



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

**Faculty Alliance
Minutes
Friday, February 14, 2014**
Via Google Hangout
3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Robert called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

Voting Members:

Robert Boeckmann, 2013-2014 Alliance Chair, Past President UAA Faculty Senate
Virgil Fredenberg, President UAS Faculty Senate
Mark Fitch, President, UAA Faculty Senate
Diane Hirshberg, President Elect, UAA Faculty Senate
Kevin Krein, President Elect, UAS Faculty Senate
Cecile Lardon, President Elect, UAF Faculty Senate
Jennifer Reynolds, Past President, UAF Faculty Senate
Mike Stekoll, Past President, UAS Faculty Senate
David Valentine, President, UAF Faculty Senate

Staff:

LaNora Tolman, Executive Officer, System Governance
Joseph Altman, Coordinator, System Governance

Guests:

Patrick Gamble, President University of Alaska
Sandy Pence, Associate Professor, Dental Hygiene
Dana Thomas, Vice President, Academic Affairs

Adopt Agenda and Approve Minutes

The agenda was amended and adopted.

Virgil moved to approve the January 17, 2014 minutes and Cecile seconded. The January minutes were approved.

Chair Report

Robert talked about the retreat not happening on Feb. 20-21 due to budget shortages, but President Gamble offered to help. Chancellors and UA president were amazed there was not enough money for a second retreat face-to-face and for the alliance to draft up a needed budget to allow the face-to-face meetings.

Faculty discussed the announcement about the new Summit Team, which consists of all the chancellors, provosts, the president, and vice president of Academic Affairs, and some of their concerns with the team's decision making process and the role of shared governance.

Instructional Technology Executive Council (ITEC)

They are still looking for agenda items before a meeting is held.

General Education Learning Outcomes (GELO) Task Force Report – Sandy Pence

The task force came up with four outcomes and began to look at the BOR Policy and UA Regulations. Some frustrations came up with the restrictions in policy and regulations. The group ultimately decided not to put it in the regulations but suggested some changes. The group will work on a draft to send to the Faculty Alliance to discuss and then send it back to the Faculty Senates to get formal approval. Dana Thomas talked to the group on Jan. 25, 2014 at the face-to-face meeting and talked about the Summit Team and the plan to have alignment of the general education across the system.

Memo to Summit Team

Faculty discussed the shared governance process and decision-making. Robert drafted a memo and the alliance talked about it and suggested revisions.

Baccalaureate Minimum Standards across the System

Faculty will look at the document and make sure it is accurate. Robert will run the document through the three universities' registrars.

President Gamble and Vice President Thomas

Robert gave a report about what the faculty discussed prior to their arrival.

The president explained the Summit Team purpose and the governance process:

When the BOR met in Feb. they asked what the university will look like in 10 to 15 years and how do we get there with the model in place right now - they said we do not get there like we are. The president met with faculty in many meetings about how to tie the university together. They talked more about collaboration than issues. The president went to each of the chancellors and they began to talk about systemwide decisions needed to be made in order to progress. Certain things needed commonality across the university system. Each of the chancellors stated they were willing to make some changes that were difficult to change in the staff. The provosts felt the same way. The eight basic decision makers came together in agreement for the first time. The corporate decision making body and does not just come out from the President's Office, but comes from running the decision through governance and then taking it back to the BOR. This team would be in place for the issues that rise about the individual universities. The president called it a "hybrid," not one university, but three, with a collaborative decision making process. Model: Go to a broad audience and say what is the best way to get there - Is this system wide? Or an individual university problem? Then select the best people for the topic: a faculty group or a staff group etc. Massage it and put it back out to the governance process. The Summit Team would look at the recommendations and recognize the best path. That's where governance comes back in and has input. The old process was when the president got a resolution and chose the answer.

Faculty shared their concerns with the president and vice president about the decision making process and the way they read the email from the president sent on Feb. 13 announcing the Summit Team.

In the president's mind, governance will have more involvement in the decision making process than in the past.

Further discussion about idea sharing and policy-making occurred. A revised communication process with an explanation of the role of governance was requested between the Summit Team and the Faculty Alliance.

President Gamble stated he will go back to the chancellors, who helped draft the email, and share the faculty's concerns. He clarified that there is no decision being made until the ideas are vetted through governance. The intention of the Summit Team is not to make academic decisions without the input of Faculty Alliance.

The president supported the faculty meeting face-to-face and said he will help with the budget. Robert stated maybe having a retreat in March.

Meeting Adjourned

No one motioned, but meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.