

System Governance Report

June 2013



Coalition of Student Leaders

Shauna Thornton, Speaker

Coalition leaders worked hard to finish their finals and conduct elections at each of their campuses. Training of new student leaders will culminate at the Coalition of Student Leaders' Summit in Fairbanks on August 16-17. At the August summit, the new leaders will learn about the coalition and its function while introducing them to new leadership and organizational structure. It also serves as a time to adopt the activities for the year and elect new officers.

At the April Board of Regents meeting in Sitka, UAF School of Management proposed a differential tuition model. The coalition solicited student input on the proposed model for the UAF SOM programs. In general, the students disagree with the increase. The coalition will ask for letters and input from students.

A Resolution of Appreciation was passed recognizing Amber Avarette, administrative assistant to the UAS student government in Juneau; Jarmyn Kramlich, coalition pro tempore; and Shauna Thornton, coalition speaker, for their extra workload and effort performed during the legislative session.

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

Spring is bringing its usual frenetic pace to our work lives. Staff are helping students prepare for graduation, and staff governance is busy with spring elections and organizing staff appreciation and development days. When the dust settles, we will begin to look at the impact of the FY14 budget.

As an update, Staff Alliance is in the midst of conversations with the statewide administration on a few topics. The topics include bullying in the workplace, a review of the grievance policy and regulation, and the Compensation Working Group's proposals. Our goal is to make real progress on these discussions over the summer.

Juella Sparks was born and raised in Alaska and graduated from UAF with a B.B.A. and M.B.A. 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 had a very productive year. I believe much of this productivity is because the communication between Faculty Alliance and the statewide administration is the best I have ever seen it. I really appreciate President Gamble and Vice President Thomas's efforts to inform the faculty of upcoming issues and listen to our recommendations on how to resolve them.

This year Faculty Alliance has been working effectively across MAUs to improve our student learning outcomes, streamline our processes, and address issues of concern to the regents, state legislators, staff, faculty, and students. For example, we are pursuing efforts, such as the General Education Learning Outcomes (GELO) committee, to clarify and harmonize our general education expectations for students across UA; streamlining and removing inconsistencies in our transfer policies; and assisting in SDI. We have made progress on many fronts that will make our students' lives easier at UA.

I wish to thank all of the members of Faculty Alliance for their exceptional service this year. This was a fabulous group of engaged and hard-working faculty. I would especially like to thank Professors Daniel Monteith and Nalinaksha Bhattacharyya for their service to this committee. They, along with me, are retiring from Faculty Alliance to make room for new faculty members with new ideas on the committee. However, I am leaving the committee in good hands; Professor Robert Boeckmann from UAA will chair the committee in the upcoming year. I know he, and the other members of Faculty Alliance, will continue our forward momentum in resolving issues of concern to our great university.

Dr. Catherine F. Cahill is a 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.