

GOVERNANCE REPORT

December 2012



Coalition of Student Leaders

Shauna Thornton, Speaker

The Coalition will be attending our annual President's Retreat November 16 and 17 in Anchorage. We will be training for our upcoming legislative session by reviewing the university budget. We will also become further educated on the Strategic Direction Initiative (SDI) and discuss strategies for advocating for the university to maximize our message.

We are putting together a photograph calendar for the legislators and will be sending them out as invitations for this year's legislative affairs session in February.

We are finishing our campus brochures and getting our marketing materials out to the campuses. We will be taking a group photo for the Stay on Track program at our retreat. In addition, we are in the process of holding elections for the student regent and Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education representative positions.

The Coalition of Student Leaders president has started a blog and is actively posting information to the Coalition of Student Leaders Facebook page. Our student outreach numbers are steadily growing. We are spreading the word to students about the coalition page so that they can post achievements and news in their areas of study.

Shauna Thornton has been a member of the KRC Student Union for several years, and a member of the Coalition of Student Leaders for the past two years. She successfully led the KRCSU to rally against cuts to the campus budget saving the campus hundreds of thousands of dollars, and was one of the leaders in Juneau for need based financial aid.



Staff Alliance

Juella Sparks, Chair

Most importantly, thank you for approving President Gamble's recommendation of a 3.25% compensation increase for non-represented staff, noted in his memorandum to staff dated November 1.

Activities by Staff Alliance to date include:

- Participation in the recruitments within the Governance Office
- Creation and launch of a working group to think "outside the box" and work with the administration on methods of compensation for staff
- Creation and launch of an ad hoc committee to work with the administration and review Regents 04.08 Dispute and Grievance Resolution

- Creation and launch of the Staff Alliance blog as a communication tool to our constituents

Activities to come:

- Analysis and dissemination of the results of our Staff Work/Life Balance Survey
- Determination of actions to be taken in response to the results of our Staff Work/Life Balance Survey
- Upon receipt of the administration's performance evaluation form and process, create an ad hoc group to seek and collect feedback to provide the administration

Juella Sparks was born and raised in Alaska and graduated from UAF with a B.B.A. in Management. After several years working for the state and starting a family, she came back to the university to work for Cooperative Extension Service in December, 2002. She was active in student government and moved quickly to being active in staff governance at UAF. In her words, "I am looking forward to working with Staff Alliance and the System Governance Council to strengthen our UA system, especially with two teenagers contemplating post-secondary education." Juella has in past years served as Staff Alliance vice chair 2007-2009, chair of the System Governance Council 2008-2009 as well as president of the UAF Staff Council 2008-2009.



Faculty Alliance Cathy Cahill, Chair

Faculty Alliance met three times since our last written report. The main issues addressed during our meetings included: the UA Strategic Directions Initiative (SDI), Complete College America (CCA), the System Governance Office, the E-laboratory Task Force recommendations, General Education Requirements (GERs) across MAUs, common placement and cut scores, and the uniformity of course

management systems and other informational technology systems. The outcomes of these discussions are as follows:

- 1) SDI – Faculty Alliance is currently evaluating the proposed SDI themes and questions to determine if they are appropriate and/or missing key factors. We will provide recommendations to the administration by November 30th, the requested deadline.
- 2) CCA – Faculty Alliance was delighted by President Gamble's response to Governor Parnell. We feel that he well captured the faculty's resistance to being tied to a method of instructional accountability that did not adequately address the Alaska-specific needs of our students and the strong programs we have already implemented to improve our students' success.
- 3) System Governance Office – Excellent progress has been made on filling the very important position of Executive Officer. The search for the support staff required to support this position also is moving forward. We look forward to having these positions filled and thank those serving on the search committees for their thoughtful consideration of the applicants and our needs.
- 4) E-laboratory Task Force – The recommendations from the Task Force are being discussed at UAA. If the UAA Faculty Senate proposes changes to the recommendations, the other two MAUs will evaluate the suggested revisions and potentially negotiate the final recommendations. The current discussion at UAA is centered around: 1) the importance of

courses being modern and 2) insuring that these courses are properly assessed in terms of what is actually taught in the classroom.

- 5) GERs – Faculty Alliance, in conjunction with Vice President Thomas, are proposing to hold an Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU) Institute at UA. The current proposal is to bring together 10 people from each MAU at UAA in January for a two day institute focused on commonality, best practices, and shared experiences among the MAUs. We expect this institute to address across-MAU areas of concern and identify areas the MAUs can come together to streamline processes for students.
- 6) Common placement and cut scores – Faculty from English at the MAUs are working on developing common placement and cut scores for similar classes across the MAUs. We expect that Math will follow suit. This effort is expected to produce a published list of classes and their associated placement and cut scores. This list should remove students' confusion about cut and placement scores across the MAUs.
- 7) Informational Technology – Faculty Alliance is working with the Faculty Senates of the three MAUs to determine how faculty feel about changing the course management software.

President Gamble has engaged the Faculty Alliance on a wide variety of topics through a continuing dialog during Faculty Alliance meetings. We appreciate his willingness to work with us on advancing the educational mission of the University.

In summary, the Faculty Alliance is addressing issues of importance to the University, such as student success and inter-MAU cooperation, and is ready to assist the UA Administration in tackling other issues of concern to the University.

Dr. Catherine F. Cahill is an Associate Professor of Chemistry at the University of Alaska Fairbanks where she teaches a wide variety of classes ranging from undergraduate General and Physical Chemistry to graduate Environmental Chemistry. Cathy also mentors undergraduate and graduate students, conducts cutting-edge research on atmospheric aerosols, develops payloads for unmanned aircraft systems, and contributes her professional expertise to professional, public, and university needs.