



System Governance Council Minutes

Monday, October 21, 2013

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fairbanks members: Butrovich 212A

Via audio conference

Bridge# 1-800-893-8850, Pin 8266781

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Joe Hayes called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Voting Members Present:

Faculty:

Mark Fitch, President, UAA Faculty Senate

David Valentine, President, UAF Faculty Senate

Kevin Krein, President-Elect for Virgil Fredenberg, President, UAS Faculty Senate

Staff:

Brad Krick, President, UAF Staff Council

Gwenna Richardson, President, UAS Staff Council

Elizabeth Winfree, President, UAA University Assembly

Dory Straight, President, Statewide Administration Assembly

Students:

Jessica Dominy, United Students of UAS-Juneau

Teresa Cross, Kenai Peninsula College Student Union

Ayla O'Scannell, Associated Students of UAF-Fairbanks

Alumni Representatives:

Joe Hayes, Spokesperson, System Governance Council, and Executive Director, UAF Alumni Association

Keni Campbell, Manager, UAS Alumni Association

Rachel Morse, Interim Director, UAA Alumni Relations

System Governance Staff Present:

LaNora Tolman, Executive Officer, System Governance

Joseph Altman, Coordinator, System Governance

Guests Present:

Patrick Gamble, President, University of Alaska

Dana Thomas, Vice President, Academic Affairs

Chris Christensen, Associate Vice President, State Relations

Chas St. George, Strategic Direction Coordinator, Academic Affairs

Adopt Agenda and Approve Past Minutes

Dory moved to adopt the agenda and Brad seconded. Jessica moved to approve the September 23, 2013 minutes and Gwenna seconded. The agenda was adopted and the minutes were approved.

No chair report or guest comments.

Local Governance Reports

UAA Staff, Faculty and Students

Liz Winfree for the General Assembly – UAA is moving toward a no smoking campus. The chancellor and his cabinet fully support the initiative.

Mark Fitch for Faculty Senate – Program assessment is being conducted and information can be found on the UAA chancellor's website. The intent is program prioritization and serving the state. Faculty and staff will have the main voice.

Teresa Cross for UAA – Kenai – Students will have their first game show night tonight. A Halloween dance in dorms is planned and they are getting ready for a CPR class. They also volunteer at the boys and girls club.

UAF Staff and Students

Brad Krick for Staff Council – They completed a survey regarding Smoke Free/Tobacco Free Campuses with 780 responses. A second survey on President Gamble's performance evaluation form gathered 278 responses.

Ayla O'Scannell for ASUAF – They are currently revising governance agreements and obtaining approvals, writing media board bylaws, working on club funding, conducting officer training and preparing for elections in November.

UAA Alumni

Rachel Morse – They broke ground on a future home for the Office of Alumni Relations and the UAA Alumni Association and expect to finish in February. Held their Green and Gold Gala on September 28, 2013 and cleared \$100,000 for the UAA alumni scholarship. Alumni will begin to have representation on the UAA General Assembly. They are exploring wherever students are represented alumni can be represented.

UAF Students and Alumni

Ayla continued the student report– the students created a UAF pantry/food bank for students in need. ASUAF volunteers will be working to get ready for the Juneau legislative trip in January.

Joe for the alumni – They finished funding with the hockey association for areas of the Carlson Center. Preparations for the legislative session are under way including the ice cream social for the students in Juneau.

UAS

Kevin Krein for faculty – He stated the items of concern were on the agenda later.

Gwenna for staff – They were preparing for a retreat in Sitka and planning for the staff day in May.

Jessica for the students – fall elections took place with two new members elected to senate seats. They finished their first regional retreat in Juneau with Sitka and Ketchikan members. It was a great success and allowed students to meet and get some questions answered. They were in the middle of obtaining feedback on the proposed tuition and network fee increases and the campus shuttle transportation. They conducted a blood drive and were planning for the Legislative Sessions in January. They were also trying to find time to work with Nana Catering on issues.

SW

Dory for the staff – SAA voted on the smoke free/tobacco free campus resolution. They also submitted feedback to President Gamble on the performance evaluation form. People are favorable and like the style of it and the stimulation of discussion between the supervisors and employees. The language was less favorable and is under further discussion. They are looking at addressing a code of conduct. The one submitted by the president a few years ago did not go over well with the staff. The performance evaluation form addresses some of those same topics. SAA believes it is a good idea to create a code of conduct coming from the staff and jointly looks at the existing policy and procedures. They plan to send their feedback to Staff Alliance. Monique Musick is leading the committee on the topic.

UAS Alumni

Keni for alumni – The alumni association held a beer and wine tasting in the past but this year they are planning a celebration for their new whale structure.

Systemwide Reports

Shaping Alaska's Future/SDI

Chas stated all the external stakeholders completed a survey in September and the results were overwhelming to change "SDI" to "Shaping Alaska's Future." October 30 they will hold a meeting for statewide leaders, deans and directors. On October 31, a meeting is planned in Anchorage for Shaping Alaska's Future facilitated by Consultant Dr. Terry McTaggart. It will include more than 120 people representing leadership from all the campuses and will include some members from the board of regents. A new site is being constructed for Shaping Alaska's Future projects. Feedback and participation on projects was encouraged.

