



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

Minutes

Faculty Alliance

April 23, 2020

3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

[Zoom Recording and Transcript](#)

Password: 0L..3ePP

Members

Maria Williams, Past President, UAA Faculty Senate; Chair, Faculty Alliance
Heather Batchelder, President, UAS Faculty Senate, Vice Chair, Faculty Alliance
Sine Anahita, President, UAF Faculty Senate, ON LEAVE
Orion Lawlor, UAF Representative for President Anahita
Donie Bret-Harte, Past-President, UAF Faculty Senate
Scott Downing, President, UAA Faculty Senate
Robin Gilcrist, Past-President, UAS Faculty Senate
Jak Maier, President-Elect, UAF Faculty Senate
David Noon, President-Elect UAS Faculty Senate
Kelly Smith, 1st Vice President, UAA Faculty Senate

Staff

Morgan Dufseth, Executive Officer, System Governance

Guests:

Paul Layer, Vice President for Academics, Students and Research
Cyndee West, Abel Cyndee, UNAC
Joel Potter, UAA Faculty, Philosophy
Gökhan Karahan, FY21 UAA 1st Vice President

1. Roll and Call to Order

Meeting came to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Adopt Agenda

Members reviewed the agenda and had no additions or objections.

3. Approve minutes from Spring retreat

- a. [Notes from FA Retreat March 27th, 28th](#)

4. [Chairs Report](#) - Memo to Chancellors - perhaps we need to schedule a meeting with them soon

Maria and Heather met with President Johnsen last week. They noted their concerns that recent increased interaction with governance was not substantive enough. They also discussed concern over the possibility of continuing online-only instruction in the fall, depending on how the COVID-19 crisis plays out, since there are accreditation requirements tied to face-to-face instruction for some disciplines. Maria emphasized that faculty should have input and more than one option on how they want to deliver their classes in the fall. Everyone agreed it would be good for the Faculty Alliance and faculty in general to get their opinions and proposals out ahead of an administrative decision, which they would like not support. Johnsen also discussed an executive furlough, rather than executive pay reductions.

Cyndee invited members to attend the upcoming UNAC executive board meeting each Monday at 10am. They discussed ways to increase communication between the union and faculty governance organizations (i.e. Faculty Alliance and the three faculty senates).

5. Faculty Senate Updates

- a. UAF - at the upcoming meeting motion for Faculty Senate to keep track of progress on resolutions they pass, as well as a motion on course delivery and modality; want to have a discussion on fall instruction and finding options that faculty support; will not be reviewing the programs up for immediate reduction and discontinuation again since they already voted on it prior to the chancellor's recommendations to the Board, however, Jak is considering options to voice their dissent and their dissatisfaction with the process as a whole; do not currently have the NCHEMS report on the agenda but they have shared out Joel Potter's review of the report
- b. UAS - chancellor search has identified three candidates who will now come to the Juneau campus and will meet with students, faculty and staff (they hope to have the site visits before faculty go off contract); Andrea DeWees is currently the only candidate for the Faculty Senate president-elect for AY21, however, they are hoping to identify another candidate before the elections; sustainability committee is still working to reduce UAS' carbon footprint; student forum at UAS where

students shared frustration over lack of preparation time for the online-only instruction and how hectic it was trying to get up to speed

- c. UAA - resolution on the Executive Board supporting the teach-out schedules for programs up for immediate reduction and discontinuation; common course sharing options up for consideration at the next meeting; next accreditation cycle--will endorse core competencies; review of each UAA program that was approved for immediate reduction and discontinuation by the BOR ASA committee; Kelly met with VC Shulford and discussed the administrative reviews and possible upcoming furloughs.

