

System Governance Report

April 2014



Coalition of Student Leaders

Shauna Thornton, Speaker

Since our last meeting, we have been very busy keeping students informed and updated on the bills SBI76 and HB335 regarding guns and knives on UA campuses. We passed a resolution on Mar. 7, 2014 in support of the university's position on this bill. We had students from all over the state testify both in person and by email, to their legislators in reference to these bills, and the university's budget this past month.

We will continue to monitor legislative actions and update the students to empower them to speak out on the issues directly affecting them and the university. We are working on a survey/email system for student leaders to utilize to reach the students more effectively. Currently, we have to rely on the students reaching out to us. We are discussing the possibility of a semester mass email to inform the students on how to be involved and where to look for important advocacy information such as the (alaska.edu) website and how to navigate these statewide information sources.

We are in the process of designing a training system for new student leaders and advisors to teach and equip them with the available tools. The students met with Chas St. George, Strategic Direction Coordinator to assess the needs for student government advising. There are a number of best practices we are reviewing to implement in a student government advisor-training program, which includes membership into the ASGA-American Student Government Association. We will keep the board advised of future activities.

Our ongoing focus is student involvement. Facebook, Twitter, and meeting students in person help to stimulate involvement with student governments and issues important to students statewide. I will be traveling to Ketchikan, Kodiak, and possibly Kuskokwim during the month of April to meet with students and advisors to share the benefits of student government. Our Facebook page likes have increased to 203. We are working with the Stay on Track program by endorsing the program through mass emails to students once a semester along with important updates.

We are still working on the brochure explaining what the coalition is and what we do. We are also updating the constitution, and working on Shaping Alaska's Future, System Governance Council, the Coalition of Student Leaders' Alaska Advantage Incentive Program (AAIP) scholarship, and other projects that will bring benefits to the students and the university.

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.



Faculty Alliance

Dr. Robert Boeckmann, Chair

The Faculty Alliance has not met since its report to the BOR meeting in February. This is due in part to rescheduling our standing meeting to accommodate our face-to-face retreat that will occur Mar. 28-29, 2014. At that meeting, we plan to work on the following:

Finalize our response to the SAC proposal for having a UA system wide set of minimum standards for admission into a baccalaureate degree.

Respond to the final report provided by the General Education Learning Outcomes task force and plan for revisions as necessary prior to discussing it with SAC and the Faculty Senates at each of the Universities in the system.

Respond to a preliminary draft of faculty recommendations for general principles for managing academic resources and programs in the UA system in tight fiscal times.

Discuss and develop a proposal for a Faculty Regent.

Discuss the transition in Faculty Alliance leadership for AY 2014-2015.

I will provide an update on our progress on these and any additional agenda items that arise and are addressed at our face-to-face retreat in late March.

Dr. Robert J. Boeckmann grew up in Southcentral Alaska and is now an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Alaska Anchorage where he teaches a variety of classes in the Undergraduate, Masters, and UAA/UAF joint Ph.D. program. Courses include: research methods, statistics, personality and social psychology and honors seminars in the psychology of social justice. He enjoys mentoring students in research at all levels but is particularly inspired by helping undergraduates explore and discover. Robert chairs the UAA Institutional Review Board and is active in faculty governance. Robert earned his BA, MA, and Ph.D. at the University of California Berkeley. His research is primarily focused on social identity and social justice, but more recently has expanded his interests to include Alaska Native behavioral health, evolutionary psychology, and social media.



Staff Alliance

Carey Brown, Chair

Staff Alliance recently concluded its spring 2014 retreat in Fairbanks, Alaska. The alliance was able to follow-up on the progress made from staff goals outlined during the fall 2013 retreat. Accomplishments from the fall retreat include a submitted resolution in support of workplace bullying training, a submitted resolution for university autonomy regarding smoke free/tobacco free campuses, and involvement with the Joint Health Care Committee, which provided clarity in the direction of the system's wellness provider, Healthy Roads. Dr. Dana Thomas, Vice President of Academic Affairs, visited a retreat session to provide information on the finalization of the Shaping Alaska's Future policy and the importance of shared governance and the system administration, or Summit Team. Lastly, Associate General Counsel Michael O'Brien visited a retreat session to provide an update on workplace bullying training, initial data gathered from the administrative trainings, and the outlook on the trainings to be offered at the respective universities.

Staff Alliance was provided an opportunity to express support on a memorandum regarding the Proposed Regulation R05.02.090 Financial Fraud, Waste and Abuse. Through review from the alliance chair, the proposal empowers staff to be more knowledgeable about the fraud, waste, abuse, and financial irregularities policies and regulations and the appropriate reporting procedures. The alliance also expressed support of a third-party reporting hotline outlined in this proposed regulation during its spring retreat.

Finally, in an attempt to work more collaboratively with the System Governance Office, Staff Alliance has proposed creating a secretary and treasurer position to alleviate some of the responsibility currently absorbed by the limited staff in System Governance. The alliance feels that sharing some of the administrative duties will help system governance work more efficiently on our behalf.

Carey Brown is from Fort Worth Texas and is currently the Academic Advising Coordinator for the College of Health at UAA. He earned a bachelor's degree in health administration at Texas Southern University in 2001, moved to Anchorage, Alaska in 2006 to complete the MPA degree in 2008. He is also adjunct faculty for the College of Health and First-Year Experience courses. He is on the board of directors for Anchorage Urban League (Anchorage Urban Works), member of the ASD Multicultural Concerns Committee, and volunteers with various youth scholarship committees.



System Governance Council Dory Straight, Interim Spokesperson

The System Governance Council is looking to restructure the membership to one that uses the council effectively as a platform to discuss overlapping issues involving two or more governance groups (faculty, staff and/or students). The current structure includes the presidents from each university's faculty senate, staff council along with four student representatives totaling 14 members. The chairs of Faculty Alliance, Staff Alliance and the Coalition of Student Leaders are not members. Adding to the size proves to be cumbersome during this time of budget crunches and time constraints.

Each of the reporting governance groups – Faculty Alliance, Staff Alliance, and Coalition of Student Leaders – are in agreement that the System Governance Council should serve as a think tank and platform for sharing issues across the three existing system governance groups. What better representatives for a think tank than the leaders of said groups and appointed representatives along with alumni representatives from each university?

Right now, the council is gathering feedback from each governance group before drafting up changes to the constitution.

Dory Straight has been the Scholarship Officer for UA Foundation since 2008, where she is responsible for administering the UA Foundation scholarships and awards program. She enjoys working with donors to lighten the financial load on our students. Straight is a "military brat" that settled in WV when her father retired from the US Army. She married her high school sweetheart and traveled the world with him during his 22 years in the US Army. They have been blessed with three daughters and amazing five grandchildren.