

# UNIVERSITY of ALASKA

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## Faculty Alliance

*(Approved @ 4/22/2011 meeting)*

Friday, March 25, 2011, beginning at 3:00pm  
Bridge # 1-800-893-8850, pin 2151251

## DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to order and Roll Call

Present:

John Petraitis, Chair; President, UAA Faculty Senate  
Genie Babb, Past President, UAA Faculty Senate  
Cathy Cahill, President Elect, UAF Faculty Senate  
John Dehn, President, UAF Faculty Senate  
Jennifer Reynolds, Representative, UAF Faculty Senate  
Dan Monteith, President-Elect, UAS Faculty Senate  
Jonathan Anderson, Past President, UAS Faculty Senate

Pat Ivey, Executive Officer

2. Adopt agenda

MOTION: passed

“The Faculty Alliance moves to adopt the agenda for the March 25, 2011 meeting. This action is effective March 25, 2011.”

3. Approve Minutes February 18, 2011

MOTION: passed

“The Faculty Alliance moves to approve the minutes for the February 18, 2011 meeting. This action is effective March 25, 2011.”

4. Report of the Chair

Topics the chair would have discussed here will be discussed in other parts of the agenda.

5. Public or Guest Comments

There were no public or' guest comments.

6. Old Business

6.1 **AMP and SAC Update**

The academic master plan (AMP) was tweaked after the BoR meeting. Changes about understanding of government and promoting Alaska's workforce were approved by Statewide Academic Council (SAC).

SAC continued to discuss future PhD's, including a potential joint PhD in biomed research. That discussion seems mired and might need to be addressed in a joint meeting of SAC and President's Cabinet.

SAC also continued to discuss the SAC Operating Plan. Provost Henrichs wanted the SAC-OP to remain in perpetuity but that didn't pass. SAC had discussion over future joint-PhD programs, but their future in SAC seems in doubt. Faculty Alliance will be disappointed if the joint PhD is blocked.

SAC discussed UAS's strategic plan, focusing on the role of research in the UAS plan and Dan Julius's suspicion that BOR might have problems with research as part of the UAS plan. Faculty Alliance asked its representatives to SAC to address this when SAC meets with the President's Cabinet. There should be a statement from the Alliance, that UAS really needs to have research in their mission statement and that the universities continue to build collaborative programs. Also, every faculty has to be involved in research in order to be effective. The role of research in undergraduate education is an important factor. UAS has worked on this mission statement and the strategic plan for the past six months and every university has to have research and creativity in order to continue to be accredited.

Faculty Alliance recommended that John Petraitis report to BOR our support for collaboration among the MAU's, one of the central goals of AMP.

## 6.2. E-Lab Task Force

The Alliance chair has received comments about the electronic lab task force and will incorporate them. UAA's senate is having considerable debate over the requiring that PHYS labs be offered in a university lab facility. It is assumed that the senate will sign off on changes so that physics labs have to be taken on site at UAA.

The most useful course of action is for the task force to develop non-binding recommendations to each Senate for determining whether or not a lab can or cannot be virtual.

The task force should consist (a) some faculty who teach labs, (b) some who have experience with distance delivery, (c) some who represent UA's community campuses, and (d) a chair from Faculty Alliance. Sherry Tamone was recommended to chair the task force pending her acceptance. If Sherry doesn't want to do this, John Petraitis would be willing to do it.

## 6.3 Fisher Report

From UAA, a senate ad hoc committee is being chaired by Bhatta who developed a survey form with a recommendations column and a comments column. All of the comments were compiled under a summary. Drafts are being updated and a final draft is expected to be presented to UAA's senate in May.

UAS and UAF senates probably won't have a lot to say about the Fisher Report, commenting that some recommendations may wind up helping the strategic plan but everyone needs to remember that the Fisher Report is just a tool.

#### 6.4 Faculty Role in Developing UA Strategic Plan

The next SAC/President's Cabinet meeting is probably where the strategic plan process will be laid out.

#### 6.5 Recruitment and Retention Issues

##### 6.5.1 Grading Policies

##### 6.5.2 Transfer of Credits to Meet Degree and Core Requirements

##### 6.5.3 Grades and GPA for Graduation

Cathy Cahill thought she would have a summary of all the UAF Faculty Senate motions relating to the above three issues by now but has not had time. This issue was postponed until next meeting. UAF is not accepting C minus in core courses and not accepting D transfer grades. UAS voted on the motions. Sherry will circulate those motions. UAS did not go in the same direction as UAF. One of the UAF motions was to request clarification in BoR policy to allow the universities to make the decisions in these matters.

