



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

Minutes
System Governance Council

Monday, January 25, 2016

3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Video: [Google Hangout](#)

Audio: 1-855-280-1855

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Voting Members:

Mathew Carrick, Chair, Coalition of Student Leaders

Faye Gallant, Chair, Staff Alliance

Rachel Morse, UAA Alumni

Monique Musick, Vice Chair, Staff Alliance

Jeff Woods, Representative, Coalition of Student Leaders

Ex Officio Members:

Morgan Dufseth, Executive Officer, System Governance

Guests:

James R. Johnsen, President, University of Alaska

Leslie Drumhiller, UAF Government Relations Officer

Members Absent:

Cécile Lardon, Chair, Faculty Alliance

Jessy Post, Manager, UAS Alumni

Kate Ripley, Director, UAF Alumni

Tara Smith, Vice Chair, Faculty Alliance

2. Adopt Agenda

Mathew moved to adopt, Jeff seconded. None opposed.

3. Approve Past Minutes

3.1. November 30, 2015

Rachel moved to adopt, Jeff seconded. None opposed.

[Attachment 1](#)

4. Chair's Report

Monique Musick

Monique gave an update on recent activities. She met with President Johnsen last week; their discussion focused on the best use of the System Governance Council. In her opinion, this group is an opportunity for the leaders of leaders to sit down and listen to each other. She wants to turn

this group's meeting into something more than just a report of what is going on in other areas—but will need to take it to the next level to do that.

The president and Monique also discussed the big campaigns coming up for UA—SGC should be critical for providing feedback to those campaigns—especially early on so that they can give effective feedback. Timelines weren't discussed but it sounds like they are working on RFPs for a survey on public perceptions now and then later this year they would use that feedback to facilitate the next phase of the campaign.

5. Member Updates

- 5.1. Alumni – Alumni directors will get together on Feb. 2 for a teleconference to discuss how alumni are represented and communicate to the Board. They are also looking at participating in the Coalition of Student Leaders legislative conference in Juneau and are trying to find the best way to take advantage of the opportunity for cross-pollinating students and alumni.
- 5.2. Coalition of Student Leaders – Their first meeting of this semester is tomorrow at 1:30. The next three meetings will focus on the upcoming legislative advocacy trip, which includes two days of Coalition meetings where they will decide on how to effectively advocate for the university, decide on issues to support, and create a unified agenda and message. The Coalition will then meet for two days with legislators to advocate for the University of Alaska.
- 5.3. Faculty Alliance – Morgan provided the update in the absence of faculty members. The Alliance held its retreat on Sat. Jan. 23. They invited members of the Summit Team and discussed priorities and how to move forward in the current budget situation.
- 5.4. Staff Alliance – Staff Make Students Count nominations are open until Feb. 12

6. New Business

- 6.1. Legislative session advocacy – The State Relations website has been updated with information for the current legislative session and more fact sheets will be added as they are updated/things change. The first Capitol Report was sent out by AVP Christensen last week. Rep. Tammie Wilson, head of the House Subcommittee on the University, made a presentation to the Subcommittee—without consulting UA for any data. From within UA, a lot of the data was seen as questionable, especially the way it was presented without context (information surrounding rural campuses as well as number of degree programs offered). However, it did touch on some areas that will likely be discussed by UA leadership.

Legislative meetings coming up – The first meeting with House Committee on UA's budget will be on Feb. 8; President Johnsen will be there to present.

Budget fact sheets/booklets will not be printed unless requested—UA Office of Public Affairs (OPA) will work with groups who have specific distribution plans.

OPA/University Relations will have something on the contingency budget, Title IX, guns on campus, and other bills that may come up (including repeal of college readiness requirements). If any Council members know of anyone that would have a strong message of support for UA, OPA can help coordinate and develop. They are currently working on getting out tools to employees/advocates to work UA's strategy. Rachel suggested getting a list of key contacts for targeted messaging—which constituents can really help tell UA's story.

Statewide Transformation Teams/Working Group Leaders are meeting next Jan. 27 and 28. Their [website](#) has names of all the [individual working group](#) members – share concerns or suggestions with them.

- 6.2. Governance Travel to Board Meetings – In light of travel restrictions, should governance look at alternatives to sending the chair to the BOR meeting in-person? There are pros (networking, in-person face contact, shared experience) and cons (cost, time) to both methods. After discussion, the group decided to still travel to Board meetings, but take measures to reduce travel costs. When appropriate, chairs can also coordinate with a local representative to provide the report in-person. President Johnsen was in support of travel to Board meetings but also liked the idea of teaming up with local representatives when that made sense.

7. UA System Update – President Johnsen 4:00 p.m.
The president provided his views on a number of issues including the university's budget, the current legislative session, and the recent Board of Regents' retreat.

- Rep. Wilson did not seek input from UA for her presentation, and she is pushing hard for consolidation. The president asked his staff not to respond to questions from the media or public following the presentation, however, he made it clear he will assist Rep. Wilson going forward should she ask the university for input.
- Governor's budget request will likely result in a net effective cut of \$50M for the university.
- Sen. Pete Kelly is planning on introducing a guns on campus bill and it is likely to pass. UA leaders are trying to figure out the best path forward and want to be involved early rather than later.
- There is a proposal for ANSEP to take over [Mt. Edgecumbe](#), the residential high school in Seward. The president thinks this is a good idea but there has been no due diligence done, which would be necessary before taking on such a large commitment. The university would need to investigate before taking over a new facility (a residential high school facility with a swimming pool). He supports it in concept but knows there is a lot of homework to do before moving forward.
- At the Regents' retreat, the president reviewed with them what UA is doing to meet state needs. NCHEMS data was shared, which indicated Alaska is one of the top

states in receiving federal funding but at the low end for degrees awarded. A recent study noted that by 2020 65% of jobs in Alaska will require some higher education. If the university doesn't respond, Alaska will have to continue importing skilled workers—especially in health care and education.

- The Board unanimously gave formal approval for the president to continue working on a draft framework for a long-term strategic plan for the university. This framework would involve re-structuring, consolidation, and each university taking the lead in their respective areas of excellence and opportunity. The president subsequently shared this information with all UA employees via email. The Board has asked for the president to come back at February board meeting with a communication plan, implementation plan, and roles and responsibility, as well as a short-term component for the rest of fiscal year. UA will need to know by June where the programs will be housed and will then likely spend a year to figure out how to implement, and then two years for actual implementation. Principles of this framework: focus, access, diversity, excellence, and consistency.
- Following the presidents discussion, Council members agreed they would begin to work on a feedback form for employee input.

8. Information from Reports/Roundtable/Announcements

9. Agenda Items for February 22 Meeting

- 9.1. Public Testimony – invite Brandi to meeting
- 9.2. Telecommuting Regulations
- 9.3. Exploring student and alumni testify remotely at BOR meetings

10. Adjourn

Rachel moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.