

# System Governance Report

September 2014



## Coalition of Student Leaders Victoria Daniels, Student Representative

The Coalition of Student Leaders will hold its annual onboarding retreat on October 10 and 11. In addition to electing 2014-15 officers, the retreat will include discussion and review of the UA president's proposal for a 4% increase in tuition for FY16 and the UA-wide facilities fee proposed by the Summit Team.

In June, President Gamble approved the Coalition's charter revision, which included changing the title from "speaker" to "chair" and creating new officer positions for secretary, treasurer and historian, among other various revisions. The charter can be viewed online at: [www.alaska.edu/governance/student-coalition/](http://www.alaska.edu/governance/student-coalition/).

*Victoria Daniels is the current president of the United Students of UAS – Juneau.*



## Faculty Alliance Dr. David Valentine, Chair

The Faculty Alliance will hold its annual summer retreat August 21-23 at UAF. There will be five major foci:

1. Prioritize and plan system-wide activities during the coming year, including development of faculty initiatives to implement Shaping Alaska's Future.
2. Propose committee composition and strategy for development of a common academic calendar, pursuant to BOR Policy 10.04.100 as amended.
3. Propose committees and strategies in response to the BOR Resolution concerning BOR Policy 10.04.040, specifically to address the following:
  - a. develop common Math and English GERs, including course descriptions, numbers, and titles, as well as common placement tools and scores
  - b. move toward adoption of common learning outcomes as proposed by the General Education Learning Outcomes (GELO) Committee

- c. begin development of a strategy to achieve a transparent set of system-wide GERs within the humanities and fine arts, natural sciences, and social sciences
4. move toward adoption of a common set of minimum admissions standards
5. develop a productive working relationship with the UA Summit Team

Items 2 and 3 require additional elaboration.

At its April 2014 meeting, the UA Board of Regents voted to move the UA system toward a common calendar and a common set of General Education Requirements. Development of a common calendar poses challenges to the collaborative spirit of the Faculty Alliance as faculty and students at each institution perceive threats to long-held practices and traditions. To meet these challenges, it is vital that a legitimate process involving faculty, administrators, and input from students be developed and followed. The adoption of a common calendar will be disruptive but, if done well, may also provide opportunities for development of “value added” scheduling that we do not currently have. These issues will form the sideboards for how the UA Faculty Alliance will discuss and recommend a path forward.

The BOR resolution urging development of common GERs coincided closely with an expansive set of common General Education Learning Outcomes developed and proposed by the eponymous Faculty Alliance committee (GELO). These learning outcomes, which were based on the American Association of Colleges and Universities’ LEAP (Liberal Education and America’s Promise) outcomes, extend beyond the traditional “broadening” set of general education requirements to include skills developed and reinforced throughout the curriculum and during students’ entire program. We do not believe that making the means to achieve all those ends common across the UA system would be feasible or even desirable, as they involve upper division integration within programs and majors that harbor much of the uniqueness of each institution. Moreover, we believe the intent of the Board of Regents’ resolution was to focus on the traditional emphasis of general education, i.e., to provide a common foundation for more specialized study and to ensure a broad education that includes the humanities, arts, and sciences for everyone. We plan to explore ways and develop a strategy toward meeting that intent, while still encouraging each institution to develop its own pathways to achieve the more expansive LEAP-based learning outcomes.

*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

The 2014-15 Staff Alliance governance group met Thursday, July 31 for a full-day annual retreat. We elected officers and welcomed new members. Our full team going into the new academic year is:

- Chris Beks, President UAF Staff Council

- Faye Gallant, Vice President UAF Staff Council
- Tom Langdon, Representative SAA
- Dayna Mackey, Vice President UAS Staff Council
- Kathleen McCoy, President UAA APT Council
- Monique Musick, Vice President SAA
- Gwenna Richardson, President UAS Staff Council
- Liz Winfree, President UAA Classified Council

Elected officers include:

- Monique Musick, chair
- Kathleen McCoy, vice chair
- Dayna Mackey, secretary (pending change to Staff Alliance constitution)
- Faye Gallant, treasurer (pending change to Staff Alliance constitution)

We developed three goals for the year:

**1. Increased engagement with the Board of Regents**

The Staff Alliance Chair makes regular reports to, and testifies before, the Board of Regents during their regular meetings. While staff often show up in great numbers in reaction to specific topics of interest, there is little regular testimony to the board highlighting the great work that staff do on a regular basis. We want to see more testimony about how staff across the system are implementing positive change, helping achieve cost-containment goals and overall improving the University of Alaska. We plan to send a letter of introduction outlining this goal and our intention for an even greater working relationship with the BOR, the university's governing body.

**2. Recognition of staff achievement**

Staff Spotlights will be integrated into Chair reports and featured during public testimony at BOR meetings. We will be gathering information on staff achievements through local governance groups. Staff council presidents all agreed to add an agenda item to each meeting to collect information on staff achievements and highlights to add to Staff Alliance's regular reports. UA staff accomplish amazing things every day and we seek greater recognition for the efforts of so many.

**3. Constituent communication**

Improved communication is always a need and always a goal. Staff Alliance members are committed to providing their constituents with timely and relevant information on matters affecting staff and the university community. In addition, we want to increase the collection of feedback and staff testimonials. We will use our blog Ally, Staff Alliance Dispatch on a more frequent basis and add functionality to the Governance Website for gathering staff feedback. We will be taking a few staff surveys in order to gain insight and make informed decisions on matters affecting staff.

During our work session at the July retreat, we:

- reviewed proposals on FY16 compensation and discussed a review of geographic differential pay across the system, work prepared by SAA's Compensation Working

Group (SAA's FY16 staff compensation proposals were submitted to university administration in time for the Aug. 7 budget meeting)

- drafted a motion with suggested wording changes to the proposed furlough policy
- appointed new representatives to Alliance and administrative committees and councils
- read proposed revisions to the Staff Alliance Constitution (including adding two new officers: secretary and treasurer)
- reviewed UAF resolutions on sick leave and bereavement leave share eligibility requirements

President Gamble and Vice President Dana Thomas addressed our group to discuss shared governance and the important role we play in the work of the university. We also discussed the newly formed Summit Team, Shaping Alaska's Future, the university budget and the reputation of the University of Alaska.

We're looking forward to the year ahead!

*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.*