

# U N I V E R S I T Y *of* A L A S K A

---

## Faculty Alliance

### Minutes

**Friday, May 10, 2013**

3:00 pm via audio conference

Telephone bridge: 1-800-893-8850 Pin 2151251

#### 1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

##### Members:

Nalinaksha Bhattacharyya, Past President, UAA Faculty Senate

Robert Boeckmann, President, UAA Faculty Senate

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

Mark Fitch, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, UAA Faculty Senate

Virgil Fredenberg, President-elect, UAS Faculty Senate

Jennifer Reynolds, President, UAF Faculty Senate

Mike Stekoll, President, UAS Faculty Senate

David Valentine, President-elect, UAF Faculty Senate

##### Staff:

LaNora Tolman, Executive Officer, System Governance

##### Guests:

Dana Thomas, Vice President of Academic Affairs

#### 2. **Adopt Agenda**

Agenda was adopted.

#### 3. **Approve Past Minutes**

3.1 April 12, 2013

Attachment

April minutes were approved.

#### 4. **Report of the Chair**

Cathy handed over the chair to Robert Boeckmann. Certificates will be handed out to the faculty who served for three years. Dan Monteith will get the plaque for last year and Cathy will get her plaque as well.

#### 5. **Public or Guest Comments**

Dana Thomas stated the operating budget was transmitted from the legislators to the governor today and he has to make any changes by June 3.

6. **MAU reports**

6.1 **UAA**

The Faculty Senate bylaws and constitution have been modified and one thing was to add the research component. Program prioritization continues to review every administrative and academic program. The faculty evaluation guidelines are under review because they were very old. They are working on developing new guidelines. UNAC adopted new guideline but not the UAFT. Unit guidelines are also under review and the process will continue in the fall. UAA Faculty Senate looked at not having the faculty reviews go on to the provost and chancellor level. They will revisit the resolution in September.

6.2 **UAF**

Post tenure and review changes passed. Faculty highlights this year and he liked the idea and wanted to mention it. The highlights go out to the faculty list and also to the governance office for distribution. The highlights are one page long with a series of bullets and hyperlinks for more information.

6.3 **UAS**

IT decided to have no on-campus computer labs since everything is wireless and students have their own iPads, computers etc. Library has started a research laboratory online to place research publications. A new faculty handbook will be available July 1.

7. **General Education Learning Outcomes Committee**

The committee started a dialogue and they plan on a face-to-face in Anchorage on August 19. Dana said he will help on travel, but the MAUs need to buy in as well. There is a Blackboard site populated with the most important documents. Robert stated he would distribute the list of committee members.

8. **SDI – Next Steps**

The deans and institute directors have been invited to a May 30 meeting.

9. **Faculty Regent**

At this point, the BOR's feedback is both positive and negative but it would be ultimately the legislature's appointment. The question is whether to move forward. Power grab is not the motive. It was suggested to look and see if other universities have a similar position. This is an issue to continue in the fall. Cathy and Robert will collaborate in June about finding a regent who is in support.

10. **Credit for MOOCs**

Robert reiterated the stance UAA took in not accepting the American Council on Education's (ACE) credit for MOOC's. The position is short term until the issues are cleared with ACE. UAA is not against distance delivery but the MOOC's specifically. Robert encouraged UAF and UAS to move forward as well because it will create transfer problems. Discussion took place about transfer credit and identifying if it is a MOOC or not.

11. **E-labs Taskforce Recommendations**  
Jennifer will get information. This is on hold until fall.
12. **Alignment of Placement Cut Scores across MAUs and expiration dates**  
Mark reported. UAF is considering changing placement tests. UAA development department invited UAF faculty today and they are discussing placement tests. A report will come out next week. UAA plans to review their curriculum next year. They are considering reconstructing their general Ed courses. The three MAUs are collaborating together.
13. **Electronic Student Evaluations**  
Jennifer stated an excellent report came out recently from the UAF committee. It states what to think about when selecting a system and what criteria are used. This will continue next fall. No recommendations suggested yet.
14. **Student Conduct Revision**  
The committee made no changes but Mike stated there should be changes. Student coalition should look at it. Discussion continued regarding the conflicts with the revision and updating syllabi. Robert will report on the outcome in the fall.
15. **BOR Outstanding Faculty Award**  
Discussion took place about what the award would be and whether to include it as a title and/or one-time cash award.
16. **Course Management Software Evaluation**  
David reported that he is still working with the e-Learning group. There are at least 2 to 4 faculty would prefer not to use Blackboard but the full report is yet to come. The second part of the study was to have a focus group to conduct several tasks. There will be a few focus groups set up next fall. This evaluation is to get faculty input, not to make a decision even though faculty want to be involved in the decision process.
17. **Preparation for Shooters on Campus**  
To be discussed in the fall.
18. **External Administration Committee/Council Reports and Appointments**
  - 18.1 **Statewide Academic Council**  
Alliance Members: *Dan, Cathy, Robert*
  - 18.2 **Human Resources Council**  
Liaison: *Jennifer*, Alternate: *Virgil*
  - 18.3 **Student Services Council**  
Liaison: *Robert*, Alternate: *Mike*
  - 18.4 **Informational Technology Executive Council/ITEC**  
<http://www.alaska.edu/pmo/governance/itec/> Liaison: *Mark, Dave, and Susan Feero (UAS)*
  - 18.5 **Retirement Committee**  
Liaison: *Mike*, Alternate: *Bhatta*

- 18.6 **Tuition Task Force**  
Liaison: *Virgil*, Alternate: *Robert*
- 18.7 **Other Committees/Councils**

19. **Other Items of Concern**

Need to plan the schedule for 2013-14 Faculty Alliance meetings:  
Robert proposed August 9 and 10, Friday and Saturday to be the Faculty Alliance Retreat with a working dinner on Friday evening and the substantive work to occur on Saturday. Robert will send out his proposal for next year's meeting and retreat dates.

20. **Agenda Items for August 2013 retreat**

To be added later in the summer

21. **Comments**

None

22. **Adjourn**

The last AY13 meeting of the year adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

23. **4:30 p.m. President Gamble**

BOR Outstanding Faculty Award – The BOR has no such award and the president asked the faculty to give him the criteria for it. This is not to be chore every year to come up with names, but to recognize an individual who has special attributes and be singularly distinctive. Would this person have other additional duties to ascribe a year after their normal duties? Should there be other special recognition? A full ride sabbatical would be an excellent award. The president's award, likewise, would go to a full professor. The research award is still in progress. There are many staff awards but there are not any faculty awards from the BOR. ia follow outstanding awards. If this is not a good idea, it is okay. This is a topic to look over and think about. Look around at some other universities.

Other comments – BOR is concerned about the amount of executive sessions and they would like to reduce the time. Sensitive material comes up and today it goes out in tweets and communication and becomes gossip, but the BOR is willing to take the risk and keep the meeting open.

The board will discuss the FY15 budget in the next meeting in June and include the differential tuition topic.