

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA

Coalition Student /Leaders

Charter

Updated March 29, 2024

An accord between the student leaders of the University of Alaska who participated in the 1993 Fall Student Leadership Conference at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, September 24-24, 1993...a vital step in, "Building the Net."

Preamble

In order to promote communication between the students on each campus of each university in Alaska; to improve the lives and leadership of the students of our universities; to provide for an effective and powerful student voice in matter affecting the University of Alaska; and to enable and develop the leadership for Alaska's future; we do hereby establish this charter of the Coalition of Student Leaders of the University of Alaska, this day, Sunday, September 26, 1993.

Article 1. Name

The University of Alaska (UA) Board of Regents hereby grants the authority for a mechanism for student system governance consisting of a network for student governments to be named the Coalition of Student Leaders, hereinafter "Coalition".

Article 2. Authority and Purpose

A. Authority

The Coalition receives its authority by policy 03.01.01 and policy 09.01.01 of the UA Board of Regents, which derives its authority from the Constitution and Statutes of the State of Alaska. The Coalition shall carry out its functions subject to the authority of the UA Board of Regents and the President of the University of Alaska.

B. Purpose

1. Representation

To provide official representation for the students of the University of Alaska in matters which affect the general welfare of the University and its educational purposes and effectiveness.

2. Consultation

To provide consultation to the UA President and the Board of Regents on student affairs.

3. Communication

To serve as an instrument by which information which is of interest and concern to the university system students may be freely collected, disseminated, and discussed.

C. Responsibilities

Coalition responsibilities include, but are not limited to student affairs issues such as tuition and student fees, financial aid and scholarships, residence life, minority and rural student services, club and social activities, student media, student health, safety, student grievances, student tools and resources, and student employee relations.

Article 3. Membership

A. Membership Requirements

Coalition Membership requires maintaining a cumulative 2.5 GPA. The ability to vote, nominate, or make motions is restricted to those students, who are officially recognized by their student government, or in the absence of a student government, are appointed by their local administration to represent a campus, and to be confirmed by the chair and recognized by the coalition. Official recognition by the student government shall be in the form of written communication from the chief executive officer of their campus to the Coalition's Chair, or in the absence of a student government, written communication from their campus administration of their appointment. The written confirmation must be received by the Coalition prior to the member voting on Coalition business.

B. Oath of Office

The Chair shall be sworn in by the previous Coalition Chair or Student Regent. The Chair shall be responsible for swearing in the Vice Chair, Secretary, and all other members of the Coalition.

The oath of office will be as follows: "I, (name), affirm that I will uphold the Charter of the Coalition of Student Leaders of the University of Alaska, and I that I will, well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter, so that all students of the University of Alaska are equitably represented."

C. Voting Members

The voting members of the Coalition shall be composed of one representative who are officially recognized by their student government, or in the lack thereof, are appointed by their local administration to represent a campus:

- Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks
- Bristol Bay Campus
- Chukchi Campus
- Kuskokwim Campus Student Government
- Kachemak Bay Student Association
- Kenai River Campus Student Union
- Interior Alaska Campus
- Kodiak College Student Association

- Matanuska-Susitna Student Government
- Northwest Campus
- Prince William Sound College Student Association
- Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage
- United Students of the University of Alaska Southeast-Ketchikan
- United Students of the University of Alaska Southeast-Juneau
- United Students of the University of Alaska Southeast-Sitka

D. Ex-Officio Members

Ex-officio members include the Student Regent from the UA Board of Regents and the Student Commissioner who sits on the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education. They speak to the Coalition as advisory members without retaining the position as a voting member.

1. The Student Regent

a. Selection

The Student Regent shall be selected in the manner prescribed by law, thus having the authority to be the primary spokesperson for the students of the University of Alaska.

b. Duties

The Student Regent is the primary contact of the Coalition on the UA Board of Regents and serves as an advisor to the Board on matters and issues affecting the University and the Alaska postsecondary education community.

2. The Student Commissioner

a. Selection

The Student Commissioner shall be selected in the manner prescribed by law and will serve as the Coalition's primary liaison to the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education.

b. Duties

The Student Commissioner shall update the Coalition on issues affecting the Commission, the University, and the Alaska postsecondary education community.

3. Alaska Pacific University Student Council

a. Selection

Representatives from the Alaska Pacific University Student Council shall be selected in the manner prescribed by their governing policies.

b. Duties

Representatives from the Alaska Pacific University Student Council shall be responsible for the advocacy and communication of their student needs to the Coalition.

