

System Governance Report

June 2014



Coalition of Student Leaders

Shauna Thornton, Speaker

As the semester wound down and graduation approached for many of the Coalition of Student Leaders, the students are working to finish the last few projects for the academic year. We completed the revision of the Coalition's Charter at the May 2 meeting. There were a number of small changes including the addition of three positions: a secretary, a treasurer and a historian. These added positions will ease the pressure and workload on the System Governance Office and give students more opportunities to participate and apply and develop their educational pursuits into soft skills that will add benefit to their future job searches.

The Coalition worked to combine the efforts of the university campuses and Statewide to co-host the two retreats and the legislative advocacy trip to Juneau. These three events are traditionally held separately on the three university campuses but mostly paid for by Statewide System Governance. This year, we asked the three university student governments to co-host each event. UAF-Fairbanks Student Government will co-host the August Summit, UAA-Anchorage Student Government will co-host the January Retreat, and UAS-Juneau Student Government will co-host the February Legislative Affairs Session.

We recently passed Motion 2014-1 "Student Government Advisor Training." The motion was sent to the UA President's Office after collaborating with Saichi Oba, associate vice president for Student and Enrollment Services; Chas St. George, coordinator for Shaping Alaska's Future; and LaNora Tolman, executive officer for System Governance. President Gamble and Vice President Thomas responded to the motion on April 18, 2014, endorsing the training for students and their advisors on the role of student government within the UA system. The response also indicated the UA System would join the American Student Government Association (ASGA). The ASGA is a national organization that provides training and support for student governments and advisors, including online resources, professional conferences, and personal training opportunities across the nation. The ASGA mission statement reads,

"The American Student Government Association will provide all Student Government leaders and advisors nationwide with networking, research, and information resources and will teach them how to become more effective, ethical, and influential leaders on their campuses. ASGA also will promote the advancement of SGs, conduct research as the nation's only 'SG Think Tank,' and advocate the importance of having a vibrant, autonomous Student Government organization at every institution in America" (Oxendine, 2014).

For more information, see their website (<http://www.asgaonline.com>). UA students and advisors are excited to utilize the tool to enhance student government experiences across the system.

The Coalition will elect a new speaker at the August summit in Fairbanks August 15-16, 2014. The summit will provide an opportunity for training, and an information exchange between the incoming members and the outgoing members. The Coalition of Student Leaders will also have a session with the

American Student Government Association's executive director, Butch Oxendine, at the August summit. Arrangements are in the works for another ASGA session with student government advisors in the fall.

The Coalition composed two resolutions for appreciation of service, one for Sharon Carter, UAS-Sitka President, and another one for Jarmyn Kramlich, UAS-Juneau President, upon their resignations. The resolutions express appreciation to these former members of the team as they leave the University of Alaska System. We wish them success in all future endeavors.

The Coalition submitted a second motion, Motion 2014-02 "Student Participation in UA Shared-Governance," to President Gamble. The motion reminds supervisors and faculty that the student government positions fall under UA Board of Regents Policies (P03.01.010, P09.07.050, P09.01.060, P09.01.090 and P09.01.030), which affords all students acting in good faith to carry out their positions of leadership within the UA System.

The members of the Coalition posted their individual student government campus reports to the UA System Governance website to ensure a smooth transition for the upcoming academic year.

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 had a retreat the week prior to the April BOR meeting to which I reported. In addition, the Faculty Alliance has had one regularly scheduled meeting (April 11, 2014) since its report to the BOR meeting in April. The primary focus of that meeting was on discussing actions taken by the BOR at the April meeting, especially the motion to adopt a common calendar for the UA system and the resolution concerning general and developmental education within the system. From my perspective as Faculty Alliance Chair and interface with the Board and Dana Thomas, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research, I was also able to share the character of deliberations and the extent of collaboration on matters of faculty concern. There was considerable concern about the perceived extent to which the motion and resolution would direct actions impacting academic matters best left to the faculty to manage. This was particularly true of the resolution on general education requirements and developmental education. I stressed that Regent Powers provided me with ample opportunity to present faculty concerns and that the Academic and Student Affairs subcommittee discussed the issue very thoroughly. In addition, I noted that the Provosts and Vice President Thomas worked with me to present a compromise resolution that was considered by the A&AS committee and then later discussed by the full Board at length. Regarding the full Board discussion, I noted that the Board gave me ample consideration and that there were a number of regents in favor of either further discussion of the issue between the April and June meetings or in voting upon the revised resolution at the April meeting. In general, I would say the Faculty Alliance members saw this characterization as promising even in the light of disappointing news of the original resolution being passed.

At the April 11 meeting, we also drafted a set of principles to guide resourcing of academic programs when facing shrinking budgets. We feel as though it is best for faculty governance to proactively state the principles that we believe should guide budgeting decisions before the UA system is threatened by severe cuts in financing. The final form of that document will be provided at the June BOR meeting.

We also worked on a proposal for a Board of Regents policy addition that would specify a process by which revisions or additions to BOR policy or University regulations pertaining to academic matters would be channeled through faculty governance bodies to ensure full vetting with faculty governance across the three universities within the UA system prior to moving on to final consideration at the Statewide Academic Council and approval by either the BOR and/or the President.

We continued to discuss the SAC-suggested motion to establish UA wide minimum standards for admission to baccalaureate degrees. There was considerable support for an alternative motion with similar goals, yet some of the details of implementation led to the vote being delayed until further details could be presented at the next meeting (May 16).

Finally, we also briefly noted the results of the election and welcomed David Valentine (current Faculty Senate President UAF) as the incoming chair of Faculty Alliance.

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 worked diligently to review documents and policy proposals that could possibly reshape the landscape of the UA system. The collective staff voice is important as our institution continues to grow and collaborate more at the university level.

First, we passed a resolution supporting the position of the University of Alaska administration and the Board of Regents regarding the topics of SB 176 and HB 335 concerning guns on campus. There were also local staff councils who submitted resolutions in support of the position.

We are reviewing the draft UA Confidential Hotline Protocol and Procedures. This process involves the UA staff in yet another policy implementation process, which keeps local staff aware of major changes and improvements in safety and risk management.

Finally, the System Governance Council has submitted a proposed constitution amendment that would include the Staff Alliance Chair on the Council. Staff Alliance supports the inclusion of the chair and another representative to the Council as this change seems to align well with the vision of the Summit Team and improved shared governance at the UA-system level.

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 approved the changes in the council's constitution to restructure membership from a grassroots level of fourteen members representing each governance group in the university system to a membership of nine from the System Governance groups and alumni associations. The current structure now includes two representatives (one being the chair) from Faculty Alliance, Staff Alliance, and the Coalition of Student Leaders, along with a representative from each of the alumni associations. The reduction in voting members helps with logistics and attendance, while providing a venue to collaborate on systemwide issues. All meetings will be publicly announced in order to gather commentary from constituent members on issues that pertain to two or more groups or campuses. The new structure starts at the next meeting in September pending President Gamble's approval.

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.