

**Official Minutes
Board of Regents
Emergency Meeting of the Full Board
October 7, 2019
Fairbanks, Alaska**

1. Individuals Present and Opening Items

Regents Present:

John Davies, Chair
Sheri Buretta, Vice Chair
Dale Anderson, Secretary
Lisa Parker, Treasurer
John Bania
Cachet Garrett
Darroll R. Hargraves
Mary K. Hughes
Gloria O'Neill
Karen Perdue
Andy Teuber

James R. Johnsen, Chief Executive Officer and President, University of Alaska

Others Present:

Rick Caulfield, Chancellor, University of Alaska Southeast
Cathy Sandeen, Chancellor, University of Alaska Anchorage
Daniel M. White, Chancellor, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Michael Hostina, General Counsel
Myron Dosch, Chief Financial Officer
Paul Layer, Vice President for Academics, Students and Research
Michelle Rizk, Vice President for University Relations and Chief Strategy, Planning and Budget Officer
Roberta Graham, Associate Vice President of Public Affairs
Brandi Berg, Executive Officer, Board of Regents
Maria Williams, Faculty Alliance Chair
Matthew Mund, Staff Alliance Chair
Teresa Wrobel, Coalition of Student Leaders Vice Chair

A. Call to Order

Chair Davies called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, October 7, 2019.

B. Adoption of Agenda

PASSED AS AMENDED (amendment noted by *)

"The Board of Regents adopts the agenda as amended. This motion is effective October 7, 2019."

Motion by Darroll R Hargraves, second by Sheri Buretta.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Dale G Anderson, John Bania, Sheri Buretta, John Davies, Cachet Garrett, Darroll R Hargraves, Mary K Hughes, Gloria R O'Neill, Lisa M Parker, Karen Perdue, Andy Teuber

2. Discussion with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities

A. Discussion with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities

The board engaged in an in-depth conversation with the Sonny Ramaswamy, Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) president, and Mac Powell, NWCCU senior vice president, regarding concerns raised in the September 26, 2019 letter from NWCCU.

The discussion focused on academic restructuring, accreditation, students, inclusivity and respect, clarity of the roles

and responsibilities of the board, the president and the chancellors, and transparency. NWCCU President Ramaswamy stated the three institutions are not at a tipping point of losing accreditation, noting the purpose of the letter was to encourage transparency.

***2.1. Comments from Students and Governance Leaders (added)**

Daniel Vaziri, Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (ASUAF) vice president, stated students are not being included in the restructuring process and are not happy that student voices are not being heard; said students believe UA is at the tipping point of losing accreditation; stated UA is deficient in leadership not in its budget and is frustrated that the student regent is not being acknowledged like other regents during this meeting.

Aidan Earnest, ASUAF government relations director, encouraged the board to include more than three students on the academic restructuring committees, noting more student voices need to be heard and stated students want to be included.

Benard Aoto, ASUAF president, noted none of the governance representatives at the meeting were asked what their thoughts were during the conversation with NWCCU; encouraged the board to look at the NWCCU letter and understand that faculty, staff and students are not happy with how the restructuring process is being handled and said statewide is still pushing for a single accreditation even after the board amended its July 30, 2019 direction.

Teresa Wrobel, Coalition of Student Leaders vice chair, thanked the chair for acknowledging students; said students feel like they need to force their way into being included in the restructuring process; stated students were spooked by NWCCU letter and the possibility of losing accreditation; stated students see UA at the tipping point, are losing faith in system leadership, have faith in local leadership and want the chancellors to address the issues locally and said students want to be heard.

Maria Williams, Faculty Alliance chair, noted her comments reflect the sentiments of most faculty across the three universities; said it is regrettable to acknowledge that UA has a crisis of leadership in the statewide office, which has resulted in confusion and chaotic decision-making; requested an immediate moratorium on academic review process; stated the immediate need to form a task force consisting of the three chancellors, provosts and governance leadership to respond to NWCCU; is concerned for the clear lack of shared governance; reviewed recent resolutions from many of UA's shared governance groups, the chancellor's consortium model and the single accreditation model and spoke in support of the chancellors responsibilities, authorities, and the need for each to report directly to the board.