4. Iñisaġvik College Student Assembly

a. Selection

Representatives from the Iñisaġvik College Student Assembly shall be selected in the manner prescribed by their governing policies.

b. Duties

Representatives from the Iḷisaḡvik College Student Assembly shall be responsible for the advocacy and communication of their student needs to the Coalition.

E. Lapse of Membership

1. Definition

For the purpose of quorum and membership, “active” is defined as a voting member in Section C who has not fallen to “inactive” status. For the purpose of quorum and membership, “inactive” is defined as a member who cannot vote, make nominations, or make motions and does not count towards quorum.

2. Absences

Any “active” member that accrues two unexcused absences within a semester shall be deemed “inactive”. For the purpose of meeting quorum and maintaining a productive Coalition, a member may not accrue more than three excused absences in a semester. When an active member receives four total absences that member will become “inactive”.

3. Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the member to communicate with the Chair of any excused absence requests. Excused absences may include extreme unavoidable or unplanned events, medical emergencies or other serious health issues, UA-sanctioned extracurricular academic or athletic activities, military commitments, jury duty; but will ultimately be at the discretion of the Chair. When an active member receives an unexcused absence, the Chair will issue a written warning to the member and their respective student government organization, or in the lack thereof, campus administration on each occasion. When a member’s status changes from “active” to “inactive” the Chair will issue a written notice to the member and their respective student government organization, or in the lack thereof, campus administration.

F. Reinstatement of Membership

Members removed under Section E may be reinstated as active members with approval of a two-thirds vote of members during a meeting.

G. Vacancies

Vacancies may occur due to an individual’s resignation, removal, inability, lapse of membership as described in Section E, or unwillingness to hold the position. If such a vacancy were to arise in the position of a voting member they shall be deemed inactive until the campus appoints a representative as stated in Article 3, Section A.

Article 4. Officers

A. The Chair of the Coalition

1. Chair Selection

The Chair of the Coalition shall be selected by the Coalition from among the nominees submitted by Coalition members. The nominees shall be from Coalition members and be elected with a majority vote.

2. Duties

The Chair of the Coalition serves as the executive authority of the Coalition; presides over all meetings of the Coalition; and represents or appoints a designee from the Coalition to the University of Alaska System, the UA Board of Regents, and to the public. The Chair shall serve as a representative on the System Governance Council. The Chair has full voting rights except in the instance they are an ex-officio member, whereby they will have the right to only break a tie. The Chair has the authority to set the meeting time, place, and agenda for all Coalition meetings.

B. The Vice Chair of the Coalition

1. Selection

A Vice Chair shall be selected from among the voting Coalition members. In the temporary absence of a Vice Chair, the Chair shall have the ability to appoint a temporary Vice Chair. The nominees shall be Coalition members in good academic standing at the first meeting of the academic year. The Vice Chair's term shall be one academic year, and through the first meeting of the following term. The Vice Chair shall serve no more than two consecutive terms. The Vice Chair shall be elected with a majority vote.

2. Duties

The Vice Chair shall serve as the Chair in case of the Chair's absence. The Vice Chair shall serve as the Secretary in the Secretary's absence. The Vice Chair shall serve as a representative on the System Governance Council.

C. Secretary

1. Selection

A Secretary shall be selected by the Coalition from among voting Coalition members. The nominees shall be in good academic standing at the first meeting of the academic year. The Secretary's term shall be one academic year. The Secretary shall be elected with a majority vote. In the temporary absence of a Secretary, the Chair shall have the ability to appoint a temporary Secretary.

2. Duties

The Secretary shall be responsible for managing Coalition documents, taking the minutes for Coalition meetings, and Coalition communications.

D. Vacancies

1. Failure to Accept or Elect a Chair

If the Coalition is unable or unwilling to elect a Chair and Vice Chair the position of Chairperson shall rotate monthly amongst all the voting members until a Chair is elected. Chair rotation shall be determined by random lot without replacement.

2. Unforeseen Vacancies

Vacancies may occur due to an individual's resignation, removal, inability, or unwillingness to hold the position. If a vacancy occurs in the position of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall assume the position of the Chair. If a vacancy occurs in the position of the Vice Chair or Secretary, the Coalition shall elect, from its active voting members, a new Vice Chair or Secretary.

