



UNIVERSITY  
of ALASKA  
*Many Traditions One Alaska*

DATE: May 3, 2017  
TO: UAA Faculty Senate, UAF Faculty Senate, UAS Faculty Senate  
FROM: Tara Smith, AY17 Chair & Lisa Hoferkamp, AY18 Chair, Faculty Alliance  
RE: April Report of Activities

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The [Faculty Alliance](#) consists of the president-elect (First Vice President at UAA), president, and past president of each Faculty Senate in the University of Alaska System. The chair of this body rotates amongst the past presidents of each university. Please note that from May 12, 2017 through the last Faculty Alliance meeting of AY18, Dr. Lisa Hoferkamp of UAS will be the chair.

The Faculty Alliance exists primarily to promote communication amongst the Faculty Senates and to/from Statewide leadership. We are an advisory body to the President and we have members serving on the Statewide Academic Council ([SAC](#)) and the chair is an ex-officio member of the Board of Regents Academic & Student Affairs (ASA) committee. We meet via Google Hangouts and anyone is welcome to attend our [meetings](#). President Johnsen is scheduled to attend the last 45 minutes of the rest of our meetings for the year. Both the ASA and BOR meetings are [livestreamed](#) if you are interested in watching.

Following this overview are documents related to the work of Faculty Alliance from April. We held two regular meetings

Based on the discussion at the March BOR meeting, we are compiling faculty senate feedback on shared governance. Lisa will be discussing this with the regents at their June meeting. Please take the opportunity to contribute to the Google Doc we are using as sort of an asynchronous discussion. You can access the document [here](#).

In February, Faculty Alliance sent two recommendations to SAC on the Common Calendar (see February Report). Those will be forwarded to the Summit Team with the support of SAC. The Summit Team has discussed these recommendations and President Johnsen is finalizing his response.

To address remaining and future common calendar issues, the Faculty Alliance formed a faculty Common Calendar Committee. They are Sarah Kirk and David Fitzgerald from UAA, Leah Berman and Sandra Wildfleuer from UAF, and Julie Hamilton and Maren Haavig from UAS. They have held their first meeting and plan to meet again before the end of contract.

In April, Faculty Alliance passed one resolution and one statement, and we sent feedback on the [Enrollment Plan](#) from AVP Oba, all of which follows below. In the resolution, we responded to President Johnsen's request for input on the celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day. The statement of support for funding the UA System at the level proposed by Governor Walker was sent directly to every member of the Alaska State Legislature.

We were asked to give feedback on the Phase 3 Options for Strategic Pathways this month, but we have requested an extension for this until September 2017. Please look for an opportunity in the fall to contribute your thoughts on the Phase 3 Options in a similar fashion to the one we employed for gathering Faculty Senate feedback on Phase 2 Options.

The next regular BOR meeting will be June 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> in Fairbanks. President Johnsen has indicated that there will be a discussion on system governance given by [Dennis Jones](#) and [Aims McGuinness](#). They will present a whitepaper they are preparing on the University of Alaska System governance and drawing on the discussion in Dr. McGuinness' report [State Policy Leadership for the Future](#).

Lisa is beginning the process of scheduling meetings with President Johnsen. She welcomes your input on topics to discuss in those meetings in the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact your respective Faculty Alliance members with any comments or questions on these items or to make suggestions of items we should address. Lisa can be reached best at [lahoferkamp@alaska.edu](mailto:lahoferkamp@alaska.edu) if you would like to contact her.

Faculty Alliance  
910 Yukon Drive  
P.O. Box 757780  
Fairbanks, AK 99775



UNIVERSITY  
of ALASKA  
*Many Traditions One Alaska*

106E Butrovich Building  
(907) 450-8042  
[ua-sygov-faculty@lists.alaska.edu](mailto:ua-sygov-faculty@lists.alaska.edu)  
[alaska.edu/governance/faculty-alliance/](http://alaska.edu/governance/faculty-alliance/)

Date: April 14, 2017  
To: Alaska State Senators and Representatives  
From: The University of Alaska Faculty Alliance  
Subject: University of Alaska System Budget

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The Faculty Alliance of the University of Alaska System is composed of the Past-Presidents, Presidents and Presidents-Elect of the faculty senates of the University of Alaska Anchorage, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and the University of Alaska Southeast. They represent all faculty members serving at the three universities. The Faculty Alliance [Constitution](#) states that one of the reasons we exist is to “provide faculty members with representation for the faculty of the University of Alaska in matters which affect the general welfare of the university system and its educational purposed and effectiveness.”