Legislative Report

Chris - Legislative Session begins on January 21, 2014. The year is not looking well for the budget. Oil prices remain high and oil production continues to decline and with it the state's revenues. The state ran an unexpected deficit of several million dollars last year and it will probably do the same this year around \$750 million to a billion dollars. The state will continue to have a deficit until oil production starts to increase. That's the theory behind tax reduction this last year is by reducing taxes it may increase oil production. In the short term, it will make the deficit even larger. The state can only balance the budget in two ways; either reduce spending and/or pass the state's savings account. Alaska is fortunate for having \$19 billion dollars in various savings accounts the legislature can access, not including the permanent fund, which the legislature cannot touch. The legislature drew money from savings accounts last year to cover the unexpected deficit. This year, in anticipation of the budget deficit, the legislature reduced the capital budget by about thirty percent. They held the rate of growth of the state agency operating budgets to only one-half of a percent which is down from the typical rate of growth of three percent or more. They still have to draw money from savings to cover the \$750 million to a billion dollar deficit. The question is what to do next year and the years following. At the present rate, the savings accounts will only last another eight years at best. Right now we have a fiscally conservative governor, house majority and senate majority. They are in the mind to cut spending, stretch out the savings accounts as long as possible, and hope for new sources of income to come about. Three-quarters of the cost to run state government is spent on funding four entities: Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Education and Early

Development, Department of Transportation and the University of Alaska. The university is the only one with the ability to raise money for our own operations through tuition, which puts us at an even greater risk for cuts than the other three agencies. The board will finalize the operating and capital budget requests on November 6. The governor will probably reduce the requests before he submits it to the legislature on December 15. We need millions of new dollars to cover our costs of pay raises, utility increases and lease increases. Not getting the additional money needed will act like a cut because we will have to absorb those costs. Those additional millions we need are even before we start to talk about new programs that have been proposed for these budgets for next year. \$78 million is needed to finish construction of the new engineering buildings at UAA and UAF. The UAF power plant is almost at the end of its life and will cost almost \$250 million to replace. Add the \$37 million in deferred maintenance the governor promised to UA and a few research projects and we could submit a request for a capital budget of almost \$400 million dollars. This year's capital budget for the entire state was just \$2 billion dollars down from \$3 billion dollars the year before. Next year's capital budget may even be smaller. There is no chance that UA is going to get 20 percent of the available capital budget from the state. More than likely, the operating budget will be the one to be cut to reach some target number. Chris said to feel free to call or email him with questions leading up to Legislative Session in January or for inquiries about what is going on in Juneau.

Proposed Changes to Constitution

Attachment

LaNora will check Article 9 for additional changes.

President Gamble Discussion

Speaking about Shaping Alaska's Future/SDI - The draft document of the effects statements went through staff is in the final stages of editing. It will go to the chancellors and the board. The meeting on October 31 will be with the leadership across the entire system mostly deans and directors along with four members of the board. An unintended consequence - this makes it a board meeting which is not a bad thing, but it makes the draft document a public document going out to the world if it is a public meeting. It is still a draft and parts of it will change.

Regarding budget, there are personnel and healthcare expenses. There will have to be a choice between the power plant and engineering buildings. They are trying to formulate a plan now in preparation. President Gamble visited with the governor a week from last Friday and asked the governor to not take anything out of the operational budget and let UA work things out with the legislature.

UA Policy and Regulation Review

Dana Thomas stated the SAC website has a link to the review documents/assignment table. Click on the revision links and see what is going on with the review and process of approval. UAA asked for Student Rights and Responsibilities to be updated through a consultant. A recent policy change is the chancellors have authority to change names of academic departments. They still cannot name institutes or centers because the three universities like to name them "the Alaska Center for..." and it creates competition among them.

Tuition Discussion

The president said a memo went out today regarding the proposed rise in tuition fees for FY15. UA is currently at low tuition and high state support (46%). The change in tuition would be \$6 for undergraduates and \$12 for graduates and non-residents. The president said the university is at an objective point with the high percentage of income coming from the state and maintaining low tuition. The question is how to keep the two and what to cut back on.

Smoke Free/Tobacco Free Campus Discussion

The president reviewed SAA's feedback from their survey. He stated the results would go into his folder until the other governance groups send in their feedback. UAF Faculty Senate has a draft resolution in opposing the issue. Dana Thomas suggested the council gather the information from all the groups and give it to the president for review. The topic seems harder to implement systemwide. The president said he might turn it back to the chancellors and they in turn could hand it to their directors.

ACTION: The council will come up with a date/deadline for feedback and let the president know.

Nana Catering

The catering issue is a systemwide concern. UAS is unhappy with the food quality and lack of availability on the weekends. There is a question as to why the contract is handled at the system level and not the university level.

ACTION: This item is tabled until the next meeting and more information is gathered.

Topics for the Next Meeting Agenda

- Smoke Free/Tobacco Free Discussion
- Constitution Revisions
- Healthcare
- Nana Catering

Adjourn

Dory moved to adjourn. Kevin seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Minutes prepared by LaNora Tolman, Executive Officer, System Governance