

**Academic Council Agenda**  
**October 14, 2021; 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Zoom: ID: [83541881843](#)

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**Action/Business:**

Opening Comments - Paul

- Paul thanked Anupma for her kind words at the Student Success Convening kickoff. There were approximately 160 people in attendance with some good conversations. The focus was on equity in student success, including equity in success in large classroom settings. The first speaker talked about some interventions, especially designed for large classrooms. Another speaker covered health and mental well-being and happiness, and another on open education resources. The keynote speaker was Bill Davis from Washington State University.
- 1. Approve [September 30, 2021 Meeting Notes](#)
  - a. If there are any corrections to the notes, please provide them to Kelly James.
- 2. Policy Change - [P10.02.070. Accreditation](#)
  - a. Reviewed the proposed changes. There has been feedback from the Regents and President. There was a question of whether the president is responsible for the quality of the reports and accuracy or whether the universities, and by extension, the chancellors are responsible. The question is whether we want to put anything in regulation regarding this responsibility. The board would like the first sentence of P10.02.070.C to be modified. Paul will work with Legal to find wording that aligns with the universities' wishes, but satisfies the Board. The Board could choose to use this as the first reading at the board meeting, and then have a vote at the second meeting, but this is entirely up to the board.
    - i. Maren - Will there be a change to the annual written report is provided? Paul - We are still working on the language, but the president shall provide a report. The president will delegate to Paul who will delegate to the chancellors who will delegate it back to the provosts, but the president is responsible for the quality of the report.

- ii. Gokhan - Thought it was a three separately accredited institution. Why is the president responsible for the accuracy of the report? Paul - Each university is separately accredited, but the board serves as the board of each university and the president is part of that board and is part of the university, so ultimately, it comes together at the top. Each university is separately accredited and responsible for that report that is conveyed to the regents. Paul and Matt will work on the language. Everything goes through the president that is presented to the board. The regents feel they would like this to be more explicit on accountability, but anything we provide to the board there is the requirement that it is correct and accurate.
- iii. Denise - The NWCCU considers the chancellors to be the chief executive officers of the institutions. The highest level of responsibility is the CEO, so to try to make someone above the CEO responsible is illogical and does not fit with basic administrative theory or business theory or any other kind of theory. It could be stated that through the president annually, each university shall provide to the board through the president a written report, because that is how it works.
- iv. Paul - Regent Perdue has brought up from time to time the concept of the universities' internal process. We don't want to put internal processes in policy or regulation because each of the universities does their reporting in different ways and have different structures.
- v. Gokhan - Feels Northwest would be extremely nervous about what is going on right now, after three years, we went through this consolidation story. We have to be careful.
- vi. Anupma - Questions the next steps in the process of this policy change. Paul - Will meet with Matt Cooper and see what changes can be made. He will also meet with President Pltney, who has been in Iceland, so unable to meet. He will try to resolve this early next week.
- vii. Gokhan - Mentioning the president has been responsible and accountable for our accreditation has made him nervous. Paul - Will work with Matt on the

language. He understands where Gokhan is coming from and if it's the president being responsible then the president has more control.

1. [Chat link](#)

**ACTION:** Paul will work on the modification to the language with General Counsel and bring it back to the Council for review.

**Agenda Items:**

1. Common Calendar/Common Course Block - Megan Buzby
  - a. [Common Calendar Committee memo](#)
  - b. [Common Calendar Committee memo to school districts](#)
  - c. [UA Common Calendar Recommendation](#)
- Megan provided an overview of the process the committee went through to reach the current proposed common calendar. Their bylaws state they are just responsible for proposing calendars two years out. There were some concerns about spring break, so they wanted to add another year of dates to the calendar so that people could provide feedback if the spring break dates need to be changed. This also gives school districts the opportunity to see when we're going to do the spring break. Will submit the proposed calendar by 10/1/2021 and would like to get some sort of approval that the dates look good.

**DISCUSSION:**

- a. Anupma - She has received requests from faculty to consider an alignment of spring break with the local school district in Fairbanks. There is a request for a discussion with the school board. It was also brought up at the Academic Council last time. There is a plan to have broader communication with other school districts. The faculty senate president brought this up and would also like an alignment with future school years.
- b. Paul - Megan has provided a couple of templates for letters for communicating with boards. He prefers that you reach out to your local school boards.
- c. Megan - The Committee had discussed aligning the spring breaks and the school districts, but it would be near impossible for the UAA calendar to align with the school districts when they aren't aligned themselves. Spring break may be able to be moved by

a week, but we want to make sure that the withdrawal date isn't on the Friday of spring break when school is closed and students aren't around. Anupma - The withdrawal date needs to be before faculty start submitting grades, so that it's not that students are withdrawing after they've seen the grades.