##### 6.5.4 Transfer Report to HERC

This was an item of information. No action was required.

#### 6.6 Dependent Audit

After the Faculty Alliance past its motion in February, Human Resources pushed the deadline back to the end of March. It does not address using employee data from Human Resources and not sending proof to ConSova. Some faculty have said that ConSova will not accept a marriage license from Canada and will not accept the birth certificate for their child because the child was born in Norway and parents are not listed on the certificate.

UAF Staff Council just passed a motion requesting that the dependent audit be delayed for a year.

##### Alliance position:

Alliance concerns have not been adequately met. Local HR can be used to confirm to ConSova whether or not the couple is truly married. This will be included in the April regents report. Alliance members will forward their concerns and stories to the Alliance chair and he will forward them to Beth Behner. Re-stress that it is not the dependent audit itself that is the problem; it is that the process itself is flawed. The senates should also address this with the unions. John Petraitis will send an email to UNAC leadership and copy the Alliance.

#### 6.6 Other Old Business

There was no other old business.

#### 7. New Business

There was no new business

#### 8. Administrative Council and Committee Assignments

8.1 Statewide Academic Council  
*Alliance Membership: John Petraitis, Jon Dehn, Jonathan Anderson*

See discussions above. The president has evidently rejected the UAS mission statement and returned it to the chancellor.

8.2 Human Resources Council  
*Liaison: Dan Monteith, Alternate: Jennifer Reynolds*

HRC is scheduled when both Alliance members have classes.

8.3 Instructional Technology Council/ITEC –  
*Liaison: Jon Dehn, Alternates Sherry Tamone, Cathy Cahill*

There are big plans to move the back up Banner site to Oregon. Also the \$4 million price tag for Google mail kicks in on Karl Kowalski's retirement day.

8.4 Business Council  
*Liaison: Nalinaksha Bhattachayya, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, UAA Faculty Senate:  
Alternate: Jonathan Anderson*

Business Council has turned into an information sharing group and most of the decision making occurs in the SALT or SEG group. It might be of interest to ask if the Alliance could be on SALT or SEG.

Pat Ivey will send a table that spells out what all these groups do (SEG, SALT, et al)

8.5 Student Services Council  
*Liaison: Genie Babb, Alternate: Cathy Cahill*

Student Services Council met yesterday and will report to the Board about student housing. Saichi reported on the Finishing Faster Campaign. The initiative is to increase graduation rates and speed with which students get a degree. There was also talk about meeting with SAC. Consolidated tuition was also discussed.

8.6 Retirement Committee  
*Liaison: Sherry Tamone*

No report was given.

8.8 Tuition Advisory Task Force  
*Liaison: Cathy Cahill*

The task force has been meeting weekly getting ready for the Board of Regents meeting. There is no consensus about consolidated tuition. The president wants it but the MAUs are concerned about resources. Differentiated graduated tuition however, may go forward. This task force will probably go on for a long time. There is a lot of debate on tuition for vocational programs.

8.9 Alaska Advisory Task Force on Higher Education and  
Career Readiness Task Force  
*Liaison: John Petraitis*

Preliminary recommendations are out and have been shared with the legislature. This was an item of information. The recommendations may be useful in strategic plan discussions; just consider it another tool along with the Fisher Report.

9. Senate Reports

9.1 UAA

UAA tenure and promotion guidelines may have to wait until the CBA is ratified. The other issue of senate concern is online course evaluations.

9.2 UAF

The senate talked about the healthcare audit, a report from Michelle Hebert on sustainability; stacked courses 400-600 courses and how they will be taught and are they actually being taught at graduate and undergraduate levels, and also ended talking about online course evaluations and the low response rates. There are concerns about security but the paper forms take up a lot of staff time which has not been resolved. The new vice chancellor for research is speaking at the April 4 meeting and there is one candidate running for senate president-elect.

9.3 UAS

Faculty senate is considering honors programs, UAS mission statement, and faculty handbook which has been posted on the web with many sections removed and this needs to be fixed so that the handbook on line is actually one that the senate has approved. UAS Faculty Senate does not have a full or even part time staff to help out. The provost's office offered to take minutes but this has the effect of hampering open discussion.

11. Agenda Items for Next Meeting April 22, 2011

- Recruitment and retention

12. Closing Comments

The Alliance chair passes the gavel to the new chair at the June 2-3 Board of Regents meeting

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49pm.