



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

Minutes

Faculty Alliance

Friday, October 28, 2016
Google Hangout and Audio
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 2:33 p.m.

Voting Members:

Megan Buzby, President-Elect, UAS Faculty Senate
Sharon Chamard, 1st Vice President, UAA Faculty Senate
Chris Fallen, President-Elect, UAF Faculty Senate
David Fitzgerald, President, UAA Faculty Senate,
Maren Haavig, Past President, UAS Faculty Senate
Lisa Hoferkamp, President, UAS Faculty Senate
Orion Lawlor, President, UAF Faculty Senate
Debu Misra, Past President, UAF Faculty Senate
Tara Smith, Past President, UAA Faculty Senate; Chair, Faculty Alliance

Staff:

Morgan Dufseth, Executive Officer, System Governance

Guests:

James R. Johnsen, President, University of Alaska

2. Adoption of Agenda

Maren moved to adopt the agenda, and Debu seconded. There were none opposed. The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Approval of September 23 and October 14 Minutes

Members agreed without objection to postpone approving both sets of minutes to the next meeting.

4. Public or Guest Comments: President Johnsen to join at 3p

Members discussed what questions they would like to ask President Johnsen:

- Faculty salaries that are below national average but increasing tuition to the national average
- Is there plan on the part of the state to increase financial support for students

- Lowering tuition at community campuses? Would they offer distance courses at this lower rate? Would CC faculty then be paid less?
- How will increases in tuition affect enrollment numbers?
- Recent announcement regarding cuts to UA Athletics
- Implementation actions that were not discussed or recommended during the review process
- How does he plan to manage this amount of change in such a short amount of time—how does he expect faculty to complete this amount of work? Too many change factors to take into account—administrative processes, academic changes, etc.
- Hasn't seen any changes to top management—that was supposed to be low hanging fruit but they are still hiring executives
- Openness/transparency or lack thereof for SP implementation teams
- Quality of consulting on Review Teams for Phase I and II and use of time

President Johnsen started his discussion with his upcoming tuition proposal. UA tuition is at 84% of the median for WICHE school tuitions. Has been working on financial model for UA, wherein over the next 10 years tuition is brought up to the WICHE median. The model assumes a 2.5% increase for inflation increase, along with a 4-5% increase each year to raise the tuition to the median—no Alaska cost of business tax on tuition—that will be an ask for the legislative general fund appropriation. This model would also assume an increase in enrollment—because it is a major goal for UA and is necessary to meet the workforce demands of the state in the future; also allows UA to moderate tuition increases and budget cuts from the leg. The president plans to send a memo to Summit Team and Coalition of Student Leaders and System Governance Council announcing his tuition proposal. He noted he met with the Coalition earlier this week; he asked for their support and the students asked to maintain availability and quality of the UA education. For AY18, the president will propose a 5% increase to the Regents. If UA gets a small budget increase from the legislature, they will try to use the funds to provide targeted tuition waivers or some other administratively easy mechanism to offset increases to students in high demand (CTE and VocTech programs—workforce development—not for students leading to a BA/4-degree).

What efforts are being taken to reassure UA students that the University is still functioning and will in the future? President noted funding will be included in the budget request to help do a better job of bringing in students and donors, and communicating effectively with the state and community. The UA Foundation will also work on a public awareness campaign to broadcast on social media in an effort to create a focused message to promote the University.

Regarding perceived lack of transparency from implementation teams – The president noted he would like the implementation team reports to be available before they were formal recommendations to the Board, however, to keep things moving forward and to see timely savings Johnsen felt they needed to move fast. He noted they will need to have enough time to respond to CBA timelines for affected faculty. Johnsen does expect major recommendations regarding Teacher Education at the November meeting.

Impact of Strategic Pathways at all three institutions – The president noted he would not pursue single accreditation and while the Alliance was happy to hear that they still noted

concern that it seems a lot of what is coming out of Strategic Pathways is pushing UA toward being and acting like one institution. President Johnsen agreed in some ways yes and some ways no. In some ways, it is in the universities' interest to be more unified, but in some cases is better to build on the unique strengths of each institution. For instance, look at research—they are building on particular strengths of each school/university but standardizing administrative process to streamline and cut down on costs and frustrating red tape. In Nursing, they have a program centered at one university but delivered at all three campuses. So there are options he would like to explore in order to find the best delivery to students with the most cost effectiveness possible.

How does the Board view and value faculty? Alliance members reported they don't feel they have a strong relationship with the Regents. President Johnsen noted he wants to get faculty members involved in providing assistance and advice on particular issues. He has thought about how they could do more of that—perhaps through more formal presentations to the Board and through more involvement in proposals that administration takes to the Board.

5. Report from Chair: Tara is planning to meet with Andy Anger and Statewide on faculty benefit rates in November; she sent a follow-up to President Johnsen on an event coinciding with the Regents' retreat in January; Writing Placement Community of Practice lead by Dr. Jackie Cason and Prof. Shannon Gramse; GER Coordinating Task Force working with disciplinary teams and on the AKNS GER proposal.

Following the president's discussion, members agreed to move quickly through the rest of the agenda.

