

# UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA

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## Faculty Alliance

Friday, December 16, 2011, beginning at 3:00pm via audio conference

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

1. Call to order and Roll Call

Dan Monteith, President, 2011-2012 Chair; President, UAS Faculty Senate  
Nalinaksha Bhattacharyya, President, UAA Faculty Senate  
Robert Boeckmann, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, UAA Faculty Senate  
Cathy Cahill, President, UAF Faculty Senate  
Jon Dehn, 2009-2010 Alliance Chair; Past President, UAF Faculty Senate  
John Petraitis, 2010-2011 Alliance Chair; Past President, UAA Faculty Senate  
Jennifer Reynolds, President-elect, UAF Faculty Senate  
Sherry Tamone, Past President, UAS Faculty Senate

Kim Fackler, Admin. Coordinator  
Paula Donson, Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs

2. Adopt Agenda

MOTION: passed

“The Faculty Alliance moves to adopt the agenda for the December 16, 2011 meeting as amended. This action is effective December 16, 2011.”

3. Approve November 18, 2011 Minutes

MOTION: passed

“The Faculty Alliance moves to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2011 meeting. This action is effective December 16, 2012.”

4. Report of the Chair

4.1 Replacement for John Petraitis on the Statewide Academic Council

In January, John Petraitis will become associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences and therefore ineligible to serve on senate and the Alliance. Robert Boeckmann was asked to replace Petraitis as the UAA representative on SAC. Boeckmann accepted.

5. Public or Guest Comments

There were no public or guest comments.

6. Strategic Direction Update

Paula Donson reported that the weather forced the meeting in Nome to be rescheduled. Yesterday, listening sessions were held in Kodiak, one for the advisory team and one for faculty with Coalition speaker Nick Pennington. Summaries of those meetings are nearly ready.

The next step is that the strategic plan team will accumulate all the external reports and share the data with the president's cabinet, asking them to develop an MAU distribution and review process. One chancellor thought the data would be good to use for accreditation and campus strategic development plan. Another chancellor wanted to review it in light of the current strategic plan and incorporate in the elements that are not there currently. The third chancellor will report back at the next president's cabinet meeting.

At UAA, the review groups will be the governance groups with some overview group from the provost's office. Other MAU reviews will occur at the discretion of the chancellors.

For the internal listening sessions, the Alliance was asked to send questions to Donson who already asked the Staff Alliance and the Coalition of Student Leaders to develop questions for internal listening sessions. It is likely that there would be separate internal listening sessions for faculty, for staff and for students. The Alliance was requested to submit questions to be asked of their respective faculty.

Faculty Alliance suggested at the beginning of the process that transcripts would be better for scientific data analysis. The recordings of the listening sessions will be furnished to the chancellors and can be made available through the chancellors at their discretion. Input from the surveys is being collected by the statewide public affairs office and that office will provide a report of survey results.

Donson raised the issue of Town Hall meetings with MacTaggart and with President Gamble but there has no definitive response as yet. This will be brought up at the next president's cabinet meeting. It is likely to be very expensive and the university is being asked what the strategic plan process is costing so that will be taken into account.

The Alliance should provide a list of questions for internal listening sessions by the end of the first two weeks in January. Donson will be added to the Faculty Alliance listserv so Donson can communicate directly with the Alliance over the holidays.

Donson is still forming a statewide group of external public leadership to serve as an advisory team for President Gamble. She directed the Alliance to the working being done at the Arizona State

University in strategic direction through the office of the president Michael Crow at <http://www.asu.edu>. Alliance members urged caution about using other institution's efforts as models.

7. Policy and Regulation Review

The UAA senate sent an email to President Gamble stating that the senate can respond within the time frame. The senate E-board looked at the policies and regulations and assigned them to committees.

The UAF senate made assignments a month ago and two reports have been received so far. The senate has asked for all reports by mid-January.

8. Senate Summit: Discussion

This item was not discussed.

