



Minutes

**Faculty Alliance**

Friday, November 20, 2015

Via [Google Hangout](#)

Audio-only: 1-855-280-1855

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Voting Members:

David Fitzgerald, 1st Vice President, UAA Faculty Senate

Maren Haavig, President, UAS Faculty Senate

Diane Hirshberg, Past President, UAA Faculty Senate

Lisa Hoferkamp, President-Elect, UAS Faculty Senate

Cecile Lardon, Past President, UAF Faculty Senate, Chair, Faculty Alliance

Orion Lawlor, President-Elect, UAF Faculty Senate

Debu Misra, President, UAF Faculty Senate

Tara Smith, President, UAA Faculty Senate, Vice Chair, Faculty Alliance

Staff Present:

Morgan Dufseth, Executive Officer, System Governance

Guests Present:

Dan Kline, Professor of English and Director of General Education, UAA

Voting Members Absent:

Kevin Krein, Past President, UAS Faculty Senate

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

Adopted without amendment but with the caveat that they may move some items around to accommodate Dan Kline's schedule.

3. **Approval of November 13 minutes**

Maren moved to approve the minutes, Diane seconded. None opposed. Minutes approved.

4. **Public or Guest Comments**

None.

5. **Ongoing Business**

5.1. GER Taskforce Proposal (Dan Kline)

Cecile met with VP White and President Johnsen on Nov. 19 and discussed the GER proposal with them individually. The president provided input regarding how to present the proposal to the Board and suggested including additional details, including concrete milestones with specific goals/expected results. Dan Kline noted it would be no problem to add timelines by semester, including for AY15-16; Dan also added that the new task force will likely provide context for how to move forward. Cecile offered to set up a Google spreadsheet that Dan and the other heads of the math/English can fill in with more detailed information.

5.2. Resolution of Support or Objection for the GER proposal

Cecile decided to provide Regents with an oral update at their December meeting rather than a formal resolution.

**6. New Business**

6.1. Course Redesign for Large Enrollment/Entry-level Classes  
<http://www.thencat.org/>

The Alliance engaged in a lively discussion concerning course redesign. Most of the conversation focused on NCAT methods for high enrollment courses. There was concern from several Alliance members that the NCAT methods will decrease flexibility and lower the number of faculty needed to deliver the courses.

Dan Kline provided some background on NCAT and course redesign. He noted it was intimately tied to Gen Ed and that often course redesign is an attempt to increase efficiency of Gen Ed courses and to create a standardization/uniformity within an institution. However, the creation of the course shells is not under the purview of the faculty. The funding allocated for course redesign is used to bring on instructional designers and technology people, and then faculty are all left to teach the same course. This approach doesn't work for some courses—like composition—and outcomes have been poor. For some courses there are benefits, particularly low level courses that are fact heavy and require repetition.

The Alliance identified individuals (Maren, Dan and Cecile) who will check-in with their respective provosts regarding course redesign, and will report back to the Alliance at its next meeting (December 11).

Diane and Tara will also follow up on Title III and will obtain a full copy of the grant.

**7. Comments, concerns, and announcements**

The UAA Faculty Senate has not met since the last Alliance meeting.

The UAS Faculty Senate has been dealing mostly with ongoing IT issues. Maren will meet with Chancellor Caulfield to ask for an external review of IT services; they are also reviewing course substitutions and how they are handled—more added layers of bureaucracy (being met with some resistance). Update on the provost search: they have eight applicants; the review committee is scoring applications and will look to hold interviews in early December (maybe even Nov. 30); there is one internal candidate.

The UAF Faculty Senate just passed motion on course lists and they expect to have lists done later this year. They also decided a GER regulation change wasn't necessary.

## **8. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 3:20pm.