Faculty Alliance Minutes
November 17, 2023
3:30-5:00 pm
Zoom Link

Members

UAS	UAA
Jennifer Ward, Chair, Faculty Alliance,	**Jackie Cason**, 1st VP, UAA Faculty Senate
Glenn Wright, President UAS Faculty Senate,	**Ian Hartman**, Past President UAA Faculty Senate
Brian Blitz, UAS Faculty Senate President-Elect	LuAnn Piccard, President, UAA Faculty Senate
UAF	Ex Officio:
Jennifer Carroll, President, UAF Faculty Senate;	**Paul Layer**, Vice President ASA
Chair-Elect, Faculty Alliance	Support:
Abel Bult-Ito, UAF President-Elect	Sharon Dayton
Ataur Chowdhury, Past President, UAF Faculty Senate	**Noel Romanovsky**

1. Call to order (3:30)
2. Approval of Agenda
   Abel approves the Agenda. Ataur seconds.
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes 9/29/23
   Ian approves. Glenn seconds.
4. Fairbanks Land Acknowledgment
   The faculty of the University of Alaska. Fairbanks are grateful to live and work on the ancestral lands of the Alaska native nations. In Fairbanks. Our Troth Yeddha campus is located on the ancestral lands of the Dina people of the Lower Tanana River.We honor indigenous history, and their stewardship of these lands. We commit to expanding inclusion at UAF for indigenous faculty students, staff and community members in teaching and research.
5. Update on Faculty Initiative Fund (JW)
   There were 41 proposals. Each proposal is reviewed by three different reviewers. The reviewers will meet December 13th and decide which proposals will be funded.
6. Update on BOR meeting (11/9 Audit & Finance, Facilities & Land Mgmt, ASA Committee & 11/10 – JW) my Report
   The Board of Regents approved a data analytics degree at UAA. They will ask the legislature for an ongoing amount every year for deferred maintenance costs. The archives building did not end up being a top priority. The Academic and Students Affairs Committee was the last committee of the day, which was called into executive session. There is a question as to whether the process was followed correctly and how to better navigate this in the future. The bylaws are silent on ex officio. Jennifer will draft a memo to Regent Purdue / General Counsel on the correct process.
   a. Special Meeting of BOR around December 1
   b. Jennifer will craft a memo about process / ASA committee
7. Roadmap to Empower Alaska – Guiding Principles, System Goals – comments to Paul Layer by mid Jan / Feb 1, from faculty Senates

Paul reviewed at the Board of Regents meeting. Feedback on guiding principles and system goals. Faculty Alliance will bring this document to their Faculty Senates for them to review and return with suggestions before the next Board of Regents meeting in February. Responses would need to be recorded by mid to late January.

There will be a special meeting of the Board of Regents. Governor Dunleavy is good friends with Mitch Daniels who was a former governor of Indiana and a former President of Purdue University and has written extensively on how to revolutionize a university. The governor has invited Mitch to talk to the Board December 7th or 8th about how to improve UA. Article about Mitch Daniels There will also be more about the facilities deferred maintenance plan.

8. Proposal review / Thought Leaders (JC)
   A proposed annual event for Faculty to give presentations. There will be more discussion with Paul as to the funding and structure of such an undertaking.

9. Proposed constitution and bylaws edit (JW) – Jennifer will prepare a suggestion to go to the faculty senates February meetings for voting for approval..

10. Academic Integrity BOR Policy Change (JC)

11. Faculty Senate Reports
    UAA would like a change in a better model of Student Evaluations
    UAF had a better success rate to fill out the form in case.
    UAS has half of their students online.

    UAS — some discussion about the Gardener Institute.
    UAF – Faculty Affairs invited the lead of the Gardener Institute to present. Their intention is to gather data and identify problems and the faculty would work on addressing them. Faculty Senate will be involved in the decision making. There will be revising the catalog language around classes which will clarify the hours required for online classes. Proposing to permanently delete the SAT and ACT admissions requirement. The Faculty Senate does not take political positions on international conflict.

12. Regents

Faculty Thought Leadership Forum Proposal - Draft

Concept: An annual (probably via Zoom) spring conference over two half-days where faculty from each university can present on a topic of significance to the university community. The first topic will be Artificial Intelligence and the university. Subsequent topics could include: academic integrity, working with diverse student populations, future of education, faculty and student retention, the role of research at the university, and academic freedom.

Purpose:
1. Share UA faculty experience and expertise.
2. Increase communication and collaboration between faculty at different UA universities.
3. Highlight the role of faculty at the university.
4. Increase faculty's understanding of and ability to fulfill their role as thought leaders in the university system.

Process:
1. Faculty Alliance chooses the topic and questions and creates an RFP.
2. RFP can include "themes."
3. Faculty will submit a proposal that includes a title and an abstract of 500 words that demonstrates how their proposal addresses the overall topic and thematic area.
4. Proposal is evaluated by… faculty alliance leadership? (JW)
5. Could there be a stipend given, or, an affirmation that it counts toward T&P (the refereed by peers part?) JW

2024 Inaugural Topic

Artificial Intelligence seemingly exploded into the consciousness of the university education community in November of 2022 when OpenAI released an early version of ChatGPT. Since that time, universities have debated the impact, positive and negative, of AI on academic integrity, academic performance, the nature of work in various disciplines, and the broader impact on society. How should AI be handled in the classroom? Is AI appropriate everywhere and in every discipline? Is AI a new phenomenon fundamentally different from what has come before or is it an extension of existing processes? Should universities create new policies specifically about AI or is that an alarmist response? Does AI offer opportunities for all students or does it privilege some forms of expression over others? The Faculty Alliance is seeking proposals from University of Alaska faculty to present 50 minute presentations via Zoom that address one of the following themes:
1. The impact of AI on academic integrity.
2. The impact of AI on academic performance.
3. The impact of AI on a particular discipline or area of employment.
4. The impact of AI on society, including intellectual property, cultural expression, visibility of minority voices,...

Reading List (shall we revisit, share again with the new group of Regents?)

13. Other agenda items
    New Governance Support Administrative Assistant, Mary Burnham, starts November 20, 2023

    Meeting adjourned.
    Ataur motions. Ian seconds.