

ALASKA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE

Friday, August 18th, 2017
8:30 – 10:30 AM

MEETING NOTES

Members present:

Chair Rick Caulfield	Provost Susan Henrichs	Interim Chancellor Sam Gingerich
Provost Karen Carey	Interim Dean Steve Atwater	Dr. Cathy Coulter
Dr. Katy Spangler	Dr. Amy Vinlove	Dr. Jonathan Bartels
Prof. Ernestine Hayes	Diane Kardash	
	Dr. Sean Topkok	

Members absent: Dr. Virgil Fredenberg; Prof. Paul Ongtooguk

Meeting notes taken by Simone Jagers, AKCOE Project Manager

1. Welcome/review of agenda

Chair Caulfield welcomed members and reviewed the agenda. Steering committee members introduced themselves to the new program manager Simone Jagers-Radolf. Chancellor Caulfield announced that Dr. Cindi Fabbri has left the AKCOE steering committee due to other obligations. He noted that UAF faculty had nominated Diane Kardash a new UAF faculty member to join the steering committee. The Committee welcomed Kardash to the meeting.

2. Review of previous meeting notes, April 7, 2017

No meeting note feedback, ready to post online.

3. Introduction of Simone Jagers-Radolf, Project Manager

Simone introduced herself and her background.

4. Update on August 7th conversation with NWCCU President Dr. Sandra Elman

Chair Caulfield reported that President Johnsen and the three chancellors spoke with Dr. Sandra Elman over video conference on August 7. The conversation focused on the AKCOE, NWCCU standards, and the likely timeline and structure of a substantive change proposal to implement the Alaska College of Education. Dr. Elman gave guidance on the types of questions that the NWCCU commissioners would ask, as well as standards. The Chair noted that current AKCOE work group topics are linked to the NWCCU standards. Chancellor Gingerich noted that the opportunity to speak with Dr. Elman provided for a more detailed conversation about NWCCU standards and expectations. The discussion aligned with the workgroup topics and charges now in place.

5. Planned face-to-face faculty program meetings: reviewing dates and aspirations (30 minutes)

Chancellor Caulfield noted the agreed-upon meeting times and places for the upcoming faculty meetings:

Juneau, September 8th for Secondary Education
Anchorage September 15th for Special Education
Anchorage September 15th for Graduate Education
Anchorage October 6th for Elementary Education

Dr. Bartels proposed that Early Childhood Education faculty in Anchorage to be involved in the elementary education faculty meeting. Provost Henrichs noted that UAF faculty do not desire to be part of the faculty meetings because the UAF program is not focused on preparation for a teaching credential. She had no objection to UAA faculty participating if they wished. Chancellor Gingerich noted that UAA's program has multiple components, including a credential program. The question of how that fits with the AKCOE, if at all, still needs to be resolved. His own personal observation is that if ECE faculty in Anchorage want to be involved in the faculty meetings, they should be. Dr. Coulter supported this as well, noting that UAA early education programs are very active in language and culture and what they are doing could really streamline with K-12 initiatives. Dr. Bartels offered his view that UAA Early Childhood Education is a teacher licensure program and central to the work of UAA College of Education and the future of AKCOE.

Dr. Topkok supported the inclusion of ECE faculty in the discussion due to the fact that Head Start programs throughout Alaska need quality Alaskan teachers. He commented that lots of new Head Start programs are beginning around the state, and if the AKCOE wants to increase the number of Alaskan educators we need to include early childhood education.

Chancellor Caulfield summarized the discussion and committee sentiments by saying that UAA ECE faculty involved in licensure programs would be welcome to join in the Elementary education face-to-face meeting if they desired. Provost Henrichs noted no objection, but stated that if the discussion was broadened to include whether the AAS in ECE would also be included, then UAF AAS faculty input would also be needed. She noted that a decision needs to be made about this sooner or later.

Action Item: Invite UAA ECE faculty involved with licensure programs to participate in the elementary faculty meeting

Discussion: What will the faculty in the upcoming faculty meetings focus on? What is the charge?

Chancellor Caulfield invited member comments about the charge to the faculty working groups that will be meeting face-to-face. Discussion focused initially on Elementary programs. Dr. Spangler noted the complexity of three different curricula in Elementary Education across the UA system. She expects a large group of Elementary faculty at the

face-to-face meeting. At the last meeting there were 19 people. She believes that smaller breakout groups will be needed. And even then, the complexity of three curricula makes alignment a major challenge.

Chancellor Caulfield noted conversations in earlier steering committee meetings about BOR approval of a common Elementary curriculum back in 2000-2001. He had received a copy of what the BOR had approved. Dr. Vinlove stated that there was a shared curriculum at that time but that it had diverged over the past decade or more. Chancellor Caulfield asked if it would be reasonable for the Elementary faculty group to bring back recommendations about how to review and revitalize that common curriculum.