- d. Paul - There has been a proposal to perhaps make indigenous peoples day a university holiday. This takes a Monday out of the teaching days in the fall semester. It is unsure of the amount of sentiment from each university on this, but wanted to put it out there as a possibility. Another day would have to be added or use a finals day. Also, all three universities have events centered around indigenous peoples day. If it is a day off, the events probably wouldn't have happened, which takes away from the value of the day. It would be just another day off instead of a day of remembrance, like Memorial Day, Veterans Day, etc, as it has become.
- e. Megan - Another concern that has been brought up was the start date for the fall semester starting on a Thursday, which gives the students a weekend to move into the dorms. However, the faculty member brought up the idea that a lot of students and faculty have summer jobs based on tourism. Moving the start date earlier cuts into their income. Sometimes this is just how the Christmas holiday falls that determines the start date. Another concern is with a 50 minute credit hour, they lose 3 days of instruction.
- f. Jak - Would like to see UAF and UAS start later. However, with UAA, we need to keep the calendars aligned, which is mandated by the board. Feels it is good for the students to have consistency in the calendar that the mandate provides. Will bring this up in discussion with the Faculty Senate.

**ACTION:** Move toward approving the common calendar at the next meeting, if possible, or at the December meeting. If there is a desire to discuss modifications for the spring break times to match the dates with the local school districts, they will be discussed at the next AC meeting. The Faculty will discuss this with the senates. The Faculty Senates will also determine if there is a desire for an earlier start date.

- Common Course Block proposal - The Common Calendar Committee presented a Common Course Block proposal to us in March of 2020. However, that was the month when everything shut down and schedules were disrupted. After discussing this with the provosts, it was agreed that this is not the time to start pushing the common course block alignment proposal. We are still trying to adjust to modified delivery modes. Megan will check with the registrars to see how much time they would need to make changes if they received them by October 1. They may be able to have it scheduled for the following year, maybe the one after that.
  - Denise - The number of students that are affected by this is very small relative to the number of students that we serve.
  - Megan - One of the programs that was considered a lot was the engineering program. Because they have to share courses across UAA and UAF, but they were also taking other courses, GERS, with some synchronous and asynchronous options. It may be worth checking with the engineering deans to see if the different departments can figure out a scheduling option that may help them in the meantime. The common course block was something the board wanted and was stated in policy.
  - Paul - It is in the policy. The board has not brought it up, but it is lingering in the background. The main point is, are we meeting the needs of the students with our current structure?
  - Gokhan - Is there any data on the number of students impacted by the common course structure? Paul - He has discussed it with the provosts, but it is not stored centrally, and we are unsure of how to pull that type of data. Anupma - estimates about 2% of the students. Gokhan would like a look at the data before we come up with a common course block for a proper comparison.

2. Faculty Governance Report - Jak, Gokhan, Jennifer

- a. Jak - Only met once since the last AC meeting. Dr. Pearl Brower met with the FA and reviewed the ANSI report to get feedback from as many groups as she can. It was a good meeting with her and the FA provided comments on her draft report. The FA

discussed setting goals for the academic year and defining the top priorities. Will be having a retreat at some point soon and will finish defining the priorities. One of her primary goals is to have more interaction with the board of regents. Would like to get to know them and provide them with a broader perspective. Increasing the opportunities for interactions with the board members so we can have a greater effect in terms of helping them be knowledgeable about different aspects when they are trying to make decisions. Luanne Picard came and gave a presentation on the UAA Strategic Plan. It was very well done and tied into the Goals and Measures.

- i. UAF Faculty Senate - Created an ad hoc committee to review the Administrative Management Reviews that were conducted last year and the responses from the chancellor, which was something we have been asked to do. Each senate is going to look at the administrative management reviews and what happened with the responses and what is the timeline for fulfilling those items. Also discussed the budget, which is a big item coming up at the board meeting in November. FS also discussed Giving Day, and they also have a Writing Placement motion, which is going to come out across the system. COVID caused us to change a lot of the ways we do things in terms of how we teach, but also how we place students into courses.
  - ii. Faculty Initiative Fund is underway. We have reviewers from each of the senates that are currently reviewing 12 proposals each. We got 24 proposals total and so there will be three people reviewing each proposal. The responses will be available by November 1st and will have the announcement out in terms of who the awardees are.
- b. Gokhan - The administration responded to our responses. We are not expecting anything from the administration until we give them something back again. The senate did post a question in the meeting regarding the vaccine mandate. It was taken up with the faculty attending the meeting that day. The question was, would the faculty senate support a UAA wide COVID-19 vaccine mandate for students, staff and faculty, and 83% of the folks attending that meeting said yes. Another question was, should UAA provide

greater incentives for receiving the COVID-19 vaccine? Although the majority of the people there said yes, the results were not as strong as the first question.

- i. There were some writing placement considerations going on at UAF. We have not had a chance to bring that to UAA FS yet, but there is some work going on in the background before it gets there.
- ii. We have completed all of our search committees and they are doing great.

DISCUSSION: Anupma - Provided the name of the software for the writing placement, which is EdReady. The software team is looking at it to replace AccuPlacer. The only issue with the software was that there was a lot of manual work that would be required to interface with Banner. The UAF Faculty Senate has approved it, so they are going forward with it.

