



UNIVERSITY  
of ALASKA  
*Many Traditions One Alaska*

Minutes

**Faculty Alliance**

Friday, September 23, 2016

[Google Hangouts](#)

Audio-only: 1-855-280-1855

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 2:35 p.m.

Voting Members:

Megan Buzby, President-Elect, UAS Faculty Senate  
Sharon Chamard, 1st Vice President, UAA Faculty Senate  
Chris Fallen, President-Elect, UAF Faculty Senate  
David Fitzgerald, President, UAA Faculty Senate,  
Maren Haavig, Past President, UAS Faculty Senate  
Lisa Hoferkamp, President, UAS Faculty Senate  
Orion Lawlor, President, UAF Faculty Senate  
Tara Smith, Past President, UAA Faculty Senate; Chair, Faculty Alliance

Staff:

Morgan Dufseth, Executive Officer, System Governance

Members Absent:

Debu Misra, Past President, UAF Faculty Senate

2. Adoption of Agenda

Sharon moved to approve, and Maren seconded. There were no objections. The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Approval of September 9 Minutes

Reference 1

There was a brief discussion of a comment made at the Sept. 9 meeting regarding ACCUPLACER. A member asked that they specify in the minutes that it is English ACCUPLACER (Math is supposed to switch to ALEKS).

Sharon moved to approve with changes, Maren seconded. There were none opposed. The minutes were approved with most of Tara's changes (just not the one regarding ACCUPLACER).

4. Public or Guest Comments

None given.

5. Report from Chair

Tara had previously distributed an update on the recent Board of Regents' (BOR) and the Statewide Academic Council (SAC) meetings. Lisa asked for clarification on the GER alignment issue—it had been a hot button issue for David Valentine and Cecile Lardon and several regents expressed frustration with the timeline, however, when Tara gave a report on it there was little concern from the current regents on progress. Tara also discussed SP Phase II faculty representation; she noted she spoke with VP White to clarify that the Faculty Alliance nomination memo intended to suggest more than one faculty governance member per review team. Members noted to which SP Phase II team they had been invited—e-Learning: Maren; Fisheries: Lisa; Community Campus: Tara; Health: Chris; Human Resources: Sharon; University Relations: Megan; Student Affairs: Dave; Institutional Research: Orion

Tara noted she met with the Alaska Native Studies Council—comprised of faculty members from all three universities—and they have been working on the criteria for an Alaska Native Studies GER. Once completed, the Council will send their proposal to the GER Task Force. The report will likely recommend designating already existing courses that could incorporate Alaska Native Studies elements, and each university then require students to take one of the courses that includes those elements. The Alliance will have an opportunity to review the proposal before it goes back to SAC and the BOR Academic and Student Affairs committee. Sharon noted that it would ultimately be nice to have a separate course dedicated to Alaska Native Studies but that this is a nice start. Orion noted he like the idea of incorporating elements into already existing courses because it allows the student to choose how they meet the requirement. Tara noted she thought it would also incentivize programs to incorporate Alaska Native Studies elements into their courses but would in the long-term like to see separate courses developed.

Tara noted she was still working on the accreditation response. She noted she will attend the Coalition of Student Leaders' Summit in Fairbanks the following day. She plans to discuss the Title IX safety training course that is soon to be required for all students. UAF is currently using Haven, however, there has been mixed reviews from students, staff and faculty. Alliance members expressed doubts over the effectiveness of the current training program. Tara noted there has been a serious effort by students at UAF to have the current training changed. Tara also brought up the issue of concurrent enrollment students being required to take the safety training; there was discussion whether first-time full-time students were the only currently required students or if all students at UAF are required to complete the course. Orion reported it is only incoming bachelors and graduate students who are required to complete the course or be fined. Tara reported UA General Counsel is

already looking at state laws on protection of minors and how UA would revise its policies and regulations to accommodate concurrent enrollment students.

Tara reported SAC is working on a regulation on what constitutes a credit hour. The provosts are going to use the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and/or Department of Education definitions and proposed that UA use the same definition.

6. Report from Faculty Senates (current Presidents): Items under consideration/discussion; motions/actions taken; questions or comments to Faculty Alliance

UAF – Orion noted they are using an interactive Google doc for their AdCom agenda; Chris noted it went well and increased engagement during the meeting; they also received positive comments from participants in remote areas. The UAF Faculty Senate passed a resolution regarding single accreditation at UA.

UAS – The UAS Faculty Senate has not met since the last Alliance meeting, however, they plan to discuss common calendar at their Oct. 7 meeting as well as minors on campus and they will receive information on faculty climate survey (looks likely they will want to pursue it).

UAA – Dave noted the UAA Faculty Senate will meet next on Oct. 7 and President Johnsen will join them. They also plan to review the staff morale survey. The Senate is also investigating the move to Google email due to concerns to FERPA and HIPPA compliance; the Senate will keep an eye on the issue. Members also engaged in a discussion of the Single Instance of Blackboard Learn (SIBL), which was not going smoothly at UAA.

7. Ongoing Business

- 7.1. Accreditation Study Response

Tara noted many regents are still enamored with the idea of single accreditation and think it will solve a number of UA's problems. Orion noted the report seems to be very clear in its conclusions that single accreditation will not save UA money or make it more efficient or better at providing higher education to Alaska's students. Chris noted there seemed to be a lot of miscommunication between the Regents and the university; Tara agreed and reported she had asked President Johnsen for time on the Board's retreat agenda in January 2017, as well as inviting the Regents to dinner with Alliance members. Members also discussed possible issues with the consolidation of the Colleges of Education at the three universities, specifically with regards to the requirements of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. Tara will continue to work on a response memo to President Johnsen and will share with Alliance members for feedback.

- 7.2. Benefits charges for faculty contracts

Tara asked for an Alliance member to take the lead on this issue. She noted this issue had been brought up by UAF but wasn't sure if the issue was being seen at other campuses. The task would include contacting budget offices at the three

universities to see if this is a policy and if it can be changed. Chris volunteered to work with Andy Anger on the issue.

8. New Business

8.1. Budget Information Request

Reference 2

The request originated with UAS, asking what budget changes were made at Southeast—specifically reductions by unit level as well as a list of new hires since March 1, 2016. Tara asked Alliance members if they were interested in pursuing a similar system-wide request. Members agreed they would like similar information for each campus, as well as whether positions were terminated (employee was let go) or vacated (the position was eliminated). Members agreed to revisit the budget request at their Oct. 14 meeting. Orion noted he would like additional context to the cuts—specifically how much was available before the cut as well as specific positions eliminated (without showing employee names).

9. Agenda Items for October 14 Meeting

- 9.1. Revisions to the Faculty Alliance Constitution & Bylaws
- 9.2. Alaska Native Studies Council Report to GER Task Force
- 9.3. Comments on Accreditation Study
- 9.4. Common Calendar
- 9.5. Budget Information Request

10. Comments, concerns, and announcements

11. Adjourn

Lisa moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.