

Academic Council Notes
March 21, 2024; 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Action/Business:

1. Approve March 21, 2024 Meeting Recording
 - a. [Zoom Recording](#)
Passcode: vs!1?&ws
 - a. [Notes 01/11/2024 Academic Council](#)

Agenda Items:

1. Faculty Governance Reports - Jennifer Carroll and Jackie Cason
 - a. Jennifer Carroll - UAF
 - i. A couple of bachelor's degrees were passed, with potentially 2 more new programs that might make it to the next UAF Faculty Senate meeting in time to come to the Academic Council.
 - ii. We have elected our President Elect Leah Berman. We've moved our elections up by about a month so that, for the most part, we can meet workload deadlines.
 - iii. We also have a motion now to put in some suggested syllabus language options for artificial intelligence (AI).
 - b. Jackie Cason - UAA
 - i. Working on a somewhat routine bylaw constitution revision always with our minds toward how, in the spirit of shared governance, do we bring the work that senate committees do, to some of the decisions, and work that needs to get done? The provost has been working on trying to help us see what those decisions are and to collaborate on those. That's been, I think, enlightening for everyone to see how we can adjust those bylaws and constitutions.
 - ii. I've worked with Susan a little bit, and she's been working with the Curriculum Committee on some academic forgiveness policies that are making their way through. We put that out on our list and I'm in the process of gathering together and summarizing some of the feedback on that. Some items are things like a fresh start renewal program, or being able to still achieve Latin honors and so on. I think they've been looking system wide at some of those policies of forgiveness, which I like to call them redemption policies, and I do think there's a value in failure. At least, there's a lot to learn from it, and I've learned from failure in my own life, and giving students an

opportunity to understand that persistence really pays off, and that sometimes, you know, you hit some bumps, but it's worth continuing.

- iii. The faculty alliance trip to Juneau was an interesting trip, and it was a nice meet up in person among all the alliance members. We sat in a lot of rooms and talked about education, and advocated for education very broadly from K all the way through post secondary. I thought we got some positive feedback, but there were some real challenges going on, Juneau, at the time.
- iv. We're behind Fairbanks. We would really like to get our elections going faster here. So that we can be looking ahead because it is time to be looking ahead. We're setting dates for fall and kind of thinking about agendas and ideas for what we want to accomplish in the next year. But we're right in the midst of calling in nominations and holding elections as well.

2. Faculty Leadership Forum - Jennifer Carroll and Jackie Cason

- a. The first annual UA Faculty Alliance Though Leaders Forum, with the focus on AI, will occur via Zoom over two days, Thursday, March 28 from 11 am to 3 pm and Friday, March 29 from 10 am to 2 pm. [Schedule](#) and [Registration](#) links. Ben Shier, Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO), and his group is going to talk about the statewide issue in terms of the different programs that we have and data, safety and privacy and issues. That'll be for everybody, and then we'll split into 2 tracks for both days. The 2 tracks of presentations, which we have from faculty, staff, students, and administrators from all 3 universities, who submitted proposals and are going to be there to present. Our keynote speaker at the end is Dr. Tricia Bertram Gallant, who is "An internationally known expert on integrity and ethics in education; author, speaker, consultant and practitioner" (LinkedIn), who I know that some of you have seen and/or have heard of before. There will be approximately 30 presenters and 12 different panels. It was also nice to see the collaborative efforts across the universities. The plan is to record the sessions, so we'll have a text we can refer back to and make reports out of.

3. Program Action Request Process - Paul

- a. We're working on a new program action request process and form, because we want to better meet the needs of the board and what they're looking for. We got some feedback that we are not giving the board the information that they want to see in the format they want to see it in.
- b. So as things come through, your faculty senates there's a lot of information in there about the process, what is required for accreditation, things that are required for other purposes other than what the board is looking for in a program request. So we wanted to take what comes from the senates, make it in the format that the board can act on it, but not bog the board down with pages and pages of process. So it's gonna take a little while. We have a draft that is being circulated by the provost taking a look at that, and basically puts the information that is

in regulation in a format that is more descriptive and rigorous. We will have that for our next academic council meeting.

- c. A discussion on the shared [BOR Program Action Request \(PAR\) Form 2024](#) took place and some suggested changes were commented on.