- c. Jennifer - Established a taskforce for the faculty role in student retention, so there's going to be some faculty looking at areas, such as early alerts and advising professional development, and other areas where faculty have power in engaging students in the experience for better retention. They did report back on the Goals and Measures, specifically in research. They suggested that the Arctic Research method metric be reworded to something like, grow our world class Alaska and Arctic research so that it could be inclusive with UAS, research and coastal Alaska. Another recommendation under research was to add any ANCI report measurements related to co-initiated, co-sponsored indigenous lead research that could be another metric or measurement, and then add a measurement that captures student production of knowledge to demonstrate academic excellence, student success and world class research. There was a suggestion, but it was unclear what modernizing the student experience actually meant, so they are looking for clarification on that.
3. BOR Tuition Proposal discussion - Paul
- a. UAF has requested another step to differentiate tuition. UAA and UAS will remain the same. UAF proposes to keep the CTC tuition at the current lower division tuition rate, and raise the non-CTC lower division tuition 11% in a move towards normalizing it with the upper division tuition rate. The pilot year, the graduate tuition increased by 5% and upper division and undergraduate tuitions were increased by 2.5% at that time. This

request is to further differentiate the tuition. Looking at where the students are and where the market is, this was done in consultation with the enrollment consultants. We want the community college tuitions, especially those that are serving the 100-200 level classes, to be frozen. Our community college tuition is high. We want a differentiated tuition for the Troth Yeddha campus with the four year degree programs. The proposal is to lift the lower division undergraduate tuition up to the upper division grade over a two year period. There would be a consolidated rate for undergraduate tuition. They will be investing in financial aid leverage, as well as marketing to get a clear message to the students. The proposal does not change the graduate student rates and will not change the non-resident surcharge. It only brings the lower division tuition rates to the upper division tuition rates for the Troth Yeddha and four year degree granting programs.

- i. The Board is going to have some questions about how there can be two different costs to the student depending upon where the course is located? Paul will be meeting with Chancellor White and Julie Queen to have a conversation about how to present this to the board.
    - b. The UAF tuition proposal is the direction we are heading in our philosophy, to tailor our tuition to our local student population.
  4. ASA Committee Meeting 11/4 - Paul
    - a. Presenting the policy change on accreditation
    - b. Denise will be asked to provide a brief visit of the NWCCU (verbal report)
    - c. ACEC is putting together a brief presentation on the consortium highlighting some of the accomplishments and goals for the consortium
      - i. Liaison position - none of the applicants fit the requirements and will continue searching
    - d. Update from Denise on the State Board of Education
    - e. Update from Jessica Skipper on the Student Success Convening
    - f. Tuition and Budget are part of the full board agenda, Goals and Measures, report from Pearl on the ANSI, and a DYK on Military programs

5. Roundtable and future agenda items - All

- a. Priscilla - Paul Kraft has been asked to chair the CCDC and is putting together the next meeting.
- b. Paul - The reconciliation bill moves through the US Legislature and in it is the free community college provisions and the implications for Alaska that we're still trying to figure out. We've been working with our federal delegation to make sure the language would make our community campuses eligible should our state elect to participate in the program. We need to understand and the State needs to understand what the financial responsibilities are of that legislation if they choose to participate. Also, a lot of work is being done at UAA with 2025 strategic planning with all hands on deck.
- c. Denise - Had mid-cycle evaluation visit from NWCCU. They interacted with some big groups at UAA. They had a lot of positive and complementary things to say. There were areas that they did ask to continue focusing and working on. Very collaborative process.
- d. Susan - Nothing to add
- e. Maren - Visited the Sitka campus yesterday and the day before and would like to visit them more often. Would like input from Denise and Susan about their 3 year review, as hers is coming up.
- f. Anupma - October 11 was Indigenous Peoples Day and had the welcome signs changed to say, "Welcome to Troth Yeddha". Pearl Brower made a great keynote address. They have a faculty fellow, Laura Connor, who is working with them on dual enrollment, along with Alex, Owen and other faculty and staff. This is the second year of the middle college cohort and it's going really well. The district has a very strong partnership and we're growing the dual enrollment space. Due to COVID last year, there was a pause on the leadership institute that she hosts for faculty and staff, and has an excellent cohort, and larger cohort, with more rural campus faculty and staff participating in it. The agenda has been changed to be more aligned with our national discussions in equity and student success, racial bias, racial equity, are all topics that have speakers. Continued discussions with the faculty leadership and senate leadership, staff alliance and student groups.

- g. Alex - Congratulations to UAA on their successful site visit.
- h. Gwen - Nothing to add - appreciates the opportunity to listen in to everything going on around the university.
- i. Kelly - Nothing to add

Action items from 5/13/21:

- FA to review the language of the “Accelerated Masters” and make recommendations

Action items from 9/30/21:

- All - Review and make edits to document ([P.10.02.070 Accreditation](#)). Paul and Kelly will develop a final draft to present to the BOR at the November BOR meeting.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, November 18th, 2:00-4:00 pm