

System Governance Report

December 2014



Coalition of Student Leaders

Toby Wark, Chair

As unified Coalition of Student Leaders, being newly formed and appointed, we ask that each campus make the Title IX training available to the student body, and emphasize student government participation. It is a growing concern among us all.

The coalition also asks that each campus come together on availability, definition and enforcement of designated smoking areas.

With the new (2015) school year in progress, we are taking a poll among the combined student body concerning the discussion of the common calendar, and to hear the students' opinions on how "we" feel the changes would be beneficial.

With these concerns being addressed, and those that have yet to be finalized, we seek common ground as students, while working with the faculty, staff, and administration in addressing those changes, and the ones yet to come.

Toby was born in Juneau, Alaska, and raised in Hoonah, a village about 70 miles west of Juneau. He lives in Sitka, attending the University of Alaska Southeast, working towards a business degree in management.



Faculty Alliance

Dr. David Valentine, Chair

The Faculty Alliance passed two resolutions addressing the April 2014 Board of Regents' resolution directing faculty to align General Education Requirements across the UA System. In Resolution 2014-01, the Faculty Alliance asked the UAS Department of Mathematics, UAA Department of Mathematics and Statistics, UAA College Preparatory and Developmental Studies department, UAF Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and the UAF Department of Developmental Studies to form a working group who will work with the UA Registrars to:

1. Address the unifying of shared 200 and below course prefix, names, and numbers
2. Address the unifying of shared 200 and below course outcomes and descriptions
3. Determine how to proceed with the discussion on unifying placement tests, cut scores, and the length of time placement tests and prerequisite courses are valid.
4. Determine what changes in current UA systems are necessary to implement these actions.

This group has begun meeting and anticipates reporting back to the Faculty Alliance by March 2015.

In Resolution 2014-02, the Faculty Alliance asked the English Community of Practice to address the items in the BOR resolution for developmental and GER English courses. The Faculty Alliance recognizes that each program retains the ability to send forward faculty to participate in the reconvened English Community of Practice, but that the membership should remain as representative as it was previously. The group has members from all three universities and will need the support of University of Alaska Office of Academic Affairs and Research to meet and continue their work. The Faculty Alliance asked Dan Kline to convene the group, and the group is planning its first meeting. Comments from group members suggest confusion regarding rationale and concern at the target date of March 2015.

The Faculty Alliance and the three Faculty Senates are struggling to change course in efforts to update and revitalize general education to simultaneously meet the learning outcomes recommended by the GELO task force and achieve the alignment of GERs specified in the April 2014 Board of Regents' resolution. The LEAP-based learning outcomes recommended by GELO include a substantial component of integration with major programs through the upper division, e.g., integrative experiences, civic engagement, etc.; these go beyond the general education requirements described in existing policy and regulation, which are typically taken in the first two years.

The Faculty Alliance proposed a Common Calendar Task Force and strategy to President Gamble, which he subsequently implemented. The task force consists of four faculty (including one rural rep), three registrars, one administrator, and one technical representative (staff). Members were sought based on their familiarity with a variety of course delivery methods, student needs, accreditation requirements, needs and constraints of rural and urban campuses, and familiarity with space needs and constraints. Faculty Alliance has since requested that three students be added to the task force, and has solicited nominations from the Coalition of Student Leaders. The task force is charged with scoping and assessing the costs, benefits, and any mitigating or prohibitive circumstances to aligning elements of the calendar, including but not limited to the following: semester start and end, break timing and duration, and class period (including labs and passing times) duration and timing. The scoping might also include evaluation of partial implementations that address major problems (e.g., synchronous e-learning, evening, a subset of weekly classes). The task force should reach out to affected communities (students, school districts, faculty) to request ideas, constraints, and feedback for various proposals. The task force will take into account the modifications of the various technical systems in use at UA, i.e., Banner, Blackboard, etc. The task force will also make a recommendation as to potential unified start and end dates for Academic Year 2017. The task force will provide a brief preliminary report by Dec. 1, 2014, to the president, Faculty Alliance, and university leadership. The final report will be due by Feb. 16, 2015, and will include both a summary and set of recommendations and/or options for implementation of the calendar alignment mandate.

The Faculty Alliance passed a motion concerning adoption of a common minimum admission standard for baccalaureate programs across the UA System. The Faculty Senate leadership at UAF and UAA have returned it to Faculty Alliance with requests for clarification and some changes, but it appears likely that a common minimum standard will be adopted by December.