4. Arctic Leadership initiatives - Paul

- a. This will be a proposal to the Rasmuson Foundation, for support, for Arctic leadership, and part of that will be a request for proposals and nominations for a couple of categories. The Provosts are aware of this, but we just wanted to bring this to your attention. There are 3 initiatives that we want to start with, and the idea is we are going forward to the Rasmuson Foundation this summer for about \$2.5 billion dollars per year grant to build capacity for building Arctic leaders across the state. We received a small grant last year to have this organizing year.
- b. Susan Bell, who was formerly with the McKinley Group, was brought on to lead this effort, and we have external stakeholders and also an internal steering committee to develop some ideas. President Pitney and I are putting up about \$500,000 this year to kick start some of this while we're waiting to get the proposal submitted and evaluated. There are 3 things I want to talk a little bit about.
- c. The first is the concept of putting some money this next year for supporting some postdoctoral fellows or early career faculty. So these are people that we're thinking about, and we'll have 4 of these coming forward this year. To help support that there will be sort of a match. The amount of money that we want to put towards this is not going to cover the full Post Doc, for the year, but it would provide some of that support. Basically, the idea is that these are positions that have an Arctic interest and expertise and want to bolster each of our universities in terms of what they are doing in building the capacity for this particular area, for those of you who may have been familiar. When we had the International Polar Year we had a Post Doc program, this is kind of similar to that at a little bit lower level. Right now, once we get the funding, we can ramp that up a little bit more.
- d. The purpose of this initiative is: How do we position Alaskans as leaders in the Arctic and the changing Arctic?; How do we provide pathways for students and professionals to become the leaders of tomorrow; How do we enhance our reputation and be seen as as the place to go when we think about Arctic leadership and also building these leaders in the native communities, and in the State.
- e. The second initiative that we're looking at is this concept of President's Arctic Professors. This is not quite the President's Professor that we've had in the past, it's a little bit scaled down, but it would be a way to identify some faculty across the system and providing a bit of support to have them be recognized, to be out there as leaders, building community, helping with the postdocs and these cohorts, helping with the early career professionals, and also then helping

to guide some of the students. We have some student support here as well, but the idea is to think about first is, how do we build new talent; how do we recognize the talent we have; and get them more engaged and provide support for them to be engaged. Over a couple of years, and again a couple of years of support as we think about. This is not obviously full salary, but it would be some part of their salary or other uses for that particular funding.

- f. The third piece we have is what we are calling our engagement awards, and these are smaller grants to faculty between \$5,000 to \$20,000, kind of like faculty initiative fund, but really with a focus on the UA's Arctic engagement and visibility, which is focused on building those sorts of areas there. We're developing what those might look like in terms of an RFP (Request for Proposal) that would go out.
 - g. In summary, 3 different focuses. Early career professionals, recognizing and engaging more established faculty, and giving them some recognition, and then also then providing some smaller grants for faculty to build some of our capacity. If we get the larger grant, these would be some of the bases and the foundations for expanding these programs a little bit wider right now. They're kind of piloted, but we want to show the Rasmuson Foundation and other stakeholders this is where we want to build. So our goal is to get these on the street and out and circulated well. So that when those of us who are going to Arctic Encounters will be able to talk about these in some way as well as going forward. The articles are the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth of April. These are not quite the final documents, but we have a meeting with Susan Bell, and we'll make sure that we have the final versions, and we will be circulating those out there. The documents talk about: How? Who is the contact? How are these things being submitted? Who is going to be looking at these awards as they're coming forward? Basically, 8 to 10 is a very modest amount at this point in time. What we want to do is use this as a pilot to build into the future. So it's a great opportunity. The committee that we've had consists of faculty, administrators, other people across the system, who are providing input as we were developing these plans.
- 5. CCDC report
 - a. No report at this time.
 - 6. Gainful Employment requirements - Gwen
 - a. Just to make sure this is on everyone's radar, and I'm sure it is, but the due date for a first pass on that, as I understand it, is coming up in July. I know I still have a lot of questions and I think there's still a lot of questions out there. I know general counsel was also looking at the overall requirements. It's something that in discussions with each university, it sounds like it really falls under the financial Aid office. Just because of the level of individual detail information that has to be compiled for folks is really just out of people's financial aid award package which may not be. Just wanted to make sure, everyone at the universities has a point person. If you'd like help

with getting set up and working through those things, I'm happy to help with that, but then the actual data stuff, just making sure there's a plan, and everyone's comfortable with kind of how that's going. I did forward the university program analysis from December. That has been shared out.

- i. Anupma - I know that statewide our Vice Chancellors for Student Affairs meet, so is this something that is being discussed there? Can we send them again over there? Is there some conversation that are already happening, because I think all the financial aid offices in all the 3 universities are under the Vice Chancellors for Student Affairs.
- ii. Paul - We did not talk about it this morning at our meeting, but we have talked about it at past meetings.
- iii. Anupma - I think it's important that when you're meeting next, to send that information to the Vice Chancellors for Student Affairs, because financial aid, if that's the lead part where everything's gonna get done, should also have the up to date information.

