

UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA

Faculty Alliance

Minutes

Friday, September 13, 2013

Via Video Conferencing

Rooms: Fairbanks- Butrovich 212b, Anchorage – BOB-210, Juneau-Admin 124

Call-in: 1-800-893-8850 PIN: 2151251

Voting Members:

Robert Boeckmann, 2013-2014 Alliance Chair, Past President UAA Faculty Senate

Virgil Fredenberg, President UAS Faculty Senate

Mark Fitch, President, UAA Faculty Senate

Diane Hirshberg, President Elect, UAA Faculty Senate

Kevin Krein, President Elect, UAS Faculty Senate

Cecile Lardon, President Elect, UAF Faculty Senate

Jennifer Reynolds, Past President, UAF Faculty Senate

Mike Stekoll, Past President, UAS Faculty Senate

David Valentine, President, UAF Faculty Senate

Staff:

LaNora Tolman, Executive Officer, System Governance

Joseph Altman, Coordinator, System Governance

Guests:

Patrick Gamble, President, University of Alaska

Dana Thomas, Vice President, Academic Affairs

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

All present

2. Adopt Agenda

Virgil motioned to adopt agenda. Dianne seconded. September 13, 2013 agenda was adopted.

3. Approve Minutes

3.1. April 12, 2013

Attachment 3.1

Correction: April minutes were approved at the May 10, 2013 meeting.

3.2. May 10, 2013

Attachment 3.2

Jennifer motioned to approve the May minutes. Virgil seconded. May minutes were approved.

4. Public or Guest Comments

Vice President Dana Thomas stated the president signed off on University Regulation 10.02 pertaining to Academic Structure. The regulation empowered the chancellor's to rename academic departments. The regulation does not apply to centers or institutes. It will be posted on the regent's website in a few weeks.

5. Report of the Chair

The faculty had an excellent retreat in August and prioritized the agenda for the year. Since then, Robert met with President Gamble.

6. Report on UA Common Student Satisfaction Survey(s) Working Group

The board of regents asked at the beginning of summer for faculty to conduct a survey across the system. There is a group, a task force, formed from each of the universities and includes faculty, student services and other areas of the university. UAA is in process of starting focus groups in a few weeks. Questions considered for discussion in the groups: what features are needed? what ends? for the survey. The goal is to have the survey outlined by October or November. Two surveys are considered: one for two-year degree students and another one for four-year degree students. The cycle to conduct the surveys would be staggered due to expense concerns.

7. GELO Task Force Report (David Valentine)

There was broad agreement to have something LEAP based. Discussion was to improve the outcomes and they are closer to forming the outcomes. This group could recommend changes to the UA BOR Policy. It was suggested to remember the general education accreditation requirements.

8. Review of Faculty Alliance Priorities for Action Items (set at the retreat)

This is a list of priorities, and their rankings, to consider for the year:

- Faculty Regent – high priority – 1
- Work on Revision of SAC proposed motion for minimum standards for admission to Baccalaureate degree programs and draft companion motion - high priority - 1
- GELO Task Force – high priority – 1
- Policy and Procedure for BOR revision – high priority - 1
- UAA/UAS Resolution in alignment with post-tenure review
- Student Satisfaction Survey – medium priority – 2
- Face-to-face Retreats: Would like to have two face-to-face retreats one in the fall and one in the spring – high priority – 1
- Common math and English placement scores – low priority – 3
- Content management systems e.g. Blackboard – medium priority – 2
- Statewide Coordination of Policy on Distance Delivery Labs – low –resolved [topic is being reopened at the October meeting]
- System-wide Position on MOOCs – low priority – 3
- Principles/Guidelines for Managing Tight Fiscal Climate

- Coordination of Tuition/Fee Discussions – low priority – should be given to System Governance Council to discuss

Dana Thomas encouraged the faculty to focus on communications and engagement when considering the fiscal climate and any concerns of reduced future budget.

Discussion took place regarding the relationship with provosts and vice provosts at each university and how they are kept apprised of alliance activities. Faculty decided to take “relationship with provosts and vice provosts” off the list. Each university has their own process.

9. Constitution and Bylaws

Faculty were encouraged to read the track changes document provided by LaNora and give their feedback at the next meeting.

10. External Administration Committee/Council Reports

The committees and councils were reviewed as to whether they still existed or not.

10.1. Statewide Academic Council

Alliance Members: Robert Boeckmann, Virgil Fredenberg, Cecile Lardon

10.2. Human Resources Council

Does not exist

10.3. Student Services Council

Saichi Oba presides over

10.4. Instructional Technology Executive Council/ITEC

<http://www.alaska.edu/pmo/governance/itec/>

10.5. Joint Health Care Committee

Deleted off the list

10.6. Tuition Task Force

Dana will let LaNora know if this is an ongoing committee

10.7. Health Care Task Force

Deleted off the list

10.8. System Governance Council

Faculty Senate Presidents: Mark Fitch, Virgil Fredenberg and David Valentine

11. SAC Proposed Motion July 18, 2013 - Revision and Companion Motion

Discussion took place about how the faculty might want to revise the motions. Dana Thomas clarified that the companion motion would ask each university to have a program to meet the needs of students who do not meet the minimum standards and help them prepare to achieve the minimum standards. Example of suggested wording: The senate moves to identify an existing program or establish a new program that meets students’ needs not achieving the minimum standards to a baccalaureate program and to help prepare them to meet the minimum standards. The main motion will establish those minimum standards.

Motion wording may include the following: The Faculty Senate moves to adopt a common, minimum baccalaureate admission standard across the UA System. Individual programs and individual institutions may set baccalaureate admission standards higher than the minimum but all institutions must set at least the minimum standard.

Discussion took place about the definition of the minimum standard. The goal is to have something ready in November.

Companion motion wording: The senate moves to identify or support the existing or new developmental, alternative programs to advise and support those students who do not meet the minimum standards for admission into the baccalaureate degrees.

Faculty were asked to review the motions as revised.

President Gamble join at 4:35 p.m. He talked about raising the institutional academic excellence and preserving the open admission policy. He mentioned that the three sets of entrance requirements are confusing to students who consider UA universities. The policy for the admission and enrollment requirement is a decision made and not to be made again for years to come. Dana Thomas added the state superintendents of schools have to set their own criteria on admission and enrollment because UA has not.

The next Faculty Alliance meeting will occur on October 11, 2013.

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.