Dean Atwater asked if the Committee's view is that the AKCOE should have an aligned statewide curriculum or allow variance across UA? He noted that the UAF faculty expressed a desire to keep what they now have in place. Provost Henrichs noted that if we had a single college it would be unusual to have multiple curricula focusing on the same students and same licensure. Degrees can have different focus areas and have different electives, but presumably would have a single degree at the Bachelor level.

Chancellor Caulfield commented that his sense is the BOR and external stakeholders--including employers of our graduates--are looking for a more aligned curriculum across the state; a curriculum plus processes and procedures that are streamlined and easier for students and employers to understand. Dr. Coulter offered a different perspective, highlighting the distinctive roles of Education faculty across the state--that they are experts in their fields--and local and regional differences. Would an aligned curriculum inhibit their ability to work in their desired areas? She asked if--rather--there is a need to educate external stakeholders about the existing curriculum instead of suggesting that the curriculum should become more 'generic'? Dr. Vinlove asked where the evidence was from stakeholders that the current UAF, UAA and UAS curriculum was not preparing teachers? Where is the problem? Where is the limitation?

Chancellor Caulfield observed that employers (including superintendents) have said that there can be confusion about the different requirements and clinical expectations of each UA University. Having a more aligned curriculum, in his view, does not imply that local and regional variations cannot be built in, or that research-informed innovations or approaches cannot be integral to the curriculum. He was under the impression that such an approach led to the common 2000-2001 curriculum addressed earlier.

Provost Carey asked that if UAF, UAA, and UAS are all under CAEP accreditation standards, how can their curriculum be that different? Dr. Vinlove noted that CAEP standards did not dictate standards but more about program improvements. She commented that UAF, UAA, and UAS had all developed programs that are designed to meet the needs of their geographic locations. Provost Henrichs agreed, saying specific

local needs have been identified over time. Dr. Coulter seconded these thoughts mentioning examples of responsive research in the field. She noted the need for the curriculum to be able to change based on research and a culturally sustaining pedagogy.

Dean Atwater stated that in his view, AKCOE is an opportunity for collaboration and tighter alignment for the UA system. He noted that there is a perception of some students and employers that there needs to be tighter alignment among UAF, UAA and UAS to really be one system.

Dr. Spangler noted that there are currently different methods and practices in student teaching and internships among UAF, UAA, and UAS programs. She noted that the variance offers more flexibility to the student. Provost Henrichs observed that regents want a central point of coordination statewide for greater effectiveness and accountability. What people are concerned about is expanding teacher preparation.

Returning to the question of a charge to the faculty groups, Chancellor Caulfield encouraged participants to consider “Where is the opportunity for alignment across the state in the interest of students while still providing for local and regional curricular variation and for faculty specialization and research-informed innovation?” Provost Carey invited the faculty groups to consider this question and these debates, and to bring back their views to the steering committee. Provost Henrichs invited the faculty groups to consider how the AKCOE can improve student access--the ability to retain students and graduate them. Dean Atwater stressed the need for discussions to be informed by NWCCU and CAEP accreditation.

Chancellor Caulfield encouraged faculty groups to consider holding pre-meetings by audio or video in advance of the face-to-face meetings. This would make the most of the time together. Simone, as project manager, can assist in setting those up. The Chancellor closed the discussion by encouraging participants to think about the following question: “How do we enhance educational opportunities for our students and grow the number of quality new Alaskan teachers in the state’s classrooms?”

Action Item: Anticipate how to make the most of upcoming faculty face-to-face meetings and request support as needed. Take discussion about greater statewide alignment of curriculum into account in face-to-face meetings.

Action Item: Bring back recommendations about issues of alignment, including how to balance these while also enhancing opportunities for regional variations and research-informed innovation.

6. Update on Workgroups

Prof. Ernestine Hayes, facilitator of the Innovation Partnership Models workgroup updated the steering committee on the group’s progress. They are communicating by email to address the charge to the workgroups. She plans to have her group’s report delivered by August 31st.

Provost Carey of the Human Resources workgroup announced that they have written up their preliminary report and have discussed a streamlined process that has had input from UAA, UAF, and UAS human resources departments.

Simone Jagers, as the AKCOE project manager, updated the steering committee on the rest of the workgroups: Student Services, Physical Facilities & Equipment, Library, IT Services and Instructional Design, Budget & Fiscal Planning and Data Management. All of the above workgroups have been meeting regularly through teleconference and communication via email and group document work. Some facilitators have brought forward clarifying questions. She hoped they would be answered at the upcoming workgroup facilitators meeting on Monday 21st at 2pm. Overall, all workgroups were on track to submit a report on their charges by August 31st. The exception is Student Services due to the heavy workload of participants around the start of school. However they are expecting to still finish the report in early September.

Action Item: Facilitator workgroup meeting on Monday 21st at 2pm to guide and answer questions.

- 7. Next meeting September 1st 8:30-10:30am.**