

**Academic Council Notes**  
**January 13, 2022; 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Recording:** [https://media.uaf.edu/media/t/1\\_mvifxafy](https://media.uaf.edu/media/t/1_mvifxafy) (no passcode required)

**Action/Business:**

1. Approve [December 15, 2021 Meeting Notes](#) (0:44)
  - a. Recording: [https://media.uaf.edu/media/t/1\\_sh5bk42w](https://media.uaf.edu/media/t/1_sh5bk42w) (no passcode required)
  - b. Notes reviewed, no comments or changes. If there are any minor issues or substantial changes, please contact Kelly. Any substantial changes will be brought back to the group for correction.

**Agenda Items:**

1. Faculty Governance Reports - Jak, Gokhan, Jennifer (2:20)
  - a. Gokhan - There is progress on the admin reviews. Paula is working on some of the responses, and some data was received from statewide, which will be incorporated into the analysis.
    - i. UAA Faculty Senate has discussed the wording for the accelerated masters and the decision was to keep it as is. The FS is satisfied with the wording.
    - ii. FS is finalizing some of the components to the Goals and Measures document. David Bishko gave them until January 18th to complete this.
  - b. Jennifer - UAS received a preview of the draft BOR policy for student leave of absence regulation. They are also working on establishing academic excellence for Goals and Measures. Regarding a joint UAF/UAS marine policy degree, one faculty concern is that it is going to go through UAS's curriculum process and then it will live at UAF. The concern is how will faculty address concerns and track changes if it is living at UAF.
    - i. Maren - Even though the degree is going to be established at UAFairbanks, the spirit of the curriculum process is that ongoing management will go through a steering committee and there is an articulation agreement in place.

- ii. This has been discussed between the provosts and all decisions will be made jointly. Communication is very important. The accreditation liaison officers are also involved. Communication with NWCCU will be handled by UAF.
  - c. UAS senators are looking at data from the GER assessment. That committee has continued assessing the GERs and looking at implementing a cycle for supervisor reviews, and looking at information from AAUP to guide the process.
    - i. Paul - There are some models in the system already in terms of looking at different levels of supervision (deans or provosts).
  - d. Paul - Forwarded request for a process for rescinding meritorious awards to General Counsel and will work with Matt Cooper on developing the language.
- 2. Board of Regents planning (11:52)
  - a. Tomorrow there is a one day workshop with the Board 8:00-3:00.
  - b. Review of agenda:
    - i. Dennis McMillan will facilitate a discussion on innovative leadership, leading in times of change, followed by a panel discussion with business leaders on how they approach leading in a time of disruptive technologies and circumstances.
    - ii. President Pitney will go through a PowerPoint reviewing the advocacy document and the upcoming legislative session. She will also be briefing the board on her approach to the budget.
    - iii. Finally, the Board will go into Executive Session.
  - c. The next Academic and Student Affairs meeting is on February 17th. The committee wants updates on improving the student experience. If there are any other items that we would like to bring to the Board's attention, please provide them to Paul.
  - d. Discussed at the last BOR meeting, was whether or not we would develop any regulation associated with Policy P10.02.070 Accreditation. The Policy is explicit in terms of expectations for reporting, but it does also state the president would consider regulation associated with the policy. If you have thoughts on what could/should go into this regulation, please include them on this document: [Regulation](#)
  - e. Did You Know - Drones (for Feb 24 BOR meeting)
    - i. A 10 minute video followed by a Board and panel discussion. We had the first meeting yesterday with Cathy Cahill focusing on AQUASI. Cathy works very

closely with a lot of users in Southeast, engineering programs that are developing technologies in both Anchorage and Fairbanks, and we have the piloting programs. Working on potential topics for the video, students and faculty who could participate. The timeline is short, but there is a lot of information and video available. They are doing a lot of exciting things, like working with the FAA and external stakeholders. Paul met with Senator Bishop at the FAA hangar and discussed the potential of our programs. Will be reaching out through the provosts and VCR as the script is developed.

f. Tuition ad hoc committee - First meeting Jan 21 (18:33)

