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Academic Council Notes

July 9, 2020; 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Recording and Audio Transcript

Action/Business:

1. Approve June 11 Meeting Notes

   Due to late distribution, members did not have time to review the notes prior to the meeting. Paul asked that, as they go through them, to send any corrections or questions to him.

2. Membership Updates
   a. Maren Haavig, UAS Vice Provost
   b. Gökhan Karahan, FY23 Faculty Alliance Chair, UAA Faculty Senate 1st Vice President
   c. Denise Runge, UAA Provost
3. Program Requests
   a. None were brought forward by any of the universities.
4. Notices of Intent
   a. None were brought forward by any of the universities.

Updates/Discussion:

5. Faculty Alliance Report - Heather/Jak/Gökhan

   Heather noted they have sent the faculty's concerns to Mac Powell at NWCCU; although he has approved the 4-year teach out plans submitted by the universities. Communications were sent to students requesting they respond by a certain date to confirm they are going to continue in their selected program. There are also concerns about the in-person options for the fall semester. Gökhan noted he was concerned for UA's international students and wanted to know what the university plans to do to support them. Paul noted the modality of courses will vary from campus to campus and program to program so he is unsure of the involvement of the system office in campus operations but offered his support for any issues brought to him. Regarding international students, Paul noted he was, along with many faculty and administrators, outraged about the federal ruling and has been looking at options going

forward. There are hybrid models for courses that may work to allow international students to re-enter the country. Paul noted that although international students are a relatively small population at UA (roughly 2% across the system) they are core to UA's identity. Denise noted, at UAA, they are waiting for all of the schedule changes to be entered so they can then contact international students and determine if they can come up with a schedule that includes at least one in-person class. Alex and Maren noted they were following similar processes at UAF and UAS respectively. Maren noted they have a small number of international students and they have all been contacted and have been able to identify in-person classes for all of them. Paul noted there will also likely be issues with H1B1 workers and noted Dustin Bryant is working with Alaska's federal delegation on solutions.

6. e-Learning Subcommittee Report - Karen

   Karen reported the subcommittee met on June 18 and will meet next week as well. They spent time on fall updates to hear what each campus is doing with regard to readiness for the fall semester--especially training for faculty and student engagement. Also discussed social distancing and in-person restrictions. Learning Mangement System (LMS) - pilot study to use Canvas instead of Blackboard; opted to put the pilot on hold until next spring. The subcommittee also plans to discuss fees related to e-Learning across the system since they vary a great deal from course to course.

7. Future use of SAT/ACT Test

   Paul asked each provost what is done normally and what is being done this year.

   For UAS, it was suspended as a requirement for fall and spring and they have asked the faculty senate to vote on whether to stop using the test scores altogether. At UAA, they do not require SAT/ACT for admissions so it has not had as much of an impact. At UAF, they have two options for baccalaureate admissions and one course does not require either test if they meet certain criteria. If students do not meet the criteria they do need to pass the minimum test score; if they do not have that minimum test score they can be admitted but require developmental courses. Saichi noted for APS grants, students are required to meet a minimum test score (higher scores mean a larger scholarship award); this requirement has been suspended for this fall. Overall, the suspension of the testing requirement does seem to send a message about the value of the tests, however, that is where higher education is at currently. Saichi noted it wasn't so much the score but that it was a milestone in how students prepare themselves for the next

level of study as well as encouragement for the college-going culture (i.e. there is value in the process). Members also discussed whether the test could prove to be a barrier for students with an already low commitment to higher education or those without adequate access to the test. Paul noted he wasn't looking for a systemwide process or standard with regard to these tests but rather to share what each university is doing and what other options there are out there.

