



UNIVERSITY  
*of* ALASKA  
*Many Traditions One Alaska*

**FA Chair Report to Alliance Members  
December 8, 2017**

The **Academic and Student Affairs Committee** met on 11/2/17.

Change to BoR Policy 05.12.020 replacing “Statewide Academic Council” with “Academic Council”.

Process improvements for online student services were initiated with an information gathering effort. Students will be surveyed throughout October ’17 about their frustrations regarding UA’s on-line systems. A team led by Saichi Oba will analyze the gathered information and develop solutions for implementation by fall ’18.

Admissions to the MS Degree in Resource and Applied Economics at University of Alaska Fairbanks were suspended. The FA voiced objection to the continued degradation of academic programs at UA noting that efforts at economic expediency will be meaningless if quality educational opportunities no longer exist at UA.

The **Board of Regents** met on 11/9/17 and 11/10/17 at UAA.

The Board approved a UA budget of \$341M for presentation to Governor Walker.

The Board approved renewing President Johnsen’s contract.

The Board approved revisions to Regents’ Policy 04.06.120 – Annual Leave.

The Board approved the FY18 Presidential Performance Compensation Criteria and Metrics

Regent Purdue questioned the reasonableness of the goals Johnsen has set for UA and asks about the outward-facing appearance of unattainable goals.

The Board approved a Resolution of Appreciation for James F. Lynch

The Board approved tuition increases by 5 percent next academic year and by another 5 percent the year after that.

Regent Davies suggested changes to policy that would clarify faculty & staff training requirements (Title IX specifically).

Audit Committee – An external audit of UA finances; no significant findings. A new external auditor will be identified through committee.

Facilities and Land Management – The BoR approves sale of the UAA 7<sup>th</sup> and A street property at fair market value. The timber sale on the Chilkat Peninsula is still receiving comments therefore no action taken. The UAF Engineering Bldg will open in F’18. At UAS the Auke Bay Marine Lab purchase is proceeding.

Title IX – May be as late as January before OCR returns comment on UA’s resolution efforts.

Recent withdrawal of the 1) 2011 Dear Colleague letter and 2) the 2014 Guidelines does not change UA obligation; all previously established VRAs are still in effect and signees remain obligated.

Changes brought on by new guidelines: Clear and convincing evidence is now standard of proof rather than preponderance of evidence. Rulemaking efforts by Dept of Ed will begin soon and UA has asked to be involved. UA has asked OCR to hold off asking for UA policy changes until new guidelines are established via this rulemaking effort.

Government Relations (Miles Baker) - Proposed tax bill (Trump): projected increase in tax revenues for education but removes numerous education-based tax cuts (removes tax deduction for interest on student loans, etc). UA's land grant deficit is being kept at the forefront. State of AK legislation – income tax (not expected to move this year), criminal justice bill (passed House, expected to stall in Senate). No long-term revenue fix anticipated (even if income tax passes) therefore expect the legislature to tap the Permanent Fund. Over past 3 years, AK has spent \$14 billion from Permanent Fund to meet budget shortfalls. UA prioritizes protection of Higher Education Fund (last year the governor used this fund for non-designated purposes, e.g. state TERS and PERS contributions; remember this fund serves Alaska Performance Scholars & Alaska Education Grant, Regent Hughes will be visiting villages to assess the success of the amended process for public testimony. Field hearings are planned for spring '18. In these efforts, BoR members attend village events throughout state. Regent Purdue requested reconsideration of the decision to hold BoR meetings only in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau.

The BoR is considering a brief retreat in Anchorage on January 18, 2018 followed by a more extensive retreat in Fairbanks 5/31- 6/1/18

The BoR will host Advocacy Summit in Anchorage on January 19, 2018

Future agenda items include extensive cross-listing of courses across universities and revisions to the student pay rate.

The **Summit Team** met on 11/16/17

EAB Student Success Collaborative Steering Committee chair Saichi Oba states that each university owns their own advising site with EAB success consultants assigned to each university.

VP Michelle Rizk states Governor Walker will support UA at \$325M level with an additional \$8M going to items on a list of strategic priorities (allotments are not itemized).

VP Michelle Rizk - chancellors, deans, directors, alumni, BoR, External Advisory Group, AK Higher Ed Group are expected to attend the January 19, 2018 BoR Advocacy Workshop.

The FA suggested edits on Concurrent Enrollment UA Regulation were sent to Fred Villa on 11/13/17 and were incorporated as presented. At the ST meeting, the Concurrent Enrollment Policy is described as consistent with the Protection of Minors on Campus Policy.

Kelli McGee - Salary market analyses have been grouped together (faculty, staff, etc): interviews with key stakeholders already completed. An RFP for the analysis will be issued shortly. Annual leave changes - the roll-over deadline is now June 30, 8 hour personal holiday available, 40 h of leave cash-in per year is available. These changes will be communicated to employees. Administrators are encouraged to

communicate the lack of salary increases in FY '19 and leave changes. HR Council is strongly encouraged to integrate Page-Up and Banner.

Gwen Groenig is drafting policy guidelines on use of large data systems.