- i. At the November BOR meeting, they approved an ad hoc Tuition committee. Regents Davies, Parker, Spencer and Jepsen, as well as VP Layer will meet on January 21st with plans to review the policy and have a discussion about current tuition practices and history. Each of the universities will also be part of that discussion. We will be looking at why we set tuition and how we set tuition, who has the authority to grant waivers to non-resident surcharges, etc.
- ii. Future meetings will be approximately once a month and will take a deep dive into data and how each university comes up with a data driven model for tuition and tuition strategy. Will be working with the consultants and looking at the market. We would like to get the Regents to understand that this is a data driven science of best practice and that it is really very precise. We want them to understand that this is something we consider in tuition models and is part of an overall strategy.
  1. Gokhan - Will this be a top down decision?
  2. If there are any policy changes they will be done through the normal process of our governance structure.
  3. Regent Parker was added to the committee over the break, making it now a five member committee.
  4. Anupma - Is there anything that they need from the provosts?
    - a. Regent Davies is requesting an overview of the current policies and an overview from each of the chancellors on how they are implementing their tuition policies at their institutions. This will

be a verbal summary. The first meeting is primarily for hearing from the regents and what their concerns are. Some of the regents looked at tuition, they were concerned about tuition competition across the system (competition imbalance across the system). There is also external competition, and potential students deciding not to go to school at all.

- g. Hopefully we will have a new regent by the next meeting, so we are down to 10 regents at this time.

3. Legislative update - [pending legislation](#) (27:42)

- a. Paul reviewed the current bills going through legislation at this time. Currently, the legislature is in the prefile stage.
  - i. HB132 - Expanding the provision of dual credit or dual enrollment allowing students to participate in CTE programs, DoL programs, etc. We already have students doing this, so this bill does not affect the University significantly
  - ii. SB94 - Allows the Alaska Student Loan Corporation to have more flexibility in it's loaning practices, which indirectly affects the University, but may allow students to have more access to funding for higher education. The University supports this bill.
  - iii. SB32 - The Middle Colleges program has passed the Senate and is now in the House State Affairs Committee. It is being shepherded by Sen. Joe Stevens to put into statute what we are doing in practice with regard to our middle colleges. The bill has been watered down in the process in that the school districts may work with the University, not will work with the University.
  - iv. SB36 - The Accreditation Reporting bill passed the Senate and is now in the House Education Committee. This bill would put into statute a reporting requirement for the Board of Regents on accreditation on an annual basis. In our mind, we are already doing that reporting to the Board.
  - v. HB21 - Adding a Faculty Member to the Board of Regents was filed by Rep. Wall and is currently in the House Education Committee. It's the first committee referral. This was filed last year, but that committee chose not to take it up in last year's session.

- vi. SB146 - University Textbooks/Materials Cost was filed by Sen. Myers. In working with the provosts, we got very good documentation of what each university is doing in zero-cost and low-cost materials. Chad compiled a list into a memo/letter to Sen. Myers in his office saying how much the Bill is appreciated. The University would like to ensure that the bill is not too prescriptive, because students have different needs. We will continue keeping an eye on this and reach out to leadership and the faculty who are engaged in developing these materials, if there is a need for more information or testimony.
- vii. Another Bill in pre-file mode is a motion to raise the Alaska Performance Scholarships. Right now they're set at a very low level. The Bill would raise it up to whatever the current tuition award is. It is currently at about half of the cost of tuition.
- viii. There is a lawsuit filed on the Higher Ed Investment fund to prevent it from being swept. We are tracking this as well. The lawsuit would ensure more security of the funding for students. Sen. Josephson is considering a Bill that would put into statute the protections of the higher education fund for WAMMI. We will be tracking this as well.
- ix. There has been some discussion about a reading comprehension Bill requirement that is being considered. This would direct our schools of education on how they teach reading and then direct the school districts on how they assess the reading teaching skills comprehension at their schools. We will follow this one as well.
- x. The governor has filed a somewhat aggressive budget this year and has filed with an increase to our base. It is not as high as we were asking, but it is an increase. It is an election year, so the governor may be taking this into account.

