



Minutes  
**Coalition of Student Leaders**  
Business Meeting  
Wednesday, October 26, 2016  
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Google Hangout and Audio

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Voting Members:

*UAA student representatives:*

Shannon Cefalu, Kachemak Bay Branch Student Association (Homer)  
Jeff Woods, Kodiak College Student Association (Kodiak) *joined at 3pm*  
Jack Rogers, Matanuska-Susitna Student Government Council (Palmer)  
Morgan Wadsworth, Prince William Sound Community College Student Association (Valdez)  
Stephen (Joey) Sweet, Union of Students at the UAA (Anchorage)

*UAF student representatives:*

Cordero Reid, Associated Students of UAF (Fairbanks), Coalition Historian

*UAS student representatives:*

David Russell-Jensen, United Students of UAS (Juneau)  
Liv Richards, United Student of UAS (Sitka), Coalition Treasurer

Non-Voting Ex-Officio Members:

Corrina Atkins, Coalition Secretary  
Colby Freel, Commissioner, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, Coalition Chair  
Samantha Hoffman, System Governance Council Representative  
Stacey Lucason, Student Regent, UA Board of Regents

Staff:

Morgan Dufseth, Executive Officer, System Governance

Guests:

James R. Johnsen, President, University of Alaska

Members Absent:

Amber Sweetland, Kenai River Campus Student Union (Kenai), Coalition Vice Chair  
Brooke Wright, Interior Alaska Campus  
Tellisha Frankhouser, United Students of UAS (Ketchikan)

## **2. Adopt agenda**

Cord moved to adopt, and Jack seconded. There were no objections. The agenda was adopted as presented.

## **3. Public Comments**

None given.

## **4. Discussion with President Johnsen**

President Johnsen started his discussion on tuition with a little context of the current budget situation facing the University. He noted that over last two years, UA has taken a 14% budget cut from State allocations. President Johnsen noted the governor has indicated UA could be faced with another reduction between \$16-32M in FY18. President Johnsen reported UA is looking at administrative areas to reduce to help fund academic priorities, however, UA can't just weather the cut and wait for the budget situation to improve on its own. He reported it would be his preference to reinvest internally in academic priorities. Johnsen also noted he wants to keep any many students on campus as possible and does not want tuition increases to detrimentally affect student opportunities. As such, he noted a 10% increase has been mentioned but he personally thinks that is too high and would prefer to propose something closer to 5%. He noted that he feels that is a reasonable and moderate increase, however, he has not yet made his final decision of what to propose to the Regents for approval. The president noted he had spoken with Summit Team several times and will meet with them again next Tuesday and expects to hone further in on the final number. The president noted the budget documents reviewed on Oct. 20 assumed a 10% over 10 years but did not prescribe how they were to be implemented. The president plans to share updated models that will show UA moving up to the in-state tuition average for the US market by 2025. He noted he is also considering a 4-6% increase for two years each (FY18 and FY19).

Cord noted ASUAF had done a survey and students responded that 10% was too high for a single increase. Colby asked how tuition ties into other benchmarks such as quality; President Johnsen noted that quality is hard to quantify but there is a connection with enrollment. To that point, increasing enrollment is one of the highest priorities for UA, which will help to moderate tuition increases and better deal with budget cuts from the state over time.

## **5. Ongoing Business**

### **A. Tuition Response**

Colby asked members how they would like to respond to the President's tuition increase. David suggested working on a resolution by email. Jack noted MatSu students had already expressed opposition to a 5% increase. Shannon noted the majority of KBC students are lifelong learners and the campus has already noticed a decline in enrollment in this demographic. Although tuition increase are not inevitable or to be expected every year, there is a general expectation that tuition increases will be a part of the budget plan in this current budget environment. Stacey noted students are free to suggest additional funding ideas (e.g. raises in differential tuition for programs, etc.). Joey noted there was a USUAA resolution in support of a lower tuition increase that he could share with the Coalition.

Members discussed possible options beyond a 4-6% increase. There was some support for a 2% increase over five years, however, not a majority. Jack noted he did not support any sort of tuition increase and feels it is already too much of a burden on students and suggested additional cuts to administrative services. Other students felt it would be hard for UA to go to the legislature and ask for more funding without raising tuition.

Members agreed to review a draft resolution by email.

**B. Athletics Survey**

Morgan noted she was still working on the questions and will share with the Coalition early next week via email. Members suggested noting if students currently pay an athletics fee. Members also agreed to distribute the survey to all students.

**C. Legislative Internship Stipend**

David reported USUAS-JC voted to administer two \$5000 stipends (\$10,000 total from USUAS-JC budget) but are waiting to distribute the stipends to make sure they aren't considered a political contribution. The Ted Stevens Foundation also pledged \$10,000 to the stipends, and up to \$10,000 in matching funds. The UAS Department of Arts and Social Sciences is working to identify additional funds to contribute. David noted this was a move in the right direction but would still like to see it formalized in the University's budget. David is still working on the white paper and plans to have it ready for members to review at the next meeting. Stacey suggested contacting the Alaska Community Foundation to see if they could help administer the funds.

**D. Update from Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Safety Course**

Colby reported he had asked Jeff to chair the committee and they will meet for the first time on November 3 at 10am.

**6. New Business**

**A. Strategic Pathways Phase III – Suggestions for student representatives**

Phase III Review Areas: Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Physical Sciences, Mine Training, Finance, Risk Management, Land Management, and Facilities

Morgan asked students to begin to solicit members of their local student governments for representatives for Phase III review teams. Suggestions will be collected through November and will then be submitted to the President and VP White in early December.

**7. Student Regent Update**

Stacey noted public testimony before the Board of Regents would be on Monday, Oct. 31 from 4-6, and that the Board agenda would be available shortly.

**8. Student Commissioner Update**

Colby noted the meeting was running out of time. Jeff moved to postponed items 8-11 to the next meeting, seconded by Jack. No objections. Motion passed.

**9. Campus Reports**

Postponed to Nov. 9 meeting.

**10. Agenda Items for the Next Meeting**

Postponed to Nov. 9 meeting.

**11. Roundtable/Announcements/Final Comments**

Postponed to Nov. 9 meeting.

**12. Adjourn**

Jeff moved to adjourn, and David seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.