

**Academic Council Notes**  
**December 15, 2021; 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Recording:** [https://media.uaf.edu/media/t/1\\_sh5bk42w](https://media.uaf.edu/media/t/1_sh5bk42w) (no password required)

**Action/Business:**

1. Approve [September 30, 2021 Meeting Notes](#) (00:01:17)
  - a. [October 14, 2021](#)
2. Approve [UA Common Calendar](#) (00:01:59)
  - a. Paul has not received any comments or objections from the Council
  - b. A question of outreach to the districts was raised and there was discussion on furthering discussions with the school districts to better coordinate future calendars. Will continue to move these calendars forward and communications will continue with the districts.

**ACTION:** Will move the Common Calendar forward to the universities as recommended for AY23/24 and AY24/25.

**Agenda Items:**

1. Develop regulation associated with Policy [P10.02.070 Accreditation](#) (00:06:35)
  - a. Working Draft Doc - [Regulation](#) - Discussion regarding proposed language for the regulation. The Regulation would be the delegation of responsibility from the system to the chancellors. Accreditation is already delegated by the Board to each of the universities.

**ACTION:** Will keep “Develop regulation associated with Policy P10.02.070 Accreditation” on the agenda for the next meeting.

2. Faculty Initiative Fund and cross-MAU program delivery challenges - Jennifer Ward (00:14:10)
  - a. Jennifer brought up the difficulties of delivering courses across the university for both faculty and students.
    - i. Limitations in the amount of credits a student is able to take outside of their “home” university
    - ii. Faculty credit hours - workloads - service credits/effort

- iii. Who gets the credit hours?
  - iv. Administrative support - travel support, marketing, etc.
- b. The faculty have ideas on how to handle these issues through articulation agreements. This has been done with the BS in Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. The MOUs would work together and have catalog language that says the degree must include 44 credits of upper division courses, 24 of which must be completed at UAS or UAF, for example.
- i. There are other challenges, like workloads for faculty to get service credits for all of the effort that they're putting into planning and the assessment plans, and making sure there's equity, who's teaching, how the courses are being delivered through different universities, etc.
- c. Each university has different financial models and tuition differences

**COMMENT:** Jennifer - If we are valuing inter-university collaboration, facilitated conversations would be integral to faculty success to have administrative support.

FIF conversation: (00:29:07)

- For future FIF collaborative efforts, to improve the process we will need to look at making sure all deans affected sign off on the proposal.
3. Faculty Governance Reports - Jak, Gokhan, Jennifer
- a. Faculty Alliance - Jak - (00:39:41)
    - i. Retreat and meeting with President Pitney since the last AC meeting
      - 1. There was a discussion at the retreat about structure, with the University of Nevada as an example for an alternative structure. It was felt they were more effective and efficient with how the BOR process is conducted in comparison to ours.
      - 2. At the meeting with President Pitney, Goals and Measures was discussed and faculty will again review them in preparation for the BOR meeting in February.
    - ii. Still waiting on faculty data from HR and IR - both data sets are similar, but apparently both are accurate. There is a discrepancy in 2011, so looking into what may have caused this discrepancy.

b. Faculty Senate UAA - Gokhan - (00:42:09)

- i. David Bishko emailed Jak on December 10th requesting a review of the Goals and Measures document, but feels that shared governance is not being observed. This request is during finals week, and then the faculty go off contract. There are no faculty senate meetings prior to the January 10th deadline.
- ii. UAA Faculty Senate - Received a motion from UAF Faculty Senate regarding the Edge Ready (?) platform to replace Accuplacer. He was not convinced of the value of the platform. Feels that all universities should be able to weigh in before system-wide changes are made.

c. Faculty Senate UAS - Jennifer - (00:45:54)

- i. Had a positive experience meeting the regents at the retreat and several people commented on how they'd like to do that more often.
- ii. Faculty Senate will be talking about different proctoring options. RTLTR has put together a document laying out the different services and things to consider when looking for proctoring services.
- iii. Also, instigating a process for rescinding meritorious or honorarium degrees for people who have committed a crime or behaved in a manner that is embarrassing for the university to be associated with, to be able to rescind the award.

d. Gokhan question - Concerns all three universities and their experience with the proctoring program they may have. How were they affected by the RP Now meltdown during finals week? There were a number of complaints by faculty that RP Now was not functioning well during finals weeks because of what happened at AWS.