6. Report from Faculty Senates (current Presidents): Items under consideration/discussion; motions/actions taken; questions or comments to Faculty Alliance
UAA and UAS noted their Senates will take up similar motions to the UAF's on Strategic Pathways.

7. Ongoing Business

- 7.1. Accreditation Study Response

Members reviewed a draft memo via Google Doc and made small edits.

Lisa moved to approve and Maren seconded. There were no objections. Tara will send for review and vote by next Friday.

- 7.2. Strategic Pathways Motion (Dave & Debu) – Sharon moved to approve the resolution, Orion seconded. Orion moved to amend by removing the word “abysmally” – there was no objection – the word was removed. All were in favor of the resolution (with the exception of Megan, who left at 3).

- 7.3. Common Calendar

Members agreed to continue work on this issue and review at the next meeting.

7.4. Budget information request (Maren)

Members reviewed a draft memo requesting budget information from UA administration on SW and campus budgets.

Debu moved to approve the budget request, and Maren seconded. All were in favor of sending the requests to UAF, UAA, UAS and SW.

8. New Business

8.1. Strategic Pathways Phase 3 nominations – VP White has indicated Phase 3 nominations will not be needed until early December, when they have finalized review areas and meeting dates.

9. Agenda Items for November 18 Meeting

9.1. Conversation with VPAAR Dan White, 3p

9.2. Benefits charges for faculty contracts: Dr. Andy Anger

10. Agenda Items for December 9 Meeting

10.1. Strategic Pathways Phase 2 Options

11. Comments, concerns, and announcements

12. Adjourn

Maren moved to adjourn, and everyone seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

November

1- TS meets with President Johnsen, 1p

3- BOR ASA Committee meeting, 8:30a-11:30a, video

4- BOR Audit Committee, 9a-11a, video

4-UAA Faculty Senate, 2:30p-4:30p

4- UAS Faculty Senate, 3p-5p

7-UAF Faculty Senate, 1p-3p

7-Strategic Pathways, Phase 2 Academic Programs meet

8-Strategic Pathways, Phase 2 Administrative Services meet

9-BOR Title IX Training Session, 1p-5p, Fairbanks

9-SAC, Fairbanks

10-11, BOR meeting, Fairbanks

18- Faculty Alliance meeting, 2:30-4:30 via Google Hangouts

25-National Buy Nothing Day (No Faculty Alliance meeting)

December

2-UAA Faculty Senate, 2:30p-4:30p

2-UAS Faculty Senate, 3p-5p

5-UAF Faculty Senate, 1p-3p

6-TS meets with President Johnsen, 1p
9-Strategic Pathways, Phase 2 presentations
9-Faculty Alliance Meeting, 2:30-4:30p via Google Hangouts
16-SAC
23-No Faculty Alliance Meeting
2017

January

13-Faculty Alliance Meeting, 2:30-4:30p via Google Hangouts
TBD: SAC
27-Faculty Alliance Meeting, 2:30-4:30p via Google Hangouts
19-20, BOR Retreat, Anchorage **SAVE THE DATE FOR FA RETREAT**
30-Faculty Alliance report due to Statewide Governance

February

3-UAA Faculty Senate, 2:30p-4:30p
3-UAS Faculty Senate, 3p-5p
6-UAF Faculty Senate, 1p-3p
10- Faculty Alliance Meeting, 2:30-4:30p via Google Hangouts
TBD: SAC
21-BOR Public Testimony, 4p-6p, audio
23-BOR ASA Committee meeting, 8:30a-11:30a, video
23-BOR Facilities Committee meeting, 1p-5p, video
24-BOR Audit Committee meeting, 9a-11a, video
24-Faculty Alliance Meeting, 2:30-4:30p via Google Hangouts

March

1-SAC?
2-3, BOR meeting, Anchorage
3-UAA Faculty Senate, 2:30p-4:30p
3-UAS Faculty Senate, 3p-5p
6-UAF Faculty Senate, 1p-3p
10-Faculty Alliance Meeting, 2:30-4:30p via Google Hangouts
13-17, SPRING BREAK
24-Faculty Alliance Meeting, 2:30-4:30p via Google Hangouts

April

3-UAF Faculty Senate, 1p-3p
7-UAA Faculty Senate, 2:30p-4:30p
7-UAS Faculty Senate, 3p-5p
14-Faculty Alliance Meeting, 2:30-4:30p via Google Hangouts
TBD: SAC
28-Faculty Alliance Meeting, 2:30-4:30p via Google Hangouts

May

1-Faculty Alliance report due to Statewide Governance
1-UAF Faculty Senate, 1p-3p

5-UAA Faculty Senate, 2:30p-4:30p
5-UAS Faculty Senate, 3p-5p
12-Faculty Alliance Meeting, 2:30-4:30p via Google Hangouts
TBD: SAC
22-BOR Public Testimony, 4p-6p, audio
25-BOR ASA Committee meeting, 8:30a-11:30a, video
25-BOR Facilities Committee meeting, 1p-5p, video
26-BOR Audit Committee meeting, 9a-11a, video

June

1-2, BOR meeting, Fairbanks