4. DEED Spring CTE Workshop - Teri (38:04)

- a. DEED spring workshop is early february. Staff from across the system will be attending. The workshop is an opportunity for primary and some secondary partners, AVTEC, to discuss dual enrollment opportunities and how to provide access to dual enrollment across the state.

- b. Yesterday Teri met with deans and directors across the system with the deans and directors of the mining programs across the system to coordinate on a joint presentation to the Alaska Mining Association. It was also a good opportunity to connect and increase collaboration, and an opportunity to get in front of the heads of mining HR companies across the state and strengthen our partnerships with the industry. No date scheduled at this time, but it will be in the spring.
  - c. Met with Cindy Eford with ACPE and Kyla J. Pomrenke, who is the Alaska Workforce Development Investment Board Executive Director. We are partnering on a resource to help encourage FAFSA completion through the DoL Job Centers. Financial aid directors from across the system contributed to that resource. Working on finishing this and then implementing how it's utilized within the Job Centers, so when Alaskans go into the Job Centers, if they don't qualify for DoL funding, there are other avenues. If there is a gap in funding, this would be another avenue to shore up if they were utilizing the university program.
5. Additional Item - Big Rock Initiatives (41:38)
- a. - President Pitney defined something she called "Big Rock Initiatives". We will be tracking progress in some of these areas. The joint degree with Fisheries and Ocean Sciences is going to be an area of interest, to show we are increasing the Fisheries and Ocean Sciences presence in Southeast Alaska, along with the Mariculture conference. We need to capture some of these advances and how we are moving things forward.
  - b. Areas of "Big Rock Initiatives":
    - i. Invest in increased enrollment
    - ii. Workforce development, including research in strategic minerals and mining
    - iii. Promote Arctic research and development
    - iv. Implement the Alaska College of Education Consortium
    - v. Align with Alaska Native and tribal organizations, UA Foundation and other scholarship opportunities for Alaska Native success
    - vi. Determine financial sector baseline in Alaska, assess how to expand it & build the workforce
    - vii. Increase Fisheries and Ocean Sciences presence in Southeast Alaska
    - viii. Revise business models for efficiency and modernization

6. Roundtable and future agenda items - All (44:49)

- a. Jennifer - Nothing
- b. Maren - Have a finalist for the School of Education director. COVID and travel has been a challenge to get them to the campus as part of the process.
- c. Paul - ACEC consortium committee is now chaired by Amy Vinlove for the remainder of the year.
- d. Denise - Unfortunately, not at the finalist stage for the SoE, CoH, or CTC directors/deans. If you know of anyone who would be qualified, please send them to Denise.
- e. Gokhan - ADN has an article on Afghan refugees - is there anything we can do as a university system to talk to them to see if they need anything from us. Down the road they may have college ready people.
- f. Susan - Nothing additional today
- g. Teri - Nothing to add
- h. Anupma - The presentation from Dennis at the BOR meeting is from 8:00-9:00. President Pitney is the guest speaker at the UA Leadership Mantra. Thanks Teri Cothren for all of the work she has put in on the DEED workshop. Will be launching a recruitment for dean. Mark Herrmann has decided to step down. Dual enrollment efforts - cohorted model to a full scale middle college of 175 students by 2023.
- i. Charlene - Appreciates the mention of ANSI and they are moving more to an implementation phase. Met with the UFC team today and starting to look forward to the next phase of prioritizing goals and coming up with strategies.
- j. Alex - Nothing additional
- k. Kelly - Nothing to add

**Action items from 12/15/21:**

- Will move the Common Calendar forward to the universities as recommended for AY23/24 and AY24/25.
- Develop regulation associated with Policy [P10.02.070 Accreditation](#) - Working Draft Doc - [Regulation](#)

- Paul will discuss with General Counsel regarding developing language to rescind meritorious or honorarium degrees, and determining where it should be in policy or regulation. Will bring the recommendation back to the Academic Council at a future meeting.
- FA to review the language of the “Accelerated Masters” and make recommendations (from 5/13/21 meeting)

**Future Meeting Agenda Items:**

- Dual Enrollment - Age requirement - elementary school students

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, February 10th, 2:00-4:00 pm