

Faculty Alliance Minutes

September 29, 2023

3:30-5pm

[Zoom Recording](#)

Passcode: 0!v.U5ID

Members

<p><u>UAS</u> Jennifer Ward, Chair, Faculty Alliance, Glenn Wright, President UAS Faculty Senate, Brian Blitz, UAS Faculty Senate President-Elect</p> <p><u>UAF</u> Jennifer Carroll, President, UAF Faculty Senate; Chair-Elect, Faculty Alliance Abel Bult-Ito, UAF President-Elect Ataur Chowdhury, Past President, UAF Faculty Senate</p>	<p><u>UAA</u> Jackie Cason, 1st VP, UAA Faculty Senate Ian Hartman, Past President UAA Faculty Senate LuAnn Piccard, President, UAA Faculty Senate</p> <p><u>Ex Officio:</u> Paul Layer, Vice President ASA</p> <p><u>Support:</u> Sharon Dayton Noel Romanovsky</p> <p><u>Guests:</u> Teri Cothren, Assoc VP Workforce Development Megan Buzby, Professor Mathematics, Common Calendar Committee</p>
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1. Call to order (3:30)
2. Land acknowledgment —
3. Approval of [September 15 minutes/notes](#) (fyi re: minutes JW)
4. Guest: Teri Cothren, UA Workforce Reports (3:45-4pm) - Overview of 11 workforce industries reports. Basically, they show employment outcomes and it shows that education pays. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) comes from the Department of Labor (DOL), UA has 46% of programs on the list. There is additional financial help. Career Coach connects students to high-demand jobs throughout Alaska. They want to increase usage of this program. Handshake is another resource that helps increase connections, strengthens partnerships, and tracks graduation outcomes. Discussion about doing an Alaska Native employment hiring report; not just by industry but by groups. There are opportunities for other types of reports. It would be a good recruiting tool to show what a UA degree can do for individuals. Question about what is being done for the mining industry and Teri said that there are workforce shortages across every industry. There is strong competition among the various industries for employees. Another question was whether some employers step in and financially support employees to further their education. Teri said companies like Donlin Gold do that right now. The funding is there and we need to connect the students to those resources. Teri offered to share her presentation slides. A question about how workforce development is lining up with accreditation standards. Paul said there is coordination across the system but each university tracks their own employment as well. The Biden Administration just dropped the painful employment and financial transparency guideline requirements. UA is looking at how that affects the system and meets the needs to comply with it. Discussion on certifications and how that is impacted continued. Demonstrating

their value is important and DOL is good about tracking employment. There is time to figure out what will be done.

5. Guest: Megan Buzby, Common Calendar Committee update (4-4:15pm) - the committee recommends 7 dates at the start of the semester like start date, add/drop date, and withdrawal date. HR handles the winter holiday portion. They share the calendar with the school districts, registrars, and are set 2 years out. Regent policy was shared for calendar requirements. UA does their best to coordinate with the districts. One challenge is when HR wants faculty to go on contract. That has to be coordinated with the academic calendar. This will be brought to the Academic Council at the November meeting and shared with the registrar to get into the academic catalogs. Accommodations for students taking classes across the system are done on a case by case basis for classes with schedule conflicts. Bylaws were shared with the alliance on the common calendar committee.
6. Approval of today's agenda? Any changes or additions? - no changes or additions to the agenda and the agenda was approved.
7. BOR August and special meetings - Special meeting for contracting practices of the university; going over processes and how it's handled. Another meeting was on the pillars of excellence; reputational excellence, long term financial stability, and State and Arctic leadership. The conversation steered towards making UA a better institution, less reliance on State funding, and making UAF a R1 University. UAS's focus on marine initiatives, mining, drone, oil recovery. It ended with talks on recruitment and marketing and increasing graduation and retention rates. One Regent asked the Faculty Alliance the following questions; What can faculty do to increase graduation rates for first generation students? What can faculty do to improve faculty experience? Discussion on the special meetings and questions ensued. Faculty are doing more with less and they need competitive pay and benefits to recruit and retain faculty. Investment is needed. The R1 status would bring in more money with research dollars. Land grants didn't come up but they are looking at conveyance. There are innovative approaches to reach students already being done and that is not conveyed well. We have a different population than the lower 48 and we have strategies in place to increase retention and recruitment of students. Student Success Convening is something we established to share efforts of what is working with our students. We have new board members and bringing them up to speed is something we have to work on. Faculty need the resources to meet the increased expectations. A need for a faculty Regent came up. It is up to administrators to educate the board of regents. It's hard to communicate the needs in a 2 day board meeting. Networking and talking with the board would be welcomed by faculty. They can be invited to meetings. Questions about onboarding new regents came up. The time is brief to onboard new board members. History of the Institution should be part of the onboarding process. Spending 1-3 hours on learning the history would be valuable. Faculty could do a workshop or a team of faculty to create something to educate them.
8. Faculty Initiative Fund update
  - a. Reviewer names at our October 27 meeting - bring reviews and agree as a group on them and begin the process of reviewing right after that.
9. Legislative Citations for Faculty - more talks when Luanne is here.
10. Academic Integrity update (Jennie) - There is an agreement that all faculty senates bring something forward. There was enthusiastic and positive feedback so far. Discussion about policies and how they are written occurred.

11. Alliance Committee Reports

- a. CCC (see item #5 Buzby)
- b. ANSI Update (Dr. Carrie Aldrich said interviews were completed six weeks ago). - It's in President Pitney's hands now to make a decision.

12. Senate Reports

- a. UAA (Jackie) -
- b. UAF (Jennie) - AI policy, hiring, test optional admissions, and accreditation visit next week.
- c. UAS (Glenn)

13. Retreat planning, [draft agenda for retreat](#) -