Matthew Mund, Staff Alliance chair, mentioned after the September 12, 2019, board meeting the alliance felt options for considerations were opening up and becoming inclusive; said governance leaders are trying to define shared governance roles and responsibilities; stated the alliance's strong desire to be directly involved in the restructuring process; noted identifying issues regarding processes or policies needs to be considered and possibly revised; said there is a large volume of information coming forward that can be overwhelming, noting finding the time to understand and get involved while staff are also working full-time is challenging and stated the alliance is supportive of its fellow governance groups' concerns.

3. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

PASSED

"The Board of Regents goes into executive session to discuss matters the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect on the finances of the university, also involving personnel matters that are confidential by law, related to accreditation. This motion is effective October 7, 2019."

Motion by Karen Perdue, second by Dale G Anderson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Dale G Anderson, John Bania, Sheri Buretta, John Davies, Mary K Hughes, Karen Perdue

Voting in opposition: Cachet Garrett, Darroll R Hargraves, Lisa M Parker, Andy Teuber

Not Present at Vote: Gloria R O'Neill

The Board of Regents went into executive session at 10:33 a.m. and concluded an executive session at 12:15 p.m. Alaska Time in accordance with AS 44.62.310 to discuss matters the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect on the finances of the university, also involving personnel matters that are confidential by law, related to accreditation. The session included members of the Board of Regents, President Johnsen, General Counsel Hostina and such other university staff members as the president designated and lasted 1 hour and 42 minutes.

***3.1. Approval to Cease Consideration of a Single Accreditation** (added)

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves ceasing consideration of a single accreditation until such a time as the University of Alaska Fairbanks secures its Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities accreditation in 2021. Subsequently, if the board chooses to actively consider single accreditation it will direct the president by formal action to conduct an independent cost benefit analysis and clearly examine accreditation issues. This motion is effective October 7, 2019."

Motion by Karen Perdue, second by Darroll R Hargraves.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: John Bania, Sheri Buretta, John Davies, Cachet Garrett, Darroll R Hargraves, Gloria R O'Neill, Lisa M Parker, Karen Perdue, Andy Teuber

Voting in opposition: Dale G Anderson, Mary K Hughes

***3.2. Approval to Suspend the Statewide Academic Program Review Process**
(added)

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves suspending the statewide academic program review process until such a time as the board can get consultation from the chancellors and the president on a way forward. This motion is effective October 7, 2019."

Motion by Karen Perdue, second by Mary K Hughes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: John Bania, Sheri Buretta, John Davies, Cachet Garrett, Darroll R Hargraves, Mary K Hughes, Gloria R O'Neill, Lisa M Parker, Karen Perdue

Voting in opposition: Dale G Anderson

Not Present at Vote: Andy Teuber

***3.3. Approval to Meet to Review the Coordinated Response to the Accrediting Agency, to Look at a Timeline and Plan for a Strategy Session, and to Hire a Consultant and a Facilitator** (added)

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves meeting the last week of October to review the coordinated response to the accrediting agency, to look at a timeline and plan for a strategy session to look at the university's governance structure and to hire a consultant with expertise in accreditation and a mutual facilitator. This motion is effective October 7, 2019."

Motion by Sheri Buretta, second by Lisa M Parker.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Dale G Anderson, John Bania, Sheri Buretta, John Davies, Cachet Garrett, Darroll R Hargraves, Mary K Hughes, Gloria R O'Neill, Karen Perdue

Not Present at Vote: Lisa M Parker, Andy Teuber

***4. Accreditation Discussion** (did not discuss)

***5. Review of the October and November 2019 Agenda Topics** (did not discuss)

6. Adjourn

A. Adjourn

Chair Davies adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m. on Monday, October 7, 2019.