With the various committees assembled and charged, the Faculty Alliance is now focusing on several issues. These include:

1. Proposed revisions to the student code of conduct
2. Developing a strategy towards adoption of a common set of GERs
3. Providing feedback on proposed changes to community campus policy and regulations
4. Gauging faculty support for a smoke-free or tobacco-free UA system

Dr. David Valentine is a professor of Forest Soils and chair of the Department of Forest Sciences in the School of Natural Resources and Extension Agricultural Sciences. He earned his MSc and PhD from Duke University (1984 and 1990, respectively) in ecosystem ecology. He worked as a Postdoctoral Fellow and Research Associate at the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory at Colorado State University. During that time, he was also awarded a Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Department of Energy, and worked at the Agricultural Research Service. He joined the UAF faculty in 1996.



Staff Alliance Monique Musick, Chair

Staff governance leaders have been busy working to address policy changes, communications challenges, cost containment efforts and to engage more staff in Shaping Alaska's Future.

We made progress on drafting furlough regulations that address some of staff's greatest concerns including timely notification, limits and end dates, the opportunity to appeal for hardships and provisions for voluntary reductions before full-fledged furlough.

Staff councils throughout the system have been working to change sick leave regulations to allow eligibility for leave share even if family medical leave has been taken intermittently. This will benefit individuals that have used up all of their sick leave while still coming to work intermittently and therefore do not have the contiguous sick leave required to be eligible for the leave share program. Our proposal strikes a balance between the need to stay home to care for family, and the desire to meet work obligations at the same time.

Staff volunteers have also been selected to serve as technical advisors to the creation of a common calendar. They are joining together with faculty to help address and overcome the obstacles to a systemwide calendar.

Staff have also developed a set of UA Core Values concurrent with the value statements recently shared by the Summit Team leadership. There are many similarities, and a few stark differences, in the two versions and we look forward to the discussions around these value statements at all levels of system governance to develop a final draft with input from staff, faculty and students that truly represents the culture of the University of Alaska.

Finally, staff leaders have developed a new pathway for collecting staff suggestions, success stories, complaints and concerns. One of the obstacles to Shaping Alaska's Future has been the collection and development of suggestions and innovations from staff at all levels in the organization. The goal of governance leaders was to give all staff access to a tool where their concerns and ideas could be submitted, anonymously if desired, and evaluated and redirected to the right department for further development or feedback. It will still take a lot of work and

promotion to fully engage staff in the initiative, but providing them with tools and clear instructions on how to be involved will only help.

Monique Musick was born and raised in Ester, Alaska. After attending ICS and later Lathrop High School, she received a bachelor's of art in journalism from UAF. She currently works for UA Public Affairs doing what she enjoys most: photography, communications and graphic design. She became involved with governance in 2009 shortly after coming to UA Statewide and has enjoyed being an active member of System Governance ever since. She values the opportunity afforded through shared governance to support co-workers, participate in policy review, advise on changes in the university and to advocate on behalf of staff throughout the system. She recently purchased her old family home in Ester and enjoys gardening, photography, motor sports, outdoor activities, prospecting, music and time with friends.



System Governance Council

Rachel Morse, Chair

The UA System Governance Council met on Monday, Oct. 27. This meeting was the first in the academic year and follows substantial changes to the structure of the SGC. The SGC has streamlined membership and participation such that Faculty Alliance, Staff Alliance and Coalition of Student Leaders are represented by the statewide chair and vice chair of each body (as opposed to the chair and vice chair from UAA, UAS and UAF). Representation from each alumni association rounds out the SGC. We believe this structure will streamline meetings and processes while allowing those issues most critical for UA to persist in our focus. The council elected Rachel Morse, Assistant Vice Chancellor from Alumni Relations at UAA, as chair.

Alumni Associations report:

In the last three years, all three universities have expanded and refocused their alumni relations functions, looking at national best practices, recognizing the enormous untapped potential both in terms of private contributions and other types of support alumni provide including connecting students to intern and career opportunities; advising deans and faculty; helping to recruit new students. UAS and UAF have new alumni relations leaders at the helm. Heather Mitchell joined UAS as Alumni Relations and Annual Fund Manager in July 2014. Kate Ripley began work Dec. 1, 2014, as UAF Director of Alumni Relations and Executive Director of the UAF Alumni Association (Kate was formerly the Public Affairs Director for the UA System). Heather and Kate join Rachel Morse, who is the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Alumni Relations at UAA and the Executive Director of the UAA Alumni Association. Although the benefits of strong alumni relations program require sustained effort over time, we have good indications that we are moving in the right direction. Alumni giving increased 100 percent in the last five years with a 28 percent increase in last year alone (\$671,000 in FY 10 and \$1.35M in FY 14) and alumni participation in university activities, on advisory panels, and in connecting with students remains strong.

Rachel Morse is originally from Louisville, Kentucky, but has lived in Alaska since 1999. She has spent the past decade working with rural communities on projects that include environmental stewardship, housing, early childhood education and other social services. Rachel served as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Zimbabwe. She has a master's degree in business administration from the University of Alaska Anchorage and a master's degree in forestry and natural resources management from Purdue University.