

System Governance Report

April 2013



Coalition of Student Leaders

Shauna Thornton, Speaker

The student leaders began several projects during our recent Legislative Affairs Conference. It is sheer magic when a talented group of students gets together—the outcomes are genius.

Each of the active Coalition campuses focused on the “I support the budget of the University of Alaska” campaign. We anticipate a large volume of postcards to forward to our legislators. We promoted the message by placing tables in our common areas and by the use of Facebook and flyers. In addition, we made calls to legislative meetings and wrote letters to the editor. We encourage all registered voters to do the same.

- Student leaders are currently attending meetings: System Governance, Stay on Track, Tuition Task Force, SDI and ITEC and offering feedback and assistance to promote the message to the university students statewide
- Progress is taking place toward a final draft of the Coalition brochure with the first draft completed
- Students are working with veteran groups to encourage intercampus collaboration and joint projects
- We are providing input on the SDI Effects Statements in addition to working with Paula Donson’s office to give feedback and assistance with the SDI phase three roll out
- The use of Facebook has broadened our voice; individuals following the Facebook page grew from 85 to 165 during this academic year
- We are planning the dates and location for our summer summit

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

Staff Alliance will hold our spring retreat the week after spring break in Anchorage. Our agenda is packed as we hope to launch or conclude several initiatives by the end of the semester. Agenda items include:

- SDI: Review and provide feedback on Effects Statements and more
- Review several proposals by our compensation working group and prepare a communication plan to get feedback from all staff
- Finalize response to staff on the employee work/life survey; President Gamble will join us for part of this conversation
- Continue discussions of the grievance process review

- Develop plan to gather feedback on Regents' Policy and University Regulation

Finally, it has been an active year with clouds on the horizon. Staff Alliance is watching the budget challenges nationally and within our state. Our hope is that the four primary stakeholders of the university can face them together. Only with the administration, faculty, staff and students working together can we get through these challenges a better and stronger university.

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 continues to address issues important to UA and our students. These issues include:

- Evaluating the SDI proposed Effects Statements to ensure that the statements capture the changes that we want to accomplish.
- Assembling a nine-member committee called the General Education Learning Outcomes Committee (GELO). GELO is composed of three faculty members from each MAU who will come together via videoconferencing and in person meetings to address common learning outcomes and general education requirements across the system.
- Examining the possibility for uniformity across MAUs on what grades satisfy prerequisite, core/general education, and degree requirements. If we can achieve uniformity, it will decrease the number of transfer issues students experience due to different expectations and requirements.
- Looking at the Student Conduct Code in Regents' Policy and University Regulation, the procedure by which policy and regulation is revised, and other issues.

Our ongoing dialogue with President Gamble about issues of concern to the faculty is very positive and communication between the statewide administration and faculty across the MAUs is improving.

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.