9. Petraitis Resignation

John Petraitis resigned from the Alliance and UAA Faculty Senate effective January when he assumes his position as associate dean of the UAA College of Arts and Sciences. This affects his chairing the E-Lab Task Force. He said the E-Lab Task Force is meeting January 15 and 16 and lauded Kim Fackler for organizing the event. Since this is a faculty task force and John Petraitis will have a 60 percent administrative assignment as associate dean, he asked to also be relieved as E-Lab Task Force chair, but would be willing to serve if the Alliance wished him to continue. Fackler read the list of task force names. Petraitis was asked to convene the task force retreat in January and a decision about a chair replacement would either be made by the task force during, or by the Alliance after that meeting.

10. External Administration Committee/Council Reports and Liaison/Alternate Appointments

10.1 Statewide Academic Council

Alliance Members: *Dan Monteith, John Petraitis, Cathy Cahill*

Stay on Track

SAC discussed the national Complete America program for the past couple of meetings. Alliance representatives had concerns that were shared with the rest of the Alliance. Although SAC is on board to complete students quicker but if Alaska enrolls in this program, we may be held to it. Apparently Complete America works through the state's governors' offices. If the Governor's office decides Alaska will do it, then it is a mute point.

At UAA, the student newspaper published an article about UA's Stay on Track program outlining the problems with it. While the Complete America may be a laudable program, it may not be a good fit for the University of Alaska.

Regardless of what the Governor's office does, the Alliance is considering making a formal statement to President Gamble on the subject. The push back from students and faculty make a formal statement critical.

<http://www.thenorthernlight.org/2011/11/08/low-4-year-completion-rate-prompts-graduation-initiative/>

The Alliance statement should be worded very carefully and should be shared with the Board of Regents as well as the President. Dan Monteith is charged to draft a statement.

#### Research Master Plan

The new research vice chancellor at UAA told the senate that SAC was developing a research master plan. The senate emphatically advised that any such plan should come from the faculty. Since Alliance members had not heard anything about a UA-wide research master plan at any SAC meeting, it was suggested that this was UAA-specific effort.

#### 10.2 Human Resources Council *Liaison: Jennifer Reynolds*

HRC is looking at alternatives to UAKjobs for executive and faculty recruitment. Apparently it is not a problem for faculty recruitment but is for executives. The web timesheet for non-exempt is past the pilot stage and technicians are working on coding. Other issues before HRC include employee education benefits. The Alliance should look at the proposed changes and decide if the issue should be taken up.

#### 10.3 Business Council (*on hiatus pending appointment of new CFO*) *Liaison: Nalinaksha Bhattacharyya*

The group is still on hiatus.

#### 10.4 Student Services Council *Liaison: Robert Boeckmann*

Robert Boeckmann has still not received any agendas or meeting notices and will call Saichi Oba.

#### 10.4 Instructional Technology Executive Council/ITEC <http://www.alaska.edu/pmo/governance/itec/> New Interim Chair: Michelle Rizk *Liaison; Jon Dehn; Alternate: Sherry Tamone*

No report was given.

10.5 Retirement Committee  
Liaison: *Mike Stekoll*

There was nothing to report.

10.6 Tuition Task Force  
Liaison: *Sherry Tamone, Alternate: Jon Dehn*

The tuition task force met and discussed the university budget.

10.7 Joint Health Care Committee

No report was given.

10.8 Other Committees/Councils

There were no other committee or council reports.

11. Other Items of Concern

There were no other items of concern.

12. Agenda Items for January 20, 2011

The Alliance discussed issues that should be discussed with President Gamble when the Alliance meets with him. The Alliance requested that the meeting with the president be by video conference. *[Editorial note: because of President Gamble's shifting schedule, he will be unable to join the Alliance until February 24.]*

13. Comments

System Governance leaders met with Dan Julius during the December Board of Regents meeting regarding his plans for the System Governance office and stressed the importance of that office.

The Alliance thanked John Petraitis saying that his efforts as Alliance chair last year gave the Alliance a lot of credibility.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59pm.