- i. Maren did not hear of any issues during finals week.
- ii. Anupma states there were some issues because AWS (Amazon Web Service) had a global issue. It was limited to a certain time. She did not hear of any specific impacts from this, but did hear about general issues.

- iii. Jak - Had only heard about Canvas being down for a while, but was unsure if it was a related issue. Blackboard also had a period of difficulty, but had not gone down.

**ACTION:** 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.

4. Board of Regents planning (00:55:15)

- a. Did You Know - The plan is to look at Alternative Energy and the other is on drones as an area of focus.
- b. Tuition ad hoc committee - At the last board meeting, the Board decided to create an ad hoc committee on tuition to look at the policies, practices and philosophy in setting tuition, looking at everything from a broader sense. The Board committee will have four regents on it, Davies, Spencer, Parker and Jensen. Others will participate as needed. First meeting will be January 21, 2022, meeting monthly. Will have a report prepared for the June meeting on tuition philosophy to guide the universities when coming up with future tuition proposals.

5. Goals & Measures update (01:00:10)

- a. There has been a revision to the document to reduce the number of goals and have the universities develop their own goals and measures. Some are still in development, looking at 5 year goals. There is a lot of crossover between the goals and the measures, as we think about things like equity in terms of student equity and enrollment and graduation rates. Would like to have the document ready for the February BOR meeting. Reviewed the current version of the document from December 8, 2021.
  - i. Jak - What does student retention rate have to do with academic excellence? There is a disconnect - retention and graduation do not measure excellence. The Faculty have provided several examples that could be used. The only one that is in there was perhaps “percent working in Alaska K12 satisfaction with the first and second year teachers”. There are positive things that can be tied to student

success, but it is not the same as academic excellence. Academic excellence is the purview of the faculty.

- ii. Gokhan - Does not feel that the comments and thoughts provided will be taken into consideration and used.

6. Accelerated Masters (01:14:43)

- a. Was sent back to Faculty Alliance for feedback on the language of what to call the “accelerated masters” programs.
- b. Anupma - This was discussed at the UAF Faculty Senate Committee and was decided that the title does not, in some ways honor the part that there is a bachelor's degree part too, and it does not just accelerate the masters. This is still a full 30 credit masters. It is combining the bachelors and masters. A recommendation was to call it a combined bachelors and masters.
- c. The term was added into Regulation to be able to double count some courses for the program. The phraseology “accelerated master's degree” means up to 12 credits.

7. Roundtable and future agenda items - All (01:27:33)

- a. Paul - the governor is recommending a \$4 million increase to the base. That is \$276.8 million in unrestricted funds and capital budget would include \$20 million in state federal funds to modernize the student experience. There is also a request for the Seward Marine Center Research Vessel infrastructure as a geobond that they're considering. There is also money for ARPA for critical minerals for heavier recovery and for the drone program.
- b. Susan - Things are great! Looking forward to taking a break and enjoying time with friends and family
- c. Gokhan - Wishes everyone a happy holiday season
- d. Denise - Happy holiday season - nothing to report
- e. Alex - Nothing
- f. Anupma - Masters in Marine Policy - joint policy with UAA and UAS. There are ways to make the process easier. Run paperwork through Courseleaf. There has been good support for the process at the registrar's office and their staff.

- g. Jennifer - Have a wonderful winter break.
- h. Maren - Nothing to add
- i. Priscilla - Nothing to add.
- j. Jak - Happy holidays - safe travels -come back healthy
- k. Kelly - Have a happy holiday

**Action items from 5/13/21:**

- FA to review the language of the “Accelerated Masters” and make recommendations
  - Combined bachelors and masters program
  - 12/15/21 Update: Faculty Senates will review and bring their recommendations back to the Faculty Alliance

**Future Meeting Agenda Items:**

- Dual Enrollment - Age requirement - elementary school students

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, January 13th, 2:00-4:00 pm