



## Faculty Alliance

FA Chair Report to Alliance Members  
September 22, 2017

On September 13, 2017 as the Faculty Alliance (FA) representative, I met with **UA President Johnsen for a monthly discussion** of relevant issues.

- President Johnsen will issue his response to input from FA during the August 2017 Retreat within the week, pending input from the Chancellors.
- Regarding SP Ph III decisions, no major restructuring is proposed but collaboration and coordination across the UA system is a major theme and communities of practice including shared faculty, shared courses and shared expertise will be encouraged and funded across campuses. President Johnsen requests FA input regarding 2-3 year implementation/structuring of these communities of practice, their charge and goals. When asked for examples he described shared colloquia for building intellectual resources.
- President Johnsen will be attending a meeting of university presidents at the University of Chicago in late October and based on discussions there, will author a white paper on the topic of freedom of expression. He believes that UA should foster conversations about FoE and requests FA input regarding campus efforts towards that end. These efforts will be supported by the chancellors.
- President Johnsen has sent a letter to the AK congressional delegation requesting prompt action to resolve the issues surrounding the DACA Act. An internal communication describing resources and other forms of student support is forthcoming. The President stresses that he is not taking a position on immigration policy at this time.
- The UA commitment to Title IX, as outlined in the Voluntary Compliance Agreement will not change. Changes to due process imposed by changing federal regulation will have to be reviewed by legal experts before action is taken.
- In response to an inquiry regarding pay inequity at UA, the President noted that HR(?) is currently surveying faculty and administrative data to identify any problems and formulate solutions.
- The work towards aligning course numbers, descriptions and SLOs of GERs across the UA system was described to the President as having progressed significantly. It was noted that some faculty support revisions to BoR Regulations on GERs so that they more accurately reflect the university's shared goals. The President indicated that he would consider changes proposed via the FA as vetted by all faculty and checked for consistency with policy. Once chancellors approve, the proposed change(s) will be considered by him for adoption. If proposed changes to Regs originate from an individual Senate, he will request Alliance review prior to further consideration.  
*In a later conversation with Dan Kline, the impacts of changing regulation prior to*

*completion of GER alignment was discussed and the Faculty Alliance was urged to slow the conversation.*

- In response to the FA questions regarding the benefits of a CoE Executive Dean with limited supervisory authority, especially given the increased cost, the President indicated that an Executive Dean (i.e. a single accountable person) will improve UA's relationship with public school superintendents, will allow specific focus on teacher education and will be in Juneau with access to the legislature. He also described the benefits of the CoE Statewide Council in terms of marshalling resources and develop a SW strategy.
- When asked about the May '17 FA resolution regarding reductions to the UA Statewide system and how he felt about a system of data sharing among all UA employees, President Johnsen indicated that this is top priority for the institutional research Council.
- Efforts to improve the online registration process will focus on NDS students and the NDS registration process will be differentiated from that of DS students. With regards to DS student registration, competency and credit for prior learning are his primary concern.
- When asked to what lengths he is willing to go to protect the traditional form of university faculty tenure, the President replied that he doesn't believe the current high ratio of tenured faculty at UA is necessarily a benefit. He would like to discuss this further.
- The recent measure at UAA to move tier 1 GER courses from the College of Arts and Sciences to the Community and Technical College was described to President Johnsen as an example of administrators excluding faculty from decisions that directly affect academics and followed with a request that Chancellors be advised of their obligations to consult faculty. President Johnsen indicated that he had only recently learned of this action, that he thinks faculty were involved and he will discuss the issue with Chancellor Gingrich.

On September 14 - 15, 2017 as the Faculty Alliance (FA) representative, I attended the **UA Board of Regents (BoR)** meeting in Juneau, AK.

The strategic vision of UA was described with 5 broad goals which will form the basis of a framework plan that the Executive Council will compile at their 9/25/17 meeting. This framework will then be circulated for university review. A final strategic plan will be complete by 10/17/17 so that it can be discussed at the 10/24/17 BoR Budget meeting and presented to the BoR at their 11/9 meeting for consideration in the AY 19 budget. President Johnsen discussed the College of Education. He has asked for feedback on the latest plan by September 30, 2017.

The creation of the System-wide Summit Team and councils were described as mechanisms for change while providing accountability. The Council charters and updates are posted on *GoogleDocs/shared with me/Faculty Alliance:Council Charters Updates 170921.pdf*.

