board. She is presenting to the Academic Student Affairs. Paul Layer thanked outgoing Alliance Members and welcomed incoming Members. They will talk about the Faculty Initiative Fund when

Jennifer presents to the Academic Student Affairs. There will be \$360,000 for FY24. 61 awards over 4 years and it's been successful.

VI. Adjourn

Future Meeting - discussion about future meetings. Jennifer Ward will contact Alliance Members in July. It was decided that meetings will be held on Fridays From 3:30-5:00 PM.