3. Removals

The Coalition retains the right to remove the Chair or Vice Chair or Secretary for nonfeasance, misfeasance, or malfeasance, through resolution and a concurrent two-third affirmative vote.

Article 5. Representation

The Coalition of Student Leaders shall have two seats on the System Governance Council: the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Coalition.

The student governments within each campus shall make every effort to build regional networks and interact with each other on a regular basis to resolve regional student issues and report to the Coalition at regular intervals to be determined by the Coalition.

Article 6. Meetings

A. First Meeting of the Academic Year

The first order of business shall be to recognize and swear in all new Coalition representatives as stated in Article 3.

The second order of business shall be to nominate and elect a new Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary following procedures outlined in Article 4.

B. In-Person Meetings

The Coalition shall hold in-person meetings at least once a year. All meeting attendees may participate, but only members listed under Article 3, Section C may make motions or vote.

C. Regular Meetings

The Coalition shall meet at least once per month via audio or video during the fall and spring at a time and date set within the first month of each semester where a quorum of members is able to commit regular attendance. Notice of regular meetings, including the date, time, teleconference line, and agenda/materials, shall be posted by the System Governance Office at least three business days in advance of the regular meeting.

D. Special Meetings

The Chair, or four voting members, with at least 24-hours' notice to all Coalition members, may call special meetings if needed.

E. Open Meetings

All meetings of the Coalition are open meetings in accordance with the Alaska Open Meetings Law. All regular meetings will be publicly noticed on the Alaska Online Public Notice website at least three days in advance of the meeting.

F. Quorum

A quorum for any meeting of the Coalition of Student Leaders shall be a majority of the active voting members listed in Article 3, Section C.

G. Parliamentary Authority

The Coalition will follow the most recent version of Robert's Rules of Order.

Article 7. Roles

A. Ad Hoc Committees

The UA Board of Regents, the UA President, or the Coalition may establish a Coalition task force to consider complex system issues relating exclusively to student affairs. These ad hoc committees shall, in all cases, include governance representatives appointed by the Coalition or Coalition constituencies as appropriate. These ad hoc committees are a formal part of shared governance, and as such, are subject to the Alaska Open Meeting Law.

B. Administrative Support

The Coalition shall receive administrative support from the System Governance Office.

The office shall:

- Create and maintain student leaders and advisor directories;
- Distribute any statewide governance report(s), and research statewide student issues as directed;
- Ensure that student publications are distributed among all voting members;
- Provide staff support for in-person and regular meetings of the Coalition and its committees;
- Publish and distribute single-issue summaries as needed.
- Send an invitation to all campuses at the beginning of each semester to participate in the Coalition.

Article 8. Relief, Compensation, and Fear of Reprisals

Students participating in Coalition activities will remain in compliance with the policies in their university's catalog when addressing the issue of missed classes. Students and their instructors will make a good faith effort to make alternative arrangements to make up any missed classes or work. The System Governance Office will issue a letter at the beginning of the academic year for Coalition members to distribute to instructors in advance, notifying of any Coalition activities impacting class attendance.

The Chair and Vice chair, if not otherwise compensated, shall be granted a three credit tuition waiver upon each semester of successful service completed if funds are available. The Secretary if not otherwise compensated, shall be granted a one credit tuition waiver upon each semester of successful service completed if funds are available.

Students in governance are empowered to carry out their governance responsibilities to the best of their abilities without interference or fear of reprisal.

Article 9. Amendments

A. Ratification

This charter shall go into effect upon the acceptance by a majority of the groups listed in Article-3, Section C, above and upon the approval of the President of the University of Alaska.

B. Amendments

Amendments to this charter shall be adopted by a two-third vote of the Coalition and upon the approval of the President of the University of Alaska.

C. Review

Every two years the Coalition shall comprehensively review its Charter.

Article 10. Handbook

The Coalition shall annually submit a directory of Coalition members, a description of the Coalition and how it works, and the annual Coalition calendar to the executive officer for the inclusion in the governance handbook. This handbook shall be posted online and made publicly available.

Article 11. Reports

The Coalition shall prepare a report of activities. This report shall be submitted to the System Governance executive officer for compilation into a single report of governance activities for submission to the UA President and the UA Board of Regents as part of the agenda for regular UA Board of Regents' meetings. The System Governance executive officer shall maintain Coalition communications electronically.

