

Governance Report

November 2017



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

Coalition of Student Leaders

Colby Freel, Chair

In late September, the Coalition held its fall summit in Anchorage and conducted their annual officer elections. I would like to congratulate Nathan Grilley on his election as Vice Chair. I have been re-elected to serve as Chair. We were joined in Anchorage by university and state leaders who gave us valuable insight into the issues facing higher education in Alaska and valuable perspectives on the work being done to address those challenges. Special thanks are due to Chair O'Neill, President Johnsen, Associate Vice President Miles Baker, Chief Title IX Officer Mary Gower, as well as staff from the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, for their participation in the meeting. I am happy to report that the summit was a success. We met each of our goals and have a clear direction for the remainder of the year.

Input has been sought from all 29,000+ UA students, asking them their perspective on the tuition proposal. Students have in the past been willing to pay more for a quality education. We understand and are grateful for the low cost tuition we have available to us in Alaska. The Coalition is still interested, however, in hearing student voice and using those voices to inform our stance on this proposal.

As chair, I have been working with Statewide Public Affairs on a tuition student engagement plan. Over the next few weeks students will have opportunities to learn more about the tuition proposal and to voice their thoughts on the matter. President Johnsen will be hosting listening sessions at UAA, UAF, and UAS which will also be broadcast online for students not located on these campuses. In addition to the in-person feedback opportunities, an online survey has been made available to students.

The Coalition is also engaging in its own efforts relative to the tuition proposal. Informed by survey results and other student feedback, the Coalition will pass and share with the Board a resolution reflecting student perspective on the issue. This will be shared with the Board prior to the November meeting. This will represent a more thorough and formalized student opinion on tuition than that which I shared with you verbally.

The Coalition will continue to be engaged in other issues that affect students such as Title IX, student involvement, and advocacy. Planning efforts are underway for the Coalition's legislative fly-in which is scheduled for March 17-20. These activities will keep Coalition members busy and productive throughout the year.

Lastly, I would like to inform you that at the November meeting you will be joined by Coalition Vice Chair, Nathan Grilley, who will be filling in for me.

Thank you for the time and effort you dedicate to improving the University for its staff, faculty, and students.

The Coalition of Student Leaders consists of student government representatives from the University of Alaska campuses and portrays the diverse scope of student affairs and needs. The Coalition promotes the educational needs, general welfare and rights of all University of Alaska students, and functions as an advisory group to the UA president and administration on student issues.

Faculty Alliance

Lisa Hoferkamp, Chair

The Faculty Alliance (FA) remains committed to maximizing the role of shared governance in University decisions that affect academic programs. Broad-ranging expertise, a comprehensive view of academia and its role in society as well as a deep commitment to the University are features that faculty bring with them to the table and consequently move the discussion in a positive direction. The FA continues to embrace the opportunity to discuss meaningful efforts towards shared governance with the Board of Regents (BOR).

Since the Sept. 14-15, 2017 BOR meeting the Faculty Alliance (FA) is currently considering, actively working on, and/or concluded work on the following issues.

Discussions with President Johnsen during the August 2017 Faculty Alliance Retreat included non-teaching days across the UA system, faculty representation on newly formed statewide councils and implementation of the Student Success Collaborative (SSC). The FA believe that recent efforts to align the academic calendars across the three universities should proceed in a fashion that introduces the least number of complications and thus proposed that one UA-common non-teaching day and one university-appointed non-teaching day be included in the calendar. This number of non-teaching days would provide each university with the same number of weekdays which becomes particularly relevant when scheduling classes that occur only on a single day of the week and serves the goal of the UA Common Calendar. A non-teaching day is defined as one in which classes are not held but faculty remain on-contract and committed to work-related activities. The FA supported membership of current, elect and upcoming-elect FA chairs on the newly formed Academic Council as opposed to the proposed membership of the three faculty senate presidents. Given that the three faculty senate presidents had been appointed to the VPASA Search Committee, the FA asked that those assignments remain unchanged. Based on the essential role that faculty serve in academics, the FA asked that they be included in the activities associated with the implementation of the Student Success Collaborative (SSC).

- o The President and Chancellors determined that a single non-teaching day will be available at each university. The specific date on which that non-teaching day will fall, is to be determined by the respective chancellor.

- o President Johnsen acknowledged that faculty governance representation on the Academic Council will consist of one faculty governance leader from each university
- o President Johnsen agreed that one faculty member shall serve on each statewide council with the exception of the Research Council, for which one faculty member per university will serve and that selection will be made by the chancellor in consultation with the chair of each faculty senate. Faculty representation on councils other than the Academic Council and the Research Council will be revisited at the 2018 Faculty Alliance Retreat.
 - **Faculty nominees for the following statewide Council positions are being solicited**
 - Research UAA, UAF, UAS
 - Business
 - Community Campus
 - Development
 - Human Resources
 - Information Technology FA Chair: Lisa Hoferkamp
 - Institutional Research
 - Student Services
 - University Relations

Specific faculty representation was verified in a 9/29/17 letter to President Johnsen; representation on the Academic Council shall consist of the current, elect and upcoming-elect chair of the FA; representation on the VPASA Search Committee shall consist of the three faculty senate presidents.
- o Faculty will be involved in the roll out of the Student Success Collaborative (SSC) and opportunities for faculty input and support to ensure effective implementation will be made available.