6. Ongoing Business

- a. Heather, Jak - discussion of what initiatives you anticipate for next AY. These include the faculty to student ratio; SW budget. How can FA be in the driver's seat? Can we create a committee that looks at restructure?
- b. Heather - [Math distance delivery updates](#)
- c. CCC proposed changes - UAS Senate favored Option 1
- d. UAF Faculty favored Option 1
 - i. [UAA Inter-University Course Sharing: 2 Proposals](#)
 - 1. [Current Schedule](#)
 - ii. [UAF Inter-University Course Sharing: 2 Proposals](#)
 - 1. [Current Schedule](#)
 - iii. [UAS Inter-University Course Sharing: 2 Proposals](#)
 - 1. [Current Schedule](#)

7. New Business

- a. NCHEMS Report

Members discussed whether each Faculty Senate should pass a resolution regarding concerns over the report's finding and recommendations, or whether the Faculty Senates could pass motions endorsing a Faculty Alliance resolution. Maria offered to draft a resolution for the Senates to review.

 - i. [Potter Response to NCHEMS UA Cost Analysis](#)
 - ii. [2020 03 17 Johnsen Letter on NCHEMS Report](#)
 - iii. [NCHEMS Report on Cost of UA System Office](#)
 - iv. [Potter Commentary on NCHEMS Report](#)
 - v. [Proposal to Save Academic Programs](#)
 - vi. [Memo to Chair Buretta](#) - members reviewed and made edits until they were satisfied with the draft; Maria will send the final copy to Chair Buretta
- b. Faculty Senates/Faculty Alliance/UNAC joint meeting - Cyndee & Abel

- c. Discuss [Memo to ASA](#)
- d. [Discuss qualtrics survey and finalize to send out 4/24/20](#)
- e. Propose to highlight Faculty Research at upcoming June 2020 BOR meetings

8. Updates/Questions with VP Layer

Members discussed the programs that were approved for immediate reduction and discontinuation and proposed teach-out plans. VP Layer noted the three programs that were postponed at the April 13-14 ASA meeting will be considered and the committee will also hear from the provosts on the program reductions approved at the April ASA meeting. Members raised concerns about faculty workloads assignments and faculty who will be eliminated when their program discontinues but also teach required courses for other programs. VP Layer asked about the committee to restructure raised earlier in the agenda. Maria noted they were still concerned about how top heavy SW is and noted that even the NCHEMS report states it is 170% more than typical system administration units for public universities. Kelly asked about program reductions that will create a significant loss of tuition revenue. He pointed out that some of the supposed savings that would occur due to program deletion seemed very inaccurate. He pointed out the savings from deleting the Welding AAS, for example; Paul noted he only had the information that each university Provosts and Chancellors sent to him and that is what they have. Jak asked if SW has an individual or individuals that could check the accounting figures given to SW regarding hypothetical budget savings from deleting programs? Paul did not answer and Jak stated that the lack of double checking the figures is unacceptable. Regarding the CARES Act, half of the money goes immediately to students; the other half goes to COVID-19 related expenses (e.g. cancellation of housing, cancellation of classes, reimbursement for student travel); all funds have to be spent on students now (cannot be used next fall to support students returning to UA). Despite this funding, it will still not cover all of the costs UA incurred over COVID-19. There is also funding that will be distributed by the governor, who is still working out the details of how he will do that. Donie asked about the decision regarding instruction next fall--will it be all online? Paul noted there was a lot of uncertainty about how this will play out and how they will need to operate next fall. If trends continue in a positive direction, can they relax some of the restrictions? The Board will continue to discuss but it is currently moving too fast to give a definitive answer.

9. Public Comments (if any)

None given.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned shortly at 5pm.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

May 8 - Faculty Alliance 2:30-4:30 - include new incoming members

May 14 - Academic and Student Affairs second program review meeting (it was decided it wasn't necessary to have a two-day meeting so the special ASA meeting will likely be the afternoon of May 14)

May 28 - standing Academic and Student Affairs meeting

June 4-5 - Full UA BOR meeting, Anchorage (although will likely be moved to Zoom)