7. Board ad hoc committee update - Paul

- a. This is the committee on looking at student success, focusing on recruitment, retention, graduation, and what we are doing from a university and a system perspective for the board in terms of looking at data, and looking at strategies looking at the prospects going forward.
- b. A draft charge is going to go out here fairly soon. This, I think, is the final version. The ad hoc committee of the University of Alaska priority strategies will look at all components across the universities to improve enrollment, retention, and graduation rates. An inventory of what we are doing, with an idea of how what we're doing will produce the effects that want to be seen going forward. The Board had asked about a system and plan that will focus on growing enrollment, and increasing graduates across the university to enhance our reputation. So, part of it is going to be working with the Provosts, the Vice Chancellors for Student Affairs, and looking at those strategies with UAF, UAA, and UAS. A summary of the initiatives that are being put together for the Gardner Institute is something that the BoR would be very interested to see that we are participating in that program, where that's gonna go even though it is just starting up, but here's that 5 year plan for what Gardner will become. It's an assurance to the board that we are working at this at a very high level, and that we are assuring them that that's the process that we're doing.
- c. What I will be looking to Aaron and Trent about and especially having some discussions about where that initiative is going, and working with them to collect data right now since we are in a data collection mode.
- d. But that's part of where we are heading, I think, with those initiatives. The idea is we'll have 2 meetings, one in April, and one in May, with the committee, whoever the committee is, then the board meeting discussion, a couple of meetings in the summer, and wrap up whatever this

committee comes up with in September. I don't see us going beyond that with this committee, but basically hearing what those initiatives are from you, that that

- e. We recognize that we have challenges: the enrollment cliffs and the issues with the changing demographics of the State and of your regions. We are going to move the University forward, looking at building workforce credentials; upscaling or upskilling other Alaskans, etc., if our traditional group is declining. So, what are those strategies you're using? That's what we want to be able to summarize. So what I'm looking at right now from my perspective is how other state systems and boards are presenting such strategies.

8. Gender marker for students

- a. When a student applies there is a gender choice and now a student has the option of selecting "X", which is a gender that is recognized on US Passports. "X" is something that the US State Department recognizes as an acceptable gender on a passport application. There was a request through student affairs, that would allow students to have that same choice on their admissions, even though on our forms it is an optional field not a required field. This just allows another option within the field that students could complete. The 3 choices are "M", "F", or "X".

9. Protection of Minors regulation changes

10. Roundtable and future agenda items - All

- a. Barriers to move on - After Jackie spoke about forgiveness initiatives Paul brought up the holds and those barriers for students and thought about holds for small unpaid costs or fees or fines. He asked Maren, "Is it evolving? Is that a discussion." Maren stated: "Yeah, we're putting the finishing touches on our final report and recommendations. And you know, Re, revisiting the AR accounts, receivable fold amount and something that we're also thinking about doing. No decisions have been made. But we have a hold now for academic warning and also academic probation, maybe removing the hold for academic warning cause. It doesn't seem to be anything more than a barrier for students to move on, but we haven't quite made the decision..... I think the library hold is \$100, which seems kind of low for a lot of students to move forward" Paul commented: "...it's kind of a little bit related, but it's a different topic, you know, from the faculty perspective. You are approaching it from obviously academic integrity issues in terms of whether it's an academic bankruptcy or academic forgiveness, whatever those terms are, these days that you're using is kinda important. So a lot of those barriers, I think, are really important to take a look at across are different, whether it's finance or it's academic or or at some of the other areas as well, so appreciate that."
- b. UAA - Next meeting Faculty Senate - April 1st
 - i. Denise - 3 programs that will be coming forward that are already approved by our senate.

1. A post baccalaureate certificate in early childhood education. It's a program that we had previously that we're trying to resurrect, and it would carry teacher licensure, which we have already checked which does consider the post baccalaureate certificate to be qualified under the existing waiver that they've provided to us already for our early childhood Bachelors of Arts. So this is basically just that additional option for early childhood. For those who already have a degree.
2. The second program is a master of science in school psychologists that would be eligible for a type certificate. Currently, no one in the State of Alaska offers a school psychologist program. And the Superintendents Association tells us that it's a problem that they have to send people out of state for education or to online out of state programs. And they are requesting something be offered in state. So that's why that one's coming forward.
3. The last one is an EdD in education, culture, and leadership proposal that's coming forth from our school of education that is, primarily, though not exclusively, aimed at 2 groups. One is superintendents who want to continue on. We have worked in conjunction with UAS faculty, to be sure that their superintendent program completers would be on this path. So that conversation has already taken place. The second category for the EdD that we know of is our own faculty and career and tech ed programs. Some of our program faculty really want to go on, and they go out of state for EdDs, often through online providers. So this is something that's been frankly a dream of mine ever since I was Dean of CTC. So I'm thrilled to see this one coming forward and hope that it will receive support. We should have those PARs and things ready. We were waiting on the form so thank you for approving the form.

c. UAF

- i. The 3 programs that will be coming forward will be a BA in Wildlife, Ecology, and Society; a BS in Energy Resource Engineering; and an AA in Business.

Action items from previous meetings:

Future Meeting Agenda Items:

Next Meeting: April 11, 2024 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.