The FA continues to support two non-teaching days per academic year as the most logical solution to disparate numbers of classroom hours within and among semesters.

Discussions between the FA and President Johnsen that have taken place since the September 2017 Board of Regents meeting have focused the Alliance' attention on several directives and issues.

Decisions resulting from Strategic Pathways Phase III are highlighted by increased University-wide collaborations and towards that end President Johnsen has requested FA input regarding implementation and structuring of system-wide communities of practice (COPs), their charge and goals. Since COPs within academia are traditionally self-defined and self-developed, faculty are very interested in how administration will support this effort and look forward to maximizing the potential opportunity.

President Johnsen's recent announcement of changes to the implementation plan for the Alaska College of Education (COE) prompted the FA to collect faculty input. A letter

summarizing that input was submitted to the President on Sept. 29, 2017. Collectively, the UA faculty expressed concern regarding the utility and cost-efficiency of dissolving the UAA and UAF Schools of Education and requested specifics on the role of the proposed Executive Dean of the COE.

The FA has been asked to identify a faculty liaison to be part of a small team (with four UA administrators) that will participate in the 2018 ACE & NASH Leadership Academy.

Work towards aligning course numbers, descriptions and SLOs of GERs across the UA system has progressed though the start of the academic year and associated tasks has taken precedence for most faculty.

The Statewide Information Technology Council (ITC) is discussing implementation of a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. While several issues are relevant to the discussion, the FA strongly supports an ERP system that allows faculty to administer their courses in a manner that minimizes disruptions (e.g. registration, financial aid and course prerequisite issues) and facilitates transparent administration of research and teaching grants. The ITC has also drafted an Administrative Email Policy to which the FA has provided edits. Those edits are aimed primarily at correcting features of this policy that will negatively and unnecessarily impact faculty's ability to carry out their teaching, research and service responsibilities.

The Academic Council Subcommittee on Concurrent Enrollment (SCE) has submitted a draft document to the FA containing BOR regulation language on concurrent enrollment. After discussing the document's content and its potential impacts, the FA has requested, in an email to SCE chair Fred Villa dated Oct. 2, 2017, University-wide faculty review prior to submission of the draft document to UA Legal Counsel.

The FA continues to work together with the Statewide Administration Assembly on a crowd-sourcing project for generating new and innovative approaches to the enrollment problems currently faced by the University.

Letters, Memos and Resolutions:

[2017 09 27 – FA Memo to CITO re Email Policy](#)

[2017 09 29 – FA to Johnsen re Faculty Representation](#)

[2017 09 29 – FA to Johnsen COE](#)

Faculty Alliance is the faculty voice in matters affecting the academic welfare of the University of Alaska system and its educational programs.

Staff Alliance

Kara Axx, Chair

UA Staff Alliance met on Sept. 6 and Oct. 11 to discuss staff unionization, Strategic Pathways Phase 3, staff retirement options, full time employment definitions, plans for UA leadership

and succession development, and potential changes to annual leave accrual caps and cash in procedures

Director of UA Labor and Employee Relations, Geoff Bacon, attended the September meeting to explain the process if staff were decide to investigate unionizing, answer staff questions about the benefits and drawbacks of unionizing, and provide a summary of past attempts to unionize staff at UA. Each campus Staff Council is going to start collecting feedback to determine if unionization is of interest to the staff. This will be discussed again at the November Staff Alliance meeting.

President Johnsen held feedback sessions regarding Strategic Pathways Phase 3 at all of the campuses before introducing to the Board at the September meeting. After introducing to the Board, President Johnsen will be taking his final recommendations back to the campuses for feedback before presenting to the Board at the November meeting.

Staff Alliance is seeking additional information about the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) from Director of Benefits, Erika Van Flein during the November meeting. Currently only faculty and executive officers/senior administrators are eligible for this benefit.

According to UA Regulation, working a 40 hour work week is required to be considered a full-time employee. With the current budget situation many people are working reduced contracts. Ant staff working less than 40 hours per week are considered part time employees. Reduced contracts are negatively affecting staff when conducting personal business, such applying for new credit or home loans. Staff Alliance is working on a resolution to broaden the term full-time employee.

Chief Human Resource Officer, Keli Hite McGee, attended the October meeting to introduce a new concept at UA for Leadership and Succession Development. Keli was looking to solicit feedback from Staff Alliance to see what areas staff might like to see developed first. The idea is to develop staff in current roles to not only help staff be more successful in current positions, but also to prepare for new positions with additional responsibilities as they arise. Some of the areas identified by Staff Alliance were options for better communication, better recognition, more training opportunities, more participation in governance groups, defined mentoring opportunities and a focus on opportunities for women and minorities.

The Staff Alliance Chair has been working with President Johnsen and Keli Hite McGee regarding the proposal presented at the September Board meeting to increase the annual leave accrual cap and other proposed changes to the annual leave cash in program. A new proposal will be brought to the November meeting for review to change the date of annual leave expiration. President Johnsen is prepared to amend his proposal to the annual leave cash in program from May of 2017 after considering staff feedback.

Staff Alliance serves the classified and administrative, professional and technical staff throughout the University of Alaska system.