

Minutes
Faculty Alliance
July 28, 2021
9:00 - 10:30 am

Members:

Julie A.K. Maier, Past-President, UAF Faculty Senate; Chair, Faculty Alliance
Heather Batchelder Past-President, UAS Faculty Senate; Past-Chair, Faculty Alliance
David Noon, President, UAS Faculty Senate
Andrea Dewees, President-Elect, UAS Faculty Senate
Sandra Wildfeuer, President, UAF Faculty Senate
Ataur Chowdhury, President-elect, UAF Faculty Senate
Kelly Smith, Past-President, UAA Faculty Senate
Gökhan Karahan, President, UAA Faculty Senate
Ian Hartman, 1st Vice President, UAA Faculty Senate

Staff: Kelly James

Guests: **President Pitney**

- I. Call to Order - Jak Maier 9:00 - 9:02
 1. Approve Agenda
 - a. Kelly moves to approve the amended agenda
 - b. Ataur seconds
 2. Approve [Meeting Notes from May 14th](#)
 - a. Kelly moves to approve
 - b. Heather seconds
 3. Approve [Meeting Notes from June 23rd](#)
 - a. Kelly moves to approve
 - b. Heather seconds

- II. Conversation with President Pitney 9:02 - 9:22
 - President Pitney - concerned about perceived tension between faculty and the administration. Wishes to have a productive relationship and is available for questions.

- The telework agreement - The regulations have been in place for years. There is no real change; proposed language will add clarity and boundaries. As conditions change, we will update that process. Would like to be present and available for questions regarding the remote work agreements and COVID updates.
 - Faculty input - some input provided prior to contracts ending. There will be opportunity for input once the draft is available. The final draft will have another 30 day review.
 - Protocols will be adjusted based on CDC guidance, along with state or local conditions.
 - The form does not work with faculty schedules. President Pitney assures that we will work with the mechanics of the form.
- President Pitney wants to “empower the Faculty Senates, because those are the ones that have the true governance role. Faculty Alliance is for communication”.
 - The assumption is that the FA is not communicating with the FS. In fact, the FA comprises the leadership of each of the three university Senates: the past-presidents, presidents, and presidents-elect.
 - The FA acts on behalf of the FS during the summer, along with the executive committees of the Senates.
 - Expert faculty participants should be selected by the Senates rather than by the administration and should be involved in drafting proposed policies so that the first draft is as strong as possible and has faculty buy-in.
 - Plans to take faculty guidance on drafting measures and metrics for the goal of Academic Excellence in the Goals & Metrics document as long as their proposed measures align with what the universities are doing.
 - Faculty should assume that administrators have good intent and that we all have the same goals in mind.
- Covid taskforce and the process by which faculty were chosen - Faculty Senate should be selecting the representatives to be on taskforces.
- Timeline for making decisions tends to have a heavy load just before summer.
 - Some issues can be delayed until fall to provide adequate discussion with faculty, but some processes must continue forward through the summer due to organizational expectations outside of the organization.
 - Faculty workloads are set before the committees are organized, so the workload is increased, not adjusted.
- Improve communication between faculty and administration
 - Assume good intent. We are trying to move business forward and we all have the same goals in mind.

Point of Order:

- UAS Faculty representation is the past president, president and president elect. UAS does not have a faculty president elect. We have not voted to suspend our bylaws to appoint someone else. Therefore, there should only be two voting members today until we make a change.
 - In order to fully represent UAS, they should keep the current structure until they do get a president elect, which in fact is in accordance with the UAS FS ByLaws.

III. Old Business

9:22 - 10:10

4. Faculty Initiative Fund process discussion
 - a. [FIF AY19](#)
 - b. [FIF review sheet AY19](#)
 - c. [Proposed FIF AY22 process](#)
 - FA needs to develop a process and a Request for Proposals (RFP) from faculty immediately upon faculty's return on contract. The Executive Committees of the FS should be involved in determining this process as well. The funds can be distributed to each university based on faculty numbers. There is a concern that if we wait until the FS decide on the process, the time will run out on spending the funds.
 - Should have an RFP ready in September.
 - Need to have faculty expertise on the interview process
 - Develop a couple of different processes depending on where the funds come from - one process for smaller amounts, and another for larger amounts
 - Should be interdisciplinary and collaborative in focus, so the funds should not be just divided up and sent to the three different universities.
5. [Administrative Management Review reports discussion - Update](#)
<https://uaf.edu/chancellor/communications/index.php>
 - [Next steps on expedited administrative management review](#) (April 22, 2021)
 - [Expedited administrative review — next steps](#) (April 7, 2021)
 - [Expedited administrative management review report](#) (April 2, 2021)
 - June 23rd meeting - voted to send a memo to President Pitney requesting the Administrative Management Review reports be made public by August 1st.
 - Kerynn Fisher sent an email confirming receipt of the request, but FA does not consider this as a response to the memo.
6. Goals & Measures document discussion

Goals and Measures document

- President Pitney is willing to let faculty take the lead on developing metrics for academic excellence, and also the research component of the goals and measures.
 - The Regents are interested in getting the faculty involved and decided that they would not vote on the Goals and Measures document until November
7. Discuss notion of having a face-to-face retreat in September between the Board of Regents, Faculty Alliance, Staff Alliance, and the Coalition of Student Leaders
- The Board is going to Zoom the September meeting, so will wait until we can hold a face-to-face retreat before planning anything further

IV. New Business

10:10 - 10:30

1. COVID Workplace Discussion

- a. UNAC is working on a workplace discussion. Can faculty refuse to fill out the telework agreement?
 - i. There have been extensive discussions with the attorneys. It is advised to fill out the minimum if supervisors have requested for them to do so. Members should not refuse to fill out the form. Fill in the office hours that they are available to the students (this is the minimum). Use “to be determined” for the other information in the form. Further discussions will be had with the administration on the form.
 - ii. Is there a requirement of a minimum number of office hours to be available to the students? - There is no set minimum number of hours per class/students. Faculty do need to advertise their office hours for students and then to make the dean aware of those hours.
 - 1. Can the office hours be virtual? - There are no requirements for how the availability must be held. Can be via Zoom, etc.
 - 2. Ideally, if the class is online (synchronous or asynchronous) the office hours would also be held that way. If the class is face-to-face, the office hours should also be face-to-face.
 - iii. Faculty choice for offering courses either online or in person should be the freedom of choice for the faculty.

- iv. The CDC is currently coming out with updates on everyone wearing masks, including vaccinated individuals.
- Question regarding recordings of the FA meetings: The recordings are not posted on the website, but if requested, the recordings can be provided to anyone who requests them. The meetings are public and the governance meetings are a function of the university. The recordings are university property.
 - Would like a record of who is requesting the link for the recordings
 - At the next meeting will make a decision as to whether or not to record the meeting
- 2. [Tone policing issue](#) - UNAC believes that this issue may no longer be a problem as a number of the Letters of Expectation were retracted.
 - Tone policing is used as a way of talking down or in a condescending manner, to minimize people or discriminate against people who are in the minority.
- 3. Review the language of “Accelerated Masters” and make recommendations
 - Paul would like the FA to review the language and make recommendations for changes.

V. Adjourn