

Meeting Notes

Academic Council

March 12, 2020; 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Action/Business:

At the start of the meeting, VP Layer provided an update on the UA response to the COVID-19 crisis. UA leadership decided to extend Spring Break by one week for students (March 16-20). They are determining what date to close down the residence halls but will work with students on an individual basis to ensure they are not left in unmanageable situations. More messages will be sent out later today. Guidance to employees on self-monitoring or quarantine will also be distributed shortly. Campus leadership is encouraged to work with their chancellors to ensure appropriate coverage and service. Fred Villa, former AVP for Workforce Development, has been named as the state liaison to the University of Alaska.

NWCCU concerns - If UA decides to continue with its regular schedule and not extend the semester, UA will need to ensure they still meet learning outcomes for students. NWCCU will give some leeway on seat time due to the ongoing crisis but UA will need to notify them of all changes in course modality or length. VP Layer noted they will need to reassess as this develops and may enact further changes or restrictions.

Dr. Williams noted concern for faculty who are being asked to conduct classes online (IT support, Zoom accounts, laptop availability, etc.). The extended Spring Break will provide them with some additional time to plan and transition to distance delivery, however, UA will need to keep an eye on IT capacity.

VP Layer also clarified that, although Spring Break has been extended for students, faculty and staff are still expected to come to work to help prepare for UA's response to instruction changes and create and implement precautionary measures.

VP Layer noted the call for restriction on public gatherings is not just limited to instruction. A number of conferences (One Health, CCDC, SSC, the student legislative advocacy conference. Festival of Native Arts) have been cancelled or moved to online only. Events such as the UAF Faculty Senate meeting next Monday are included in this (he noted the senate president was asked to consider moving the meeting video conference only).

1. Approve [January 29, 2020 meeting notes](#)

VP Layer asked members to send any changes or questions to Morgan. There were no objections or concerns raised at the meeting.

2. Program Action Request

a. [Interdisciplinary Bachelor of Arts – UAS](#)

VP Layer noted it may be difficult for the Board to consider any actions outside the expedited program review at its April 13-14 meeting; this item would be reviewed by the ASA at its regular May meeting.

Provost Carey noted UAS was recognized as UA's interdisciplinary campus. This program would focus on several core areas and lean heavily on experiential learning so students can develop their own programs that will fit well in the 21st century workplace. She noted many of the courses that would be a part of this interdisciplinary program are already in place and being utilized by UAS students.

Questions:

- *Is this going to replace anything we are currently doing?*
No, it shouldn't. They already have programs in the arts.
- *Is it going to cost anything?*
No, because it isn't creating new courses.

Vice Provost Fitts noted Provost Prakash, who will join the meeting later, had no objections to this proposal.

Members had no objections to forwarding this item to the ASA agenda for review at its May meeting, for final approval from the Board at its meeting in June.

3. Action/Change Forms – Paul

VP Layer noted some concern regarding the timing of this request since both programs are included in the expedited program review. Provost Stalvey noted the requests were initiated by the program faculty. Currently, there aren't students in either program so the reasoning was to prevent potential students from signing up for a program that may or may not continue as well as to avoid creating additional teach out requirements for the university. VP Layer asked if they thought it was likely students would apply for either program in the next three months; Provost Stalvey noted it was definitely probable.

AC members did not have objections to notifying the Board at this time about these notices of intent to suspend the programs.

- a. Notice of Intent to Suspend (Suspend with Intent to Discontinue) – [Undergraduate Certificate in Legal Nurse Consultant Paralegal – UAA](#)
- b. Notice of Intent to Suspend (Temporary Suspension) – [Master of Arts in Anthropology – UAA](#)

The request is only for a temporary suspension because they are unsure if the program will continue at this point.

Updates/Discussion:

4. Faculty Alliance update – Maria

Dr. Williams noted the Faculty Alliance was concerned about the COVID-19 crisis but also concerned about the expedited program reviews and the different processes at each university. They are particularly concerned about the lack of cost-benefit analysis included in the initial recommendations. They are also concerned about continued support for athletics programs when tenured faculty could potentially receive termination notices. VP Layer noted he expects the Board to raise similar questions at the June meeting. Dr. Maier noted it was particularly concerning to see programs recommended for deletion that are the only program of its kind in Alaska (i.e. Sociology). VP Layer noted he has asked the provosts to look at how they would meet student learning outcomes for other degrees if these programs were deleted, and to provide coordinated recommendations for how to meet the needs of UA students.