The Faculty Alliance is alarmed at the current budget appropriations that have been proposed by the Senate of \$303 million and SB 103, which further removes funding for higher education in Alaska. While the House proposed appropriation is flat, the fixed cost increases for the entire system already make this an actual cut. However, the Senate proposals will fundamentally threaten the integrity of the three universities in the University of Alaska System, and therefore jeopardize access to quality, affordable higher education for all Alaskans.

The Faculty Alliance acknowledges the budgetary constraints of the state of Alaska and thanks every member of the Senate and House of Representatives for your service in what are extremely difficult circumstances. We know that you are all striving to balance the budget. We support your efforts and we have urged the Board of Regents to take specific actions within the UA System to ensure that our institutions are focusing our resources on our core mission for Alaska and cutting costs that do not limit our service to Alaskans (FA [Resolution 2017-07](#)). We urge you to approve the full House proposal of \$325 million in appropriations for the University of Alaska System and help us keep access to quality, affordable higher education a reality for Alaskans. We need it now more than ever.

**Passed unanimously by the Faculty Alliance on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 2017.**

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tara Smith".

7570FDE157BE499...

**Tara Smith, Chair**

James R. Johnsen, Ed.D.  
President

Butrovich Bldg, Ste. 202, 910 Yukon Drive  
P.O. Box 755000, Fairbanks, AK 99775-5000  
Phone: (907) 450-8000; Fax: (907) 450-8012  
Email: ua.president@alaska.edu  
www.alaska.edu



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 14, 2017

To: Nate Bauer, Staff Alliance Chair  
Colby Freel, Coalition of Student Leaders Chair  
Tara Smith, Faculty Alliance Chair

From: Jim Johnsen, UA President *James R. Johnsen*

Re: USUAS-JC Resolution 1617-08 and UAS Faculty Senate Resolution 2017-03 –  
Recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day Throughout UA

The student and faculty governance bodies at UAS have advanced the attached resolutions requesting that UA annually recognize Indigenous Peoples Day on the second Monday of October, and that UA celebrate – systemwide – Indigenous Peoples Day in a “meaningful” way.

While I am supportive of this, because my expressed approval of the resolutions as proposed would affect all UA campuses, I seek the input of your system governance bodies on this matter. Thank you.

JRJ

Attachment (as stated)

cc: Brandi Berg, UA BOR Executive Officer  
Morgan Dufseth, UA System Governance Executive Officer  
Lisa Hoferkamp, UAS Faculty Senate President  
USUAS-JC (Juneau.studentgov@alaska.edu)  
UA Summit Team



## **Faculty Alliance**

### **Resolution 2017-08**

### **Support for Indigenous Peoples Day Celebrations**

Be it resolved, the Faculty Alliance unanimously supports the adoption of meaningful celebrations of Indigenous Peoples Day at all three universities. We recommend that each university determine the appropriate local and regional approaches to observing this important day in consultation with their respective faculty, student, staff, and community members.

**Adopted unanimously by the Faculty Alliance the 28th day of May 2017.**

DocuSigned by:

*Tara Smith*

7570FDE157BE499

Tara Smith, Chair

Faculty Alliance  
910 Yukon Drive  
P.O. Box 757780  
Fairbanks, AK 99775



106E Butrovich Building  
(907) 450-8042  
[ua-gov-faculty@lists.alaska.edu](mailto:ua-gov-faculty@lists.alaska.edu)  
[alaska.edu/governance/faculty-alliance/](http://alaska.edu/governance/faculty-alliance/)

Date: April 28, 2017  
To: James R. Johnsen, President, University of Alaska  
From: Tara Smith, Chair, Faculty Alliance TS  
Re: UA Enrollment Planning Report

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The Faculty Alliance would like to address the “UA Enrollment Planning Report” by Saichi Oba dated Fall 2016.

The Faculty Alliance agrees that our universities’ abilities to attract, retain, and graduate Alaskans is central to our missions and fundamental to the financial welfare of our institutions.

However, we do not support the presumption that a statewide solution to enrollment would be either necessary or effective. Indeed, the report itself mentions that many decisions are best left to experts at the universities.

“The unique missions of each university should be used to define the goals for what students they will recruit, retain, and graduate. Integrating the universities’ missions into their enrollment goals is a leading and necessary component of enrollment planning strategy.” (p. 2)

**Recommendation 1: Differentiate branding and recruitment strategies developed by each university.**

We strongly emphasize this recommendation as something to keep in mind in the event of further efforts to homogenize the university experience for students regardless of which university they attend.