Karl Kowalski in the process of developing a web accessibility policy via the Web Accessibility Task Force.

The Research Council is considering a system-wide G&C consolidation model, encouraging partnering with state agencies wherein UA is guaranteed 1st choice for contracted research and designing forums, conferences and brochures describing the benefits of UA research to the AK economy. The Council is also assembling a list of research facilities available at each university that is accessible to UA members and contracting partners.

The University Relations Council supports training for Executive Council members on free speech. Public Relations staff at each university should be regularly reminded of UA policy as well as federal and state laws surrounding free speech. General Council should be contacted in any questionable circumstances.

#### The **Academic Council** met on 11/17/17

The AC is asking the UAF Senate to approve a change to 50 minute hours. As per Saichi Oba, this motion is progressing through Senate. If successful, all T, Th dominant class times will align but MWF will have only one morning and one afternoon course times that align. S.O. states that the UAA Department of Engineering is willing to align MWF courses. While it is not clear, I assume this means that UAA will move to a 60 minute block.

**THIS WILL BE AN AGENDA ITEM AT THE 12/8/17 FACULTY ALLIANCE MEETING.**

The UAA MPP/MPA program proposal is moving forward. Provost Carey expresses concern regarding eventual move to distance delivery and thus competition with MPA at UAS. The VPASA will discuss this joint program with President Johnsen next week and report back to AC

The E-Learning Subcommittee reported significant push back on out-sourcing of selected programs and would like to hand over the out-sourcing issue to AC. Provost Heinrichs indicates that some programs are considering outsourcing of specific service aspects (e.g. marketing, assessment) and asks that the conversation distinguish academic from non-academic services.

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The Concurrent Enrollment Subcommittee will supply the newly revised policy to the universities in July 2018. Praesidium will be at UAA in March and UAF in September. UAS people will be eligible to attend either meeting.

#### The **System Governance Council** met on 11/20/17

Kara Axx (Staff Alliance) was appointed as chair. Priorities for 2018 were identified as Title IX, UA advocacy and UA system messaging.

#### The **IT Council** met on 10/31/17, 11/21/17

Video conferencing equipment will no longer be serviced after September 2018. An RFI for new services at 12/18 meeting. Faculty, staff and students are sought that

can identify important/needed features of videoconferencing RFI.

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The UA-wide HIPPA audit has been completed and the report will be made available. Banner 9 has been adopted and the transition is already underway. Elutian will be at UA the week of 11/27/18 to discuss with stakeholders.

In response to the UAA resolution stating recurrent problems with Blackboard, it was pointed out that the ITC has no mechanism for persistent problems. Faculty Alliance pointed out that the administrative definition of "downtime" differs from that of students and faculty and this disparity must be considered in attempts to rectify the problem. Given the significant downtime needed for a BlackBoard upgrade, this approach will NOT be pursued at this time. Patches will be installed and these should address UAA slowness issues. The creation of the BB User Group (where faculty can discuss and provide feedback to CIO-MT) is also described as an effort to address BB issues at UAA. Governance groups and faculty technology subgroups are asked to advertise the BB User Group and solicit participation. As a result of a complaint from a UAA student regarding web accessibility, the following notice will now appear on all UA sponsored sites (BlackBoard excluded):

Web Accessibility Notice

The University of Alaska (UA) is committed to providing a website that is accessible to the widest possible audience, including individuals with disabilities. UA websites have been developed to conform to the best practices and criteria defined in the W3C's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA and the Web Accessibility Initiative Accessible Rich Internet Applications Suite (WAI-ARIA) 1.0 techniques for web content.

If you have difficulty accessing information on a UA website due to a disability, please contact appropriate site owner using the contact information below. Please let us know the URL (web address) of the material you tried to access, the problem you experienced and your contact information including your name, email address and phone number.

UAA: Please contact webmaster through this form or contact our support center at 786-4646.

UAF: Contact info....

UAS: Contact info....

Prior to 12/1/17 each university must identify point of contact.

Software cost-sharing is under consideration. Efforts will identify universally employed vs site-specific costs (i.e. what is centrally paid for and what is distributed?). The current proposal defines a cost-share mechanism for new and renewed software. Administrative software cost will be based on staff FTE plus a percentage of Crafts and Trade staff. Academic software will follow the Student Credit Hour (SCH) Percentage Model (percentage of overall SCH produced by the campus). SW fee distribution (central vs distributed) will be reviewed prior to submitting proposal to Business Council where it will be further discussed.

The monthly meeting of the FA Chair and President Johnsen is scheduled for 11/30/17.

On 11/18/17, an email with attached letter was sent to Representative Justin Parrish requesting introduction of a bill that would establish a faculty regent.

On 11/16/17, in an email vote, the FA tabled the 11/10/17 motion to send a letter to the CIO-MT regarding institutional email security expectations of faculty.

Letters, memos, resolutions

- Memo regarding tuition and fee distribution

- Memo to President Johnsen regarding a bill establishing a faculty regent

- Letter to President Johnsen requesting faculty appointments to SW councils

- Memo (follow-up) regarding tuition and fee distribution