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Statewide Academic Council Summary

June 3, 2015; 2-4pm

Butrovich Building, Room 204

Fairbanks, Alaska

1. Safety – Dan White – VP White encouraged everyone to include safety minutes at the start of meetings. Regarding personal protective equipment Many jobs at UA require PPE however we don't need it in our office/desk jobs so we lose track of the importance of PPE; leadership should still encourage it and to know that people will often not ask for it (especially students).
2. Approval of the summary of the 05.07.15 meeting – *Attachment* – Approved with no corrections. Summary will be posted to SAC website (www.alaska.edu/research/sac/).
3. Policy and regulation revision
 - a. P09.02.030 – Scope of University Authority for Violations of the Student Code of Conduct

Update from GC O'Brien regarding why this section was withdrawn from ASA committee for approval: As currently written, UA's scope is open ended and UA could make sanctions after a student has graduated or otherwise left the university. Under the proposed revisions (that are not going forward) graduation would serve as an end point for UA sanction. One question posed is: Do we want to still reserve for the university the right to pursue action against a student? Conversely, if a claim is made ten years after the fact, does UA have (or want) the scope to revoke a degree? The proposed revisions to this section needs to further address an "educational interest" and better define the parameters of the university's scope of responsibility. Possible definitions could include time limits (statutes of limitations) or looking at when the offence occurred with relation to a student's time at UA. GC would like to look at the range of options available.

Additional discussion: Cecile Lardon asked if there were examples from universities that have struck a middle ground. David Valentine asked how the policy would treat student organizations. The new policy would consider an organization as a person so would have to adhere to the same standards. Secondary question from David – Revoking a degree was typically for academic issues only. Do we want to use it as a disciplinary tactic for non-academic offenses? Student behavior that while done as a student requiring disciplinary action typically leads to expulsion or suspension. Provost Henrichs noted that UAF registrar asked other schools how they deal with revoking degrees and turns out it is rare and only used for academic reasons. GC O'Brien noted we have awarded plenty of degrees to people that committed crimes during their time at UA and we also allow people currently in prison to take courses at UA.

ACTION: General Counsel will continue to work on revisions to Policy 09.02.030 – Scope of University Authority for Violations of the Student Code of Conduct and will update SAC on progress.

- b. Regulation 09.02 – Student Rights and Responsibilities – GC O'Brien – Regs are moving forward however Kris Racina had make several suggestions after SAC review; O'Brien pushed suggestions back to committee and some were adopted, some were not. Most of the suggestions were for clarification.

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ACTION ITEM: General Counsel will finish review of Regulation 09.02 and will work with the VPAAR to move the revisions to the president for approval.

- c. New policy revisions – *Attachment* – VP White reviewed the current list of policy revision and asked if anyone is aware of policies that need review or additional revision. If there are policy or regulation that needed to be reviewed, please bring up with VP White. Provost Henrichs noted it is worthwhile to have a regular review.

ACTION: The VP's office will amend the list to include additional columns for regulations and date of last review, and will distribute to SAC for review. Possible further discussion about a regular review cycle.

- 4. May 7 Action Item Update – VP White reviewed the list of May 7 action items and noted they had all been done (exceptions and additional information noted below).
 - a. Three options for common calendar for course block alignment that all look at a 50% course block alignment at the three campuses; Summit Team has approved and has moved the options back to AVP Oba's faculty committee for additional review. SH – 50% alignment would mean loss of one course block each day but would still allow enough time for currently offered courses as well as distance. Still on track for fall 2016 implementation.
 - b. College Readiness definition was proposed to the ASA agenda but subsequently pulled by the president
 - c. Inter-institutional communication – not yet addressed – Provost Gingerich volunteered to draft guidelines

- 5. New program proposals or deletions
 - a. None at this time

- 6. College Readiness Definition – Update from Steve Atwater: The president returned the definition without approval and would like to narrow it to a “litmus test” of sorts to take out the soft skills. The president would not be opposed to addressing divergence for a certificate-path or a baccalaureate path. The president is in support of pieces of the proposed definition but not the whole thing. He indicated he would prefer a shorter, more concise definition without ambiguous terms/wording. However, after discussion, SAC members noted they specifically wanted to avoid reducing the definition to just a test score. David Valentine suggested tailoring the definition to the audience (but also suggested there needed to be clarification on which audience – is it students/parents or school districts/superintendents?). Cecile Lardon noted that after looking at employer surveys, it appears employers want students who can critically think and problem-solve and then communicate verbally and in writing. AVP Atwater noted the president might be willing to accept the current draft if it is revised so that the academic section takes top billing and the rest is supportive.

ACTION: VP White will invite President Gamble to attend the July 9 SAC meeting to discuss his vision for the college readiness definition.

- 7. Continued discussion of inter-institutional communication – No discussion.

ACTION: Provost Gingerich will draft guidelines for review at the next SAC meeting.

- 8. Faculty Alliance update – David Valentine

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- a. GER alignment – English GERs – The Task Force’s goal was to have a clear and transparent pathway that would not impede student progress even if they transfer within the system. Currently, there is general agreement about second and third English GERs (100 and 200 level courses). However, there is still some work needed on developmental GERs – specifically WRTG 090. This is due to disagreement between campuses on whether developmental English could count as elective credits toward a degree (although not GER requirements), which is the case at UAF (whereas the other two universities do not allow the developmental course to count as an elective toward a degree). There was additional disagreement concerning 100 v. 00 numbering. Provost Henrichs noted there are differences between courses for the AAS track (such as those taught at the community campuses) versus courses for the BA track. Provost Gingerich noted that if required credits don’t count toward graduation it might impact a student’s financial aid benefits. Tara Smith commented a 3-4 credit variance was also introduced to allow some flexibility in taking innovative approaches to teaching developmental courses. David Valentine noted he was not sure the task force could move forward with this issue without additional pressure/influence. Provost Henrichs offered to work with UAF faculty to encourage them to find new ways to cooperate/compromise with the Task Force on the WRTG 090.
 - b. Interim report – The interim report provides an update of work done to date, mostly regarding general areas of agreements. There are still blanks that need to be filled in. Please note the report is “longish” and still under development.
 - c. Today is David’s last meeting with SAC – Faculty Alliance will be represented by Cecile Lardon from now on.
9. Searching for Excellence – Discovering Value – *Attachment* – Dan White – After review of the President’s April 6 memo, there was concern regarding the types of questions being asked and that data being sought. Provost Gingerich noted there needs to be agreement on definitions prior to addressing the questions (e.g. questions concerning faculty – what type? Adjunct? Tenure track? etc.) .

ACTION: VP White will discuss with the president the provosts’ concerns regarding the type of questions being asked, and will let the provosts know the result of that conversation.

10. June Board of Regents’ meeting – brief review of this week’s meeting
11. September Board of Regents’ meeting
 - a. Policy revisions
 - b. New program proposals or deletions
 - i. AAS in Marine Transportation at UAS
 - c. Program review and accreditation report
 - d. Student surveys and satisfaction
 - e. SAF Theme 1 – Student Achievement and Attainment (Full Board)
12. December Board of Regents’ meeting
 - a. Policy revisions
 - b. New program proposals or deletions
 - c. Affordability and tuition setting report
 - d. E-Learning report

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- e. Student surveys and satisfaction
- f. SAF Theme 2 – Productive Partnerships with Alaska’s Schools

- 13. Future Agenda Items – next meeting – July 9 audio
 - a. none

- 14. Roundtable

Adjourned at 4:10pm.

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