8. Process for Notices to the Board - Paul
    a. Current PAR and Notice of Intent Forms

       Paul noted anything that is above a graduate certificate, occupational endorsement, or other workforce credential requires Board approval for action; lesser actions only require a notification to the Board of the action taken under the authority delegated by the regents to the chancellors. Paul noted he is struggling with how to approach suspensions of admission (which does not take Board approval) but effectively ends the viability of a program (since its enrollment will show no recent interest). Paul noted the expedited process had created a situation where admissions were suspended shortly before the program was eliminated, which is not how the process typically works. Regarding the PAR forms, Paul would like to review to ensure they include the information the universities want to provide the Board as well as the answers to questions the regents will want to know before making a decision. Anupma requested there be guidance on the website and on the forms to note which forms should be used for which requests. Anupma also requested some process to inform the Board that has un-suspended admissions (here is the draft previously developed and Paul agreed to post it on PAR website); Paul agreed and noted a notice of completed teach out and final discontinuation would also be good. Susan noted the forms themselves are still problematic--the descriptors at the top do not match what the form is actually about and for the PAR still says for discontinuation even though there is a separate form for discontinuation. Paul agreed and noted they need to take another look at the forms to ensure there is internal agreement. He also noted the forms are somewhat hard to read and determine quickly what is taking place.
9. Process and Timeline for Selecting the Interim President
    a. BOR Motion approving the process and timeline

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Paul noted the Board met today and approved the process of whittling down the number of names nominated or submitted to five or so candidates. Regents will hold a meeting tomorrow morning to approve those candidates and will then interview the selected candidates on Friday and Monday before making a final decision and offer on Tuesday. Paul noted it was suggested by the faculty to have co-presidents, however, Paul doesn't think the Board will take that route.

10. AY21 Meeting Schedule
    a. second Thursday from 2-4pm each month (except September)

    Paul noted that this meeting schedule meant members would need to have any items they want on the September Board ASA agenda to be reviewed by the AC at its August 13 meeting. Anupma asked how it fit with faculty senate meetings; for UAF, the AC meeting would take place about ten days later; for UAA and UAS, it would be five days after the faculty senate meeting; this appears to give enough time for the chancellor to review any proposed actions prior to AC review.

11. Roundtable and future agenda items - All

Community campuses - Priscilla noted not much to report; they are focusing on increasing enrollment and getting students to come back this fall. Paul noted he uses the weekly update from UAF PAIR that breaks down each university and community campus enrollment numbers. He noted the latest one, enrollment numbers are starting to recover and moving toward last year's numbers, however, they are still concerning in terms of total numbers.

Health programs - Jeff reported they are engaging in a lot of COVID related activities; AHEC has a $2M contract with the state to train up to 500 contact tracers across the state; also there is another contract for COVID modeling as well as distribution for PPE; UAA COH is also down in enrollment but not as much as some programs. Hospitals are struggling due to the postponement of minor or elective procedures; nurses are being furloughed and overall demand is down at the moment within the health industry. Anupma asked if any of the people being trained for contact tracing are UA employees; Jeff noted they are all external hires and will then be temporary employees and will be issued Chrome books to connect to the university network (there may be a couple current employees but not a significant number).

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AK College of Education - Steve

Workforce - Teri reported they sent out the final notice for TVEP this week; it ended up being 3% down from FY20 funds (which was up from the projected award amount) and will support a number of good programs. Teri is meeting with the DOWLD to see if UA can partner with them on a dislocated worker program. Is also looking into a grant program that could help with non-credit workforce training. Anupma asked if there was a map of areas where AVTEC has needs that UA can develop further; Teri noted she would look into that and follow up with the council. Paul reminded members that despite UA's request for a multi-year approval, they were only granted single year authorization so Teri will have to do this all again next year and will reach out to work with staff on each campus to support UA's proposal.

Jak noted UAF is having its accreditation visit this fall; she also noted she still has concerns regarding teach out plans and the letter of intent being sent out to students at UAA. Alex noted the report has been completed and they are waiting to hear who the review team will be from NWCCU; they expect it to be a virtual visit this fall. UAF is also not making students sign a letter of intent.

Anupma noted Ellen Lopez is the new CLA dean after Todd Sherman retired this summer.

Heather