The BoR discussed at length the registration process and the need for process simplification. Various solutions to this problem were discussed.

A financial briefing was presented by CFO Myron Dorsch. The decline in state of AK grant and contract revenue from FY16 to FY17 was reported as down by 22% and enrollment from F15 to F16 down by 11%. Decreases in state general fund revenue from AY14 to AY17 has been addressed by decreases in unrestricted expenditures and a 10% increase in tuition revenue.

President Johnsen's performance was assessed quantitatively and qualitatively with bonuses awarded in each area totaling \$50,000.

A motion to develop and consider sale of an 80 acre, UA-owned parcel near Cantwell, AK passed unanimously.

Tuition rate increases of 10% and 9.5% in AY19 and AY20 resp. KOC and PWSC and 5% for all others was discussed.

Contracts with United Academics and Fairbanks Fire Fighters were approved.

A request from the Staff Alliance for changes to annual leave policy, i.e. rollover of unused time-off was postponed with a request for additional information.

A 10% fee on gifts to UA was adopted by the BoR

On September 19, 2017 as the Faculty Alliance (FA) representative, I participated in the **Statewide Information Technology Council (ITC)** meeting.

The bulk of the meeting was basically a discussion of the impending retirement of Banner 8 (current system in use across UA) in December 2018 and whether UA should adopt Banner 9 or implement a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. Some of the issues discussed were:

- Need to compare alternative ERPs to Banner 9 upgrade - pause on Banner9 upgrade?
- Complaints should be categorized along with their solutions and evaluated in terms of limitations of Banner or issue that a new system would fix
- Wrt online registration difficulties, two groups to consider; NDS (fast registration) and DS (should expect more complicated registration process)
- Complexities of new ERP implementation would intensify current problems
- HR supports identification of inefficient processes which are subsequently either fixed with B9 or another system is employed

One recommendation that came out of the meeting was to develop project guidelines around ERP issue including cost restrictions, processes that must be served and the capacity for information sharing and disseminate among faculty and staff for comment.

On September 20, 2017 as the Faculty Alliance (FA) representative, I joined the statewide **Academic and Student Affairs Council subcommittee** tasked with developing BoR regulation language on **concurrent enrollment**.

The draft currently under consideration by the subcommittee can be found on GoogleDocs/shared with me/Faculty Alliance:Concurrent Enrollment reg 170920 DRAFT.docx.

On September 21, 2017 as the Faculty Alliance (FA) representative, I attended the monthly meeting of the **UA-wide Summit Team (ST)**. That team consists of leaders of key functional areas throughout the university system, as well as system governance bodies and the chair of each system-wide council.

- Progress towards the Title IX VCA was summarized
- Holds; \$4.5M held in 40 types of student holds; UA alignment of hold policy becomes relevant with imposition of Title IX training
- Registration process will be aligned across UA. The existing Banner technology will be used to auto-admit all NDS students in process analogous to that in use at UAA.

Implementation will begin on Tues 9/26/17 when registrar staff will receive instructions and full functionality anticipated by 10/6. Comments and feedback to S.O. by 9/25 COB.

- Council updates *see GoogleDocs/shared with me/Faculty Alliance:Council Charters Updates 170921.pdf*
  - Business: New travel booking and expense reporting by Concur - contract finalized in next two weeks. Implementation team will disseminate information to affected individuals
  - Development: Foundation scholarships for 1st time students – applications made available on same date across UA - 1st come 1st serve
  - Human Resources: The requirement for 6 month continuous employment for access to UA courses has been removed
  - IT: Guidelines and standards for IT projects, e.g. circumstances that solicit need for IT Council review, will be established
  - Institutional Research: Implementing the Collaborative Knowledge Network
  - Student Services: Policy alignment will be a focus and standardized time schedules were mentioned as an issue, i.e. two different definitions of an hour. Alignment of class schedules will solve some problems and introduce others but noted that class schedules are AC matter.
  - University Relations: A faculty representative on this committee is specifically requested. Guidelines/parameters on issuing official UA comments will be publicized
- Tuition Increase: 5% each year for AY19 and AY20 and 10% for KPC and PWSC
  - President Johnsen supports elevating tuition overall but providing scholarships and waivers to maintain opportunity