

Minutes  
**Faculty Alliance**  
December 10, 2021  
3:00 - 5:00 pm

Zoom Link: <https://alaska.zoom.us/j/89324470770>

ID: **893 2447 0770**

Passcode: **nYN87kHg**

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Members: **Bold** in attendance

**Julie A.K. Maier**, Past-President, UAF Faculty Senate; Chair, Faculty Alliance

**Gökhan Karahan**, President, UAA Faculty Senate; Vice Chair, Faculty Alliance

**Kelly Smith**, Past-President, UAA Faculty Senate

**Ian Hartman**, 1st Vice President, UAA Faculty Senate

**Sandra Wildfeuer**, President, UAF Faculty Senate

**Ataur Chowdhury**, President-Elect, UAF Faculty Senate

David Noon, Past-President, UAS Faculty Senate

**Andrea Dewees**, President, UAS Faculty Senate

**Jennifer Ward**, President-Elect, UAS Faculty Senate

Staff: Kelly James

Noel Romanovsky

Possible Guests: interim President Pitney, Dr. Syndonia Bret-Harte, Juella Sparks

I. Call to Order - Jak Maier 3:00 - 3:10

1. Approve Agenda

Kelly approves. Gokhan seconds.

2. Approve Meeting Minutes from [19, 20 November 2021](#)

Kelly delays approval of the minutes until January. Sandra seconds.

II. A conversation with interim President Pitney 3:10 - 3:40 pm

President Pitney wasn't able to attend the Faculty Alliance Retreat, but understands it was a positive exchange of ideas and concerns. The Regents were concerned about student retention and success. It would be beneficial to gather with the Regents more frequently as the meeting was valuable and positive.

This week the governor will be signing the budget. Not all of what we requested in the operating budget will be approved, though funds will be allotted to the nursing

program, work in the strategic minerals, rare earth elements area and the drone program. President Pitney expects the legislature will be supportive of the board budget, but it also needs to go through the governor's office. President Pitney has been working closely with the governor's office on the higher education investment fund, the fund that pays for the Alaska Performance Scholarships, the Alaska education grant, and the WHAMMI grant that pays the out-of-state tuition for Alaskans to attend medical school. These funds are deemed a sweepable fund under the governor's administration. In the previous administration it was not deemed a sweepable fund. President Pitney is working with the administration to have them reclassify it from a policy perspective. The fund is a quasi endowment fund that funds these programs in perpetuity. Without that fund it's an annual appropriation for each of those purposes, which is more difficult. President Pitney will know what the next steps will be after the governor's decision. There will not be a reduction but it doesn't put UA in a position of largess either. In January, President Pitney asked some business leaders to talk about what they see as the future of the workforce in the state.

President Pitney believes a report to the board from the Faculty about how the Faculty works on reducing costs for students by looking through educational resources and often writing open educational resources would be a great topic for discussion with the Board of Regents.

A discussion about student enrollment and retention with several ideas, points, and strategies offered to recruit, support, and retain student enrollment. One tangible suggestion was an incentive to decrease the teaching load by one class for faculty to spend time, energy, and effort at the high school level to reach out to potential students.

III. New Business -

3:40 - 4:30

A. Statement regarding COVID response - Donie Bret-Harte

The UA COVID response is not in line with what most University systems are doing. There are many universities across the country which require not only vaccinations but also boosters of all the Faculty, Students and Staff. When everyone is vaccinated then it's possible to have close to normal operations. That, coupled with rigorous testing, makes it possible to stop outbreaks before they happen. Donie asks the Faculty Alliance to consider requesting another vaccine mandate.

It was decided Jak, Jennifer and Ian will craft a resolution affirming the science of the vaccines for the January meeting and bring to the Faculty Senates in February.

B. "FA requests that General Counsel propose a process for rescission as well as a code of ethics for our honorary doctorate and meritorious service recipients"

A move to send a memo to President Pitney asking general counsel to look at this process for people that have been convicted of heinous crimes.

Kelly seconds. Passed unanimously.

- C. Discussion about barriers to collaboration between UAS/UAA/UAF There has been a universal problem of transferring student credit hours. It has been added to the Academic Council's agenda already and they will meet next Thursday, December 16th, 2021
- D. System office mission statement - a request to have Ian serve on task force Kelly Moves Approve and it passes with unanimous consent.

#### IV. Old Business

4:30 - 5:00

- A. Report faculty, EX, and FR data. Gokhan and Jak
  - a. [Comparison of compilation methods for faculty data](#)
  - b. [Preliminary annualization analysis](#)
- B. [Memo requesting that UA Administrators reiterate support for tenure & academic freedom. Response.](#)
- C. Goals & Measures
  - a. [GM summary](#)
  - b. [GM worksheet](#)

David Bishko would like feedback from Faculty and Staff Alliance by January 18, 2022. It's suggested to let the Faculty and Staff Alliance have 45 days to respond.
- D. CHRO search - Kelly Smith

The initial search failed. There have been a lot of delays and candidates have taken other positions. There hasn't been any new communication after the initial search failed.
- E. [Resolution](#) asking the Faculty Alliance Chair be made a non-voting ex officio member of the Board of Regents. Response.
- F. Potential FA message to Pitney re: "pain points," exec admin reviews, and financials. The C&S has requests for FA that will be available for Alliance members

#### V. Senate Reports

- A. UAA
- B. UAF
- C. UAS

Motion to Adjourn. Gokhan moves to approve. Ataur seconds.