

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA

Faculty Alliance

Minutes

January 18, 2013

3:00 p.m. via audio conference

1. **Call to order and Roll Call**

Members Present:

Nalinaksha Bhattacharyya, Past President, UAA Faculty Senate

Robert Boeckmann, President, UAA Faculty Senate

Cathy Cahill, 2012-2013 Faculty Alliance, Chair; Past President, UAF Faculty Senate

Mark Fitch, 1st Vice President, UAA Faculty Senate

Virgil Fredenberg, President-Elect, UAS Faculty Senate

Dan Monteith, 2011-2012 Faculty Alliance, Chair; Past President, UAS Faculty Senate

Jennifer Reynolds, President, UAF Faculty Senate

Mike Stekoll, President, UAS Faculty Senate

David Valentine, President-elect, UAF Faculty Senate

Staff Present:

LaNora Tolman, Executive Officer, System Governance

Guests Present:

Dana Thomas, Vice President, Academic Affairs

Gwen Gruenig, Associate Vice President, Institutional Research and Analysis

Adam Watson, Policy Analyst, Institutional Research and Analysis

2. **Adopt Agenda**

Adopted

3. **Report of the Chair**

Cathy Cahill met with President Gamble and discussed the last Alliance meeting. He is very excited about what the faculty are doing. He would like to highlight the efforts. He wants bullets put together to report to the legislature about what the faculty are doing to respond to their requests. Robert Boeckmann will prepare a bullet for the GER coordination efforts. President Gamble will be going to Juneau January 31. He will need only a couple of sentences. Cathy Cahill will have Mark Fitch and Dave Valentine coordinate.

Discussion took place about bookstore texts and the need for broader input – is this a community campus/administration issue or a faculty issue?

Another item the President Gamble brought up: how to communicate better to the faculty. He is thinking about sending out a periodical report to faculty. Cathy Cahill told him that faculty put statewide info on spam and it may not get to them.

4. **Public or Guest Comments**

None

5. **UA Metrics** (Assoc. VP Gwen Gruenig and VPAA Dana Thomas) **Attachment**

The major audience for the UA Metrics is the BoR and the president. The goal is monitoring the health of the institution and monitoring progress as it is made in the SDI - trying to align the metrics with SDI. The SDI meeting on February 20 in Juneau will firm up the SDI topics. Dr. Thomas will be going to a metrics workshop with Regent Powers in April. He would like to carry the metrics for national vetting and then firm them up in the spring with the BoR. There are drafts of the metrics for input. Discussion took place about MAU tailored metrics and what metrics to keep and let go. Gwen Gruenig explained the feedback process through Google Docs. Dr. Thomas asked the faculty to give their input on which metrics they like and which ones they don't like.

6. **Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU) Institute**

Robert Boeckmann gave a report on the workshop. There were two primary aspects to the workshop: best practices for GER instruction and assessment. High impact practices was emphasized. They argued for a backward design: being very clear about the learning outcomes and then proceeding with developing assessment and curriculum. There was talk about ten faculty members being active in GER. They worked in MAU groups and looked at current GER with the emphasis on learning outcomes then proceeded to work in mixed groups. They saw what was common as well as the points of tension with each campus. Plan of action: in six to ten months they will have a set of learning outcomes from each MAU's Faculty Senate.

The question was put forth about systemwide outcomes versus each campus creating their own GER outcomes. The idea of shared learning outcomes became clearer at the workshop. Individual MAUs will have the freedom to decide how to handle the outcomes.

7. **E-labs Taskforce Recommendations** **Attachment**

Mark Fitch's revised Natural Science Distance Lab Statement was sent out for everyone to review. Comment was made about the vagueness of the document and the editing needed for further clarity. It was hard to see what the MAUs were going to do differently than what they do now. There are not a lot of new things in the document, but it helps faculty recall the purpose of these laboratory courses as well as advise new faculty. UAA extended the previous deadline, which would occur in a few months, to fall of 2014. These requirements were for the new or newly revised courses so not all courses would

be reviewed against these standards and guidelines immediately. The idea was to get a set of standards and guidelines for faculty to use in evaluating the electronic delivery of science labs. Currently the task is to get the three faculty senates to agree on a set of standards and guidelines. Everyone is to look at the document and then it will be picked back up at the next meeting. LaNora Tolman will post the Natural Science Distance Lab Statement on Google Docs for all to edit.

20. **President Gamble present for dialogue with Alliance members**

There was a discussion about the legislative session. In terms of bullets from Faculty Alliance, the president says send them to him in the next two days through mid-afternoon on Tuesday, January 22. Don't worry about format or being fancy. The information won't be passed around to anyone. Indicate any emphasis on points needing to be heard. The president stated he appreciates anything he can get, and in any way he can get it. Everyone will send emails to the president and cc Cathy Cahill.

Cathy Cahill addressed the question about the textbook ordering and whether it is a faculty issue or an administrative issue, as well as the supplement items the bookstore does not carry and the student's needs in advance. The faculty are often not able to change their curriculum in time to allow for advance textbook purposes.

The President Gamble stated the issue came from the students. He sees it as an SDI issue and the question should be put back out to the campuses. In this case the students have brought up an issue meaningful to them and we don't have an answer to this issue. We have plenty of time to gather information and give it to the appropriate group to find an answer. Students cannot find anywhere to go in the system to fix this issue. Since faculty are interested in this issue, the president will re-engage this issue in the SDI process in the future.

Comment was made that most faculty order their texts at least five or six months in advance. Some of the weaknesses may be on the rural campuses and with adjuncts.

The president stated other universities are dealing with the same thing. Competition in book selling is increasing largely due to the availability of e-books and free materials.

Nalinaksha Bhattacharyya shared a comment with the president regarding a current article in the Anchorage paper stating more Anchorage school jobs are on the chopping block - eliminating teachers and reducing instructional support. UAA will get more students who are underprepared and the faculty will have to bring them up to speed.

19. **Adjourn**

Adjourned at 5:15 p.m.