**Recommendation 2: Use existing resources (monetary or intellectual) and expertise where possible.**

The Faculty Alliance agrees with the recommendation of including faculty on these decisions for recruiting and retaining students. A lot of money is going to be spent on this endeavor and the implications will be long-lasting, be they positive or negative. Faculty have a unique vantage point and important voice in determining what makes a quality education - let us not look past the quality to get to the quantity.

We are concerned that yet another consultant (McDowell) was hired to examine the reasons for decline in enrollment, again overlooking the many internal resources at our three universities that are available to answer such questions.

Faculty Alliance finds that the potential pitfalls of dual enrollment have not been addressed in the report. Dual enrollment brings at least as many cons as it does pros. Some high school students are ready for university classrooms and allowing them to take these classes may be a valuable tool for recruitment. However, it must be recognized that not all high school students are ready for the university classroom, pace, or general expectations. Further, if dual enrollment is widely implemented (perhaps as a cost-saving measure for various school districts), it is important for the UA System to acknowledge that these high school students would be entering an environment for adults; the universities should not change to become a substitute or extension of high school.

As well, Alaska's high schools are having trouble with low enrollment and their own struggles with students being passed through coursework without the skills needed to be successful in the next course. University-level courses assume a base level of knowledge and ability gained from high school. Passing up some of those high school courses to get to and through college faster often add to the "holes" in a student's learning rather than filling them.

**Recommendation 3: Use user-friendly recruiting tools but retain truth in advertising, supporting existing policies at each of the three universities.**

For example, we caution against the widespread advertisement of Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) websites that are not associated with a particular

UA university. The site <http://collegecreditpredictor.org/thec>, for example, asks the user a few simple questions about their background then generates a list of several specific courses for which the potential student may be able to receive college credit. The courses listed are not necessarily courses available from the UA

universities. While the tool may seem simple and user-friendly, it is not transparent or consistent with the faculty-approved processes a UA student must follow to be granted CPL. Rather than direct returning adult students to a non-UA website, we recommend providing a link to the CPL policies currently in place at each of the three universities.

The UAF CPL Handbook makes a very important distinction between credit for prior learning and credit for prior experience, which should be made clear in any UA publications or communications to students. There is no guaranteed or implied skill that is gained in a person's *experiences*. University credit may be awarded for prior *learning* that is demonstrated by the student through an exam, certification, or portfolio assessed by faculty members. This is especially relevant for course sequences that rely on recent knowledge and competency of material in a prerequisite course (or prior learning) to be successful in the next course.

Regarding advising, the Faculty Alliance agrees that all three universities should work together to provide the best education that fits an individual student's needs and abilities. However, we generally oppose the message that the intent of a college education is to get in and out as fast as possible. The intent is for each student to get a *quality* education and one that prepares them for their career of choice. The UA system should strive and advertise that as its primary message and goal.

#### **Recommendation 4: Support additional resources for low-income students.**

The Faculty Alliance recognizes the importance of ensuring an adequate revenue stream from tuition. However, making it more difficult for students of modest means to attend our universities is contrary to our respective missions to serve all the people of Alaska and will reduce socio-economic diversity among our student body. We were therefore



pleased by the explicit statement that “more resources for poor students should be made available” (p. 9).

Similarly, we find it disingenuous to use low tuition as a selling point when one of the goals of the plan you have presented to make the UA system sustainable is to increase tuition in the coming years to a level that is comparable to other WICHE universities.

**Recommendation 5: Make explicit the allocation of resources.**

We understand that recruitment and retention is a high priority, even in these low budget times. To that end, we request that the allocation of resources be explicitly stated, whether implied or direct expenses. For example, the UA Enrollment Planning Report presents a scenario of a student in Kuskokwim using *DegreeWorks* to see if his/her courses fit better into a degree from UAA or UAS (pp. 11-12). This sounds good on the surface, but it strongly implies that the student could then complete a degree from UAA or UAS while staying in Kuskokwim. The Faculty Alliance notes that this scenario requires widespread online courses and vastly improved infrastructure. However, the document does not specifically address allocating resources for this purpose.

The discussion on p. 5 regarding leveraging financial aid mentions tuition waivers. While it is not clear which class of tuition waivers is referenced, it is important to understand that tuition waivers for faculty and their dependents are negotiated benefits and are likely a valuable tool for recruitment and retention of faculty and other employees. Any strategy that involves these tuition waivers should be made with significant input from Faculty Governance and faculty unions.