

Faculty Alliance
October 9, 2015

Members present: Cecile, Debu, Kevin, Maren, Orion, Tara, David, Diane

Chair's Report

Cecile offered thanks to Maren for hosting her and VP White and others in Juneau at the Sept. Board meeting.

Cecile noted she had started regular meetings with President Johnsen and VP White (separately). It seems like the president will be an effective advocate for the faculty but there will be other areas where there is disagreement and the president will be a tough negotiation partner. Not sure what those areas are but can tell that there will be some difference of opinions. She gets the feeling that even when there is disagreement, the president still listens.

Cecile will meet with Dan Kline and Dan White next week to work through GER sticking points. Math GER task force is just dealing with minor issues. English GERs have structure developed but are still working on course descriptions. General GERs has two or three main sticking points dealing with process. Overall, the best advice is to just make sure we keep moving forward and making progress.

SAC meeting update

Course blocks – not necessary to have all course blocks aligned but the goal is roughly 50%; someone at SAC brought up that course blocks might be a moot point because students that attend courses at two universities won't be able to attend face-to-face meetings at both locations anyhow so why all the focus on alignment? Debu brought up that synchronous online courses should be aligned; Cecile agreed but noted that not all courses need to be aligned.

Concurrent enrollment – short policy passed, president and UA leadership will work to create more specific regulations; nothing to do now but may be asked later for input when regulations are developed

LMS – UA is trying to identify a new LMS; Karl Kowalski provided a brief presentation at SAC; there is some disagreement about how to choose a new LMS and how to use it; will be reviewed at the next SAC meeting;

There was a question about having multiple distance delivered programs in the same field – need to have a discussion about it – the president will set up a task force to address this question. CL feels there should be a better way to set up online degree programs on the system level.

ASA BOR update

New regent – Deena Peramo – superintendent for the Mat-Su school district, on the ASA committee, seems engaged but also has an agenda that heavily involves concurrent/dual enrollment—she had a hand in developing the Middle College partnership between Mat-Su SD and UAA.

President Johnsen (beginning at 2:30).

The president noted there were four focus areas the Board has set for review:

1. e-learning
2. teacher education
3. developmental education, and
4. General Education Requirements

President Johnsen noted he was working on process and timeline for examination of those four areas with VP White and AVP Rizk; the focus will be on scope of review. He doesn't anticipate being able to make and implement decisions based on these reviews; however, by Nov. 4 there should be a well-developed process and timeline, including governance participation in each of the above areas.

Topics Faculty should take on – budget will be a big deal; will work to communicate with you so you can communicate to your constituency; has met with several legislators and hasn't received any negative feedback on the UA's tactics re: budget; working on a needs-based budget as well as contingency budgets; needs Faculty to continue to be engaged in the budget process and be aware of the decisions that are being made;