



# Governance Report

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

## Faculty Alliance

Daniel B. Monteith, Chair

Faculty Alliance had a retreat in Anchorage on August 26-27, 2011. The focus of this annual retreat was to meet new system executives and administrators, to develop goals for the academic year 2011-2012, and to conduct a monthly governance/business meeting. On August 26<sup>th</sup> we met with Paula Donson, Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs and discussed Strategic Direction. We also met with Carla Beam, Vice President for University Relations and UA Foundation President; Donald Smith, Executive Director, Labor and Employee Relations; and Chris Christensen, Associate Vice President for State Relations. In the afternoon the Alliance had an audio-conference with President Pat Gamble to discuss the Strategic Direction.

On the second day of our Alliance retreat we had a business governance meeting. We discussed the following goals and priorities for the academic year 2011-2012:

- Strategic Direction for University of Alaska
- E-learning and labs
- Faculty Recruitment and Retention
- Academic Student Advising
- Student Course Evaluations
- Student Exit Interviews

Faculty Alliance appreciates the opportunity to present a report to the Board of Regents and looks forward to discussing these issues at the meeting in Juneau.



*Dr. Dan Monteith is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Chair of Social Sciences at the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau. While in Chicago, he worked at the Field Natural History Museum and Oriental Institute Museum. As a student, his summers were spent working in the fishing industry in Bristol Bay. This experience led him to his current research, which is an anthropological study of the Bristol Bay fishery. He holds a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Chicago, and Ph.D. from Michigan State University. He served as Faculty Alliance member and UAS Faculty Senate president-elect 2010-2011.*



*Nicholas Shane Pennington is currently the President of the Kodiak College Student Government Association. He received an Associate of Arts through the Kodiak College and is pursuing a degree in Business Management. This is his second term as President of KCSGA.*

# Coalition of Student Leaders

Nicholas Shane Pennington, Speaker

The Coalition of Student Leaders is excited for the start of a new year and we're looking forward to working with the Regents, the administration and the other governance groups as closely and as effectively as we did last year. Academic Year 2010-2011 was a banner year for cooperation and coordination between all the aforementioned university groups and we hope we can see a similar level of teamwork this year. A perfect example of that is the Tuition Taskforce chaired by Saichi Oba, Associate Vice President of Student Enrollment Services. These monthly meetings keep us in the loop and allow us to understand the thought processes and fiscal realities that affect tuition each year.

The Coalition is also discussing academic advising and the effects it has on the University of Alaska. We look forward to talking with students about this issue and working with other governance groups to make it better for UA.

We are having our annual President's retreat October 1st and 2nd in Anchorage. We will have students and newly elected student body presidents together to set the agenda for the coming year.

We are eagerly watching the progress of the state's merit and needs based scholarship as this is its first year in action.

Finally, we would like to welcome Regent Freitag as our new student regent and we look forward to working with her.



# Staff Alliance

Juella Sparks, Chair

Staff Alliance begins this academic year with five new members but many recurring concerns.

What does the future hold for staff working at the University of Alaska? There are the perennial questions about what the legislature will do with our budget, the administration with our wage increases, and the cost of our healthcare benefits to name a few.

Something else that hasn't changed is the appreciation felt by the staff governance officers at the President's Retreat for the opportunity to represent their colleagues. The August 11-12 retreat was my third and I have been impressed every time by the enthusiasm and determination of the individuals involved.

I believe we all look forward to working together and with the Board of Regents and system administration to keep our university healthy and a destination of choice for Alaskans seeking higher education.

Thank you to President Gamble and his administration for making the retreat possible and informative.

*Juella Sparks was born and raised in Alaska and graduated from UAF with a B.B.A. in Management. After several years working for the state and starting a family, she came back to the university to work for Cooperative Extension Service in December, 2002. She was active in student government and moved quickly to being active in staff governance at UAF. In her words, "I am looking forward to working with Staff Alliance and the System Governance Council to strengthen our UA system, especially with two teenagers contemplating post-secondary education." Juella has in past years served as Staff Alliance vice chair 2007-2009, chair of the System Governance Council 2008-2009 as well as president of the UAF Staff Council 2008-2009.*

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*The Governance Report is prepared by the University of Alaska System Governance Office, which serves the faculty, staff and student governance groups outlined in Regents' Policy 03.01.01 and accompanying regulations. Additional information on these groups may be accessed at <http://www.alaska.edu/governance> or by contacting Pat Ivey, 907-450-8042, [pmivey@alaska.edu](mailto:pmivey@alaska.edu).*