

# SPBAC

## March 24, 2016 Meeting Notes

**In Attendance:** RCaulfield, PSchulte, MCiri, JNelson, MHaavig, KKrein, KJames, PMartin, KSchmitt, ETomlinson, PTraxler, BHegel, GCheney, SShaefer, MDeaCastillo, JVigil, RFelkl, EScott, BEwing, MMoya (recorder)

### **FY17 CURRENT BUDGET UPDATE**

MCiri provided the SPBAC an update on the FY17 budget outlook. He explained the House side of the legislature passed a \$5.0M reduction to the University of Alaska total budget; the Senate passed a \$25.0M university reduction plus an undesignated \$100.0M general reduction for the governor to allocate. Additionally, \$25.0M in increased salaries and benefits costs will need to be absorbed in the UA budget next fiscal year. In total, with these fixed costs included, UAS will likely face in FY17 somewhere between a \$4.0M budget reduction (with the Senate numbers) or \$6.0M budget reduction (with House numbers). He added that, for comparative purposes, in FY16 UAS' total budget reduction was \$2.0M.

MCiri encouraged SPBAC members to keep themselves apprised of budget progress via UA Statewide's The Capitol Reports regularly distributed to all UA employees via e-mail by Associate Vice President Chris Christensen.

MCiri provided SPBAC a document titled, *Update: Steps Toward a Balanced FY17 Budget* (updated March 22, 2016). He explained the document contains identified strategies for UAS' budget reductions. He stressed it is not a final document; it continues to be developed over time. MCiri encouraged SPBAC members to distribute this document within their departments.

RCaulfield added that the current budget environment is fluid and we are far from a final outcome. He explained that we will have a better idea of UAS' final budget numbers in the next few months.

### **SPBAC UPDATE ON "EFFICIENCY CONSIDERATIONS FOR ADMIN AREAS"**

**Travel** – MCiri provided SPBAC with notes from its last meeting (January 27, 2016), as well as the source material from the meeting's work session. The meeting notes include ideas for achieving administrative efficiencies. MCiri also provided the SPBAC a memo titled *Travel Hub Working Group* (dated March 22, 2016). He explained it is a charge memo to the newly formed group. The charge includes exploring how the UAS Juneau campus might achieve administrative efficiency by implementing travel hubs. The travel hub memo included a document titled, *UAS Campus Travel Hub Analysis* (revised March 22, 2016) which included information on how travel processing workload is distributed on the campus.

**Outsourcing** – MCiri explained a statewide group has been formed to look for outsourcing opportunities throughout the university system. He added the UA Statewide Transition Team is expecting to release its recommendations shortly.

**Internal Chargebacks** – The SPBAC also discussed internal chargebacks and auxiliary expenses. MCiri explained how internal chargebacks currently operate.

**Marketing & Public Relations Restructuring** – MHaavig asked for updated information on the progress to date and next steps associated with the marketing revision project. RCaulfield said he would have his office prepare and distribute an update to SPBAC.

### **PROGRAM REVIEW UPDATES**

PSchulte reported that the following academic program reviews are in progress:

- Automotive Technology Certificate
- Drafting Technology Certificate
- Outdoor Skills & Leadership Certificate
- Apprenticeship Technology AAS
- Fisheries Technology AAS
- Power Technology, Diesel AAS
- Power Technology, USCG Marine Oiler AAS
- Bachelor of Art, English
- Master of Arts in Teaching, Elementary
- Masters of Education, Educational Technology

PSchulte explained UAS is now at the point in the program review process when faculty can respond to the Institutional Review Committees' reports (due by March 28). Then the deans have until April 11 to respond (to the Provost), followed by the provost's written findings to the Chancellor due by April 25.

### **NSRL DEFEASANCE STRATEGY AND FUTURE DEBT-SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

MCiri explained that UAS is looking at whether it can leverage one-time funds to pay off the debt on the Natural Science Research Laboratory (NSRL) building. He explained this process is referred to as defeasance. He provided the SPBAC a memo titled, *Natural Science Lab Defeasance* (dated February 18, 2016) which provides further details on the possible defeasance. He added the NSRL defeasance is moving forward to the Board of Regents for their approval in April.

MCiri also explained a defeasance is being considered for the Juneau Administrative Services building.

### **BUDGET MESSAGING WITH UAS CAMPUS COMMUNITIES**

PSchulte opened up a discussion with SPBAC on how UAS can communicate—internally and externally—that UAS is a great place to go to school. She stressed this is an important message to get out, especially during this time of budget uncertainty.

Among the suggestions offered, KJames and BHegel stressed the importance of getting the fall semester postcard and schedule advertising out. (RCaulfield said he will see that his office provides funding information for this effort.) RFelkl said the student ambassadors, recruiters, and the other efforts Eric Scott is leading are key. ETomlinson said projecting a positive attitude is also important, especially with students. KKrein added it's important that we need to be careful how we communicate about ongoing program review efforts so that we don't cause unnecessary concern. ETomlinson added that student advocacy for particular programs can create uncertainty and give a bad impression to other students that UAS is unstable. Instead, students should be told they will have good alternatives when program changes are made.

MHaavig added the budget uncertainty and the UA Strategic Pathways leave faculty and students unsettled. RCaulfield said the Strategic Pathways is intended to create better alignment and clarity. He encouraged the SPBAC, students, faculty, and staff continue to have faith that UAS has high quality instruction to offer; this is UAS' greatest strength and ultimately will continue to be recognized.

#### **FOCUS OF FUTURE SPBAC MEETINGS**

GCheney suggested that future SPBAC meetings be focused on work sessions—with silos between departments down—so that difficult conversations on how to come up with necessary budget reductions can be encouraged. She added that currently, most of the SPBAC meetings are spent on announcements. She stressed that the lack of opportunities for general input on budget reduction/efficiencies (from all constituencies) negatively affects morale. The SPBAC discussed various options for achieving a broader dialog focused on generating efficiencies and cost saving ideas.

**NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME:** May meeting date TBD