5. [Common Calendar Committee report](#) – Megan Buzby

Due to the change in meeting time, Dr. Buzby was unable to attend. Dr. Williams provided a brief update. The committee has developed two proposals for aligning course block start time and have shared with faculty, staff and students for feedback on the two options. Dr. Maier noted the committee had not spent much time discussing the length of the instructional hour (since it is different at each campus). VP Layer noted he had heard support from the Engineering program for the possible increase in course block options. Following the feedback period, the options will be presented to the Board at its June meeting.

6. COVID-19 update and discussion regarding academic responses

See initial discussion above.

7. ALEKS proctored placement exams – Paul/Karen

Placement test used in math; faculty would like that exam proctored so that student scores are more accurate (research shows students who are evaluated on a proctored

exam are more accurately placed and have higher success rates when completing that course). Ultimately, faculty hope to increase student success in math courses and to avoid setting students up for failure. In order to proctor each exam, it will cost \$20/student. UAS does not have the resources to pay for that. They have discussed having the student cover that fee or asking SW to pay for it (although SW doesn't have funding for it either). Vice Provost Fitts noted it was important to have a common approach to this so students aren't test shopping across campuses to avoid the fee. Current test costs are around \$60k for UAF and over \$100k for UAA.

Members also engaged in a discussion on in-person vs. virtual proctoring. It was noted many students were in communities that would likely not be able to support staffing for in-person proctoring. It was also mentioned that this semester virtual proctoring may need to be used due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. Provost Prakash noted UAF faculty Leah Berman has done a cost analysis of in-person vs. virtual proctoring.

VP Layer noted he will work with the provosts to have a decision by March 31.

8. Academic Program review update – John/Anupma/Karen

UAA - Provost Stalvey reported he submitted his recommendations to the chancellor on Monday, March 9. They held a community forum on March 11. They will conduct a virtual forum next week for students. There is also an online feedback form available. The chancellor is gathering information and checking feedback they received at the forum. VP Layer noted the online moderator software worked well. Recommendations from the administrative review has also been posted.

UAF - Provost Prakash reported recommendations are currently posted online and were distributed by the Cornerstone newsletter. The Faculty Senate is holding a special meeting to review. Deans are also communicating with their units. They also have online forums for feedback. Chancellor White has noted he expects his recommendations will be different than the provost's recommendations (including more programs for

deletion). Dr. Maier noted the administrative review will likely be posted sometime in April.

UAS - Provost Carey report they have shared information with Strategic Budget and Planning Council, who are distributing it internally for comment. Advisory council meets on Monday and they hope to have new information at that time. They will share recommendations with the president on March 23. Provost Carey noted they have had a different process for the review; VP Layer noted this may present some issues for them when they present recommendations to the Board and UAS will want to be cognizant of this as they plan their presentation.

9. Planning for the April Academic Council that will forward Program Review recommendations to the Board – Paul

The special ASA is currently scheduled for face-to-face in Anchorage on April 13-14, however, that may change in the coming weeks. There will likely be another set of meetings scheduled for May 13-14 in case the ASA committee cannot get through all of the program action requests at its special meeting in April. VP Layer noted he is considering having April 13 be a day of presentations and then the next day ask committee members to make decisions on each request. Then, if the committee does not get through all of the requests, they can meet again on May 13-14 to finish the review.

Academic Council will meet next on April 1, which may need to be longer than the regularly scheduled two hours. He plans to work with the provosts on the timing of these meetings and what information needs to be included in their presentations to the Regents (impact to faculty, cost analysis, teach out requirements, etc.).

10. College of Education update – Steve/Paul

In line with the VP Layer's [recommendation](#) to the Board at its February 13 Academic and Student Affairs committee meeting, Dr. Atwater noted they are working on

reassessing the AKCOE structure and will have recommendations to the ASA at its regular May meeting. Dayna Defeo, from ISER, is helping to collect data along with additional staff at each university. VP Layer noted he hoped to develop a strong plan for the Board and to work to avoid the perceptions that an option has been pre-selected.

11. Roundtable and future agenda items – All

- a. Community Campus Directors - Metrics Report
- b. Budget transparency - both academic and administrative - generally and specific to the expedited program reviews