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Many Traditions One Alaska

DATE: August 29, 2016
TO: UAA Faculty Senate, UAF Faculty Senate, UAS Faculty Senate
FROM: Tara Smith, Chair, Faculty Alliance
RE: Summer & August Report of Activities

The [Faculty Alliance](#) consists of the president-elect (First Vice President at UAA), president, and past president of each Faculty Senate in the University of Alaska System. The chair of this body rotates amongst the past presidents of each university. AY17 is UAA's year to chair, and this is why I am writing to you on behalf of the Faculty Alliance members.

The Faculty Alliance exists primarily to promote communication amongst the Faculty Senates and to/from Statewide leadership. We are an advisory body to the President and we have members serving on the [Statewide Academic Council](#) and the chair is an ex-officio member of the [Board of Regents](#) Academic & Student Affairs committee. We meet via Google Hangouts and anyone is welcome to attend our [meetings](#).

Following this overview are documents related to the work of Faculty Alliance over the summer and at our retreat held in Anchorage on August 14th and 15th. We are sending revisions to our bylaws and constitution for comment, though no official action is required. We have requested that the appropriate English and Developmental English faculty review the ACCUPLACER tool and the recommendations of the 2012 faculty group (The Accuplacer Community of Practice) on writing placement. We hope to hear from these faculty in December. The ACCUPLACER contract is up for renegotiation in April, so academic leadership is interested to hear from the faculty on this topic. We have included a list of important dates as an informational item. It lists our meetings, each Faculty Senate meeting, and the current schedule of my meetings with President Johnsen. Other than the Faculty Alliance meetings, we do not control the schedule of those groups and changes may have already occurred. Additionally, we sent a request to President Johnsen that a Faculty Alliance member be included on the Summit Team. Finally, we were asked to report on the work of our GER Coordinating Task Force in August. The report submitted is our final attachment.

We are currently finalizing our feedback on the Strategic Pathways process. Each team included one member of the Faculty Alliance. We are also compiling feedback on the [accreditation](#) study compiled by Chancellor Dana Thomas. The final versions of our comments will be sent to all three Faculty Senates.

Please do not hesitate to contact your respective Faculty Alliance members with any comments or questions on these items or to make suggestions of items we should address. I can be reached best at tmsmith@alaska.edu if you would like to contact me.