

UA Teacher Education Council
Friday, March 30, 2018, 8:30 – 10:00 AM

MEETING NOTES

Members present:

Chancellor Rick Caulfield (interim chair)	Provost Susan Henrichs	Int. Dean Claudia Dybdahl
Provost Karen Carey	Int. Dean Steve Atwater	Dr. Cathy Coulter
Dr. Katy Spangler	Dr. Amy Vinlove	Dr. Jonathan Bartels
Dr. Lisa Richardson	Prof. Diane Kardash	Prof. Paul Ongtooguk
		Dr. Sean Topkok

Meeting notes taken by Keni Campbell, Chancellor's Executive Assistant

1. Welcome/review of agenda

Chair Rick Caulfield welcomed members and the agenda was reviewed.

2. Reminder about recording of meeting

Chair Caulfield reminded the committee that the meeting will be recorded and a live stream link has been shared so that non-members may listen in. The meeting is being live-streamed and also being recorded by video conferencing services.

3. Review of previous meeting notes, February 16, 2018

There was a correction to note that Dr. Sean Topkok was present at the meeting.

4. Outcome of Executive Dean search

Chair Caulfield congratulated S. Atwater on his selection as Executive Dean. The public announcements went out on Tuesday and were well received. This was a challenging task with two very qualified candidates in the end. Chair Caulfield thanked the members of the council who have served on the screening and interview committee. He thanked all who helped in putting together the meetings at all three campuses to meet with stakeholders. Steve will step into that role July 1. He will have dean responsibilities at UAS as well as responsibilities with the other education departments to work on collaboration and innovation in teacher education and education leadership programs. S. Atwater said he was humbled and honored to be selected and acknowledged that this is a big job that will become more defined moving forward.

5. Committee members' perspectives: Key next steps for Executive Dean

There was discussion about avoiding the term “alignment” in the language used surrounding the new Alaska College of Education, as it has been misconstrued as making all three universities homogenous. S. Atwater noted that this comes down to semantics, and reassured the council that the intent is for collaboration and coordination. He also noted that the Executive Dean position will have no administrative authority over UAF or UAA, only UAS.

C. Dybdahl said she views this new college as the ability to offer great things in the state. Each MAU has tried hard to meet the needs of students in the state, but this is geographically impossible, so this is an opportunity to expand the presence of the university. It is also an opportunity for faculty interested in research issues relevant to the state, to increase our reputation as experts in Alaskan education, and to be known as the go-to place for questions that arise every day in schools about what does research say and what are best practices.

P. Ongtooguk commented that students have complained about not being able to take distance courses from more than one MAU as the schedules for these classes often overlap with one another, making this impossible. Coordination of distance class scheduling is part of the alignment that is needed.

C. Coulter's concerns are about the interpretive qualities of language – “alignment” could be taken to mean “standardizing.” She said there are couple of narratives, a public one that uses “consolidation, alignment, innovation” but within internal meetings it's clarified further. If the clarification is not shared with the public, people will end up interpreting the intent themselves. It is important to be mindful about messaging and how we actually operationalize things. There are ways to make all of the programs more user friendly, but that is a different issue. Her concern is how that message might be perceived. She is also concerned about the use of the word “innovation” without tying it to evidence-based research. J. Bartels said it will be important to get hold of the narrative and the optics, what is being portrayed about what is happening, and that this needs to be done as quickly as possible. Chair Caulfield noted there will be many more opportunities to discuss the messaging.

6. Updates:

a. Teacher education marketing and scholarship campaign

This is underway around the state, including TV, radio, and social media, both around encouraging Alaskans to consider becoming a teacher – generic to UA system. Several council members had a hand in shaping the message early on. The website has information about all three MAUs: <http://www.alaska.edu/learntoteach/>. The President's Teach for Alaska Scholarship award is also being advertised: <http://www.alaska.edu/pres/teach-for-alaska-scholars/>. Funding to continue these campaigns are in the request from the Board of Regents to the legislature.

b. Legislative update: AKCOE Education budget request

The budget is not yet final. The House Finance Committee approved \$336M in general fund for the University, which is higher than what the Governor had forwarded. In all of his conversations with President Johnsen, he speaks about strategic investment in teacher education. Chair Caulfield encouraged the council members to advocate on behalf of the university when they have opportunities to do so.

c. Alaska Council of School Administrators Fly-in, April 8-11

Chair Caulfield and S. Atwater will attend the April 8 session of the Alaska Council of School Administrators Legislative Fly-in. They will provide an update on S. Atwater's selection as Executive Dean and help them to start building with him in that role more direct communication and relationships in looking for areas of collaboration with school districts. We are all doing that at some level, but this is a more coordinated and systemic way, more than any other time up to this time.

d. Updates on education program administration at UAA and UAF

UAA has started the search for their director position for their education programs. C. Dybdahl invited S. Atwater to serve on the search committee. They are hoping to have someone hired by July 1. UAF will be starting with an internal search, which will be getting underway soon. As noted at the last meeting, at UAS Ronalda Cadiente Brown has accepted the position of Assistant Dean for Indigenous and Multicultural Education at UAS, continuing her role as Director of the PITAAS program —Preparing Indigenous Teachers and Administrators for Alaska's Schools, and assuming new responsibilities. K. Carey noted that S. Atwater will be overseeing the UAS faculty here, and this Assistant Dean will allow for someone to be an individual that they can go to on a daily basis.

7. Reports and plans: Spring 2018 faculty face-to-face meetings

L. Richardson noted that the work being done with the faculty members coming together to meet in person have been valuable and productive. She suggested including information about these in communications with the public, that faculty is working together on collaboration. Chair Caulfield asked that the council provide guidance on how often those faculty meetings should be and how they should be reported back to the council. Budget will also need to be considered in the upcoming year.

Updates:

- Educational Research – L. Richardson noted that this faculty group is meeting today. There are representatives arriving from all campuses to showcase ongoing work and also look at questions that might be continued to be asked across the state, looking for opportunities for collaboration, goals, and hopes.
- Graduate – C. Coulter reported that this group met on February 23. They had a great meeting with people from all 3 campuses and are currently working on getting meeting notes to this council, including a chart that delineates the different programs and the different needs.

- Secondary – J. Bartels said that the program leads met on February 23 to plan the larger faculty group meeting. They agreed that moving too fast could destabilize all of their programs, and it is important to be thoughtful and deliberate in the moves made to increase collaboration. This process will take years to develop an enhanced coordination, where all three are supporting each other. There is a lot of promise and possibility. The full secondary faculty meeting will take place on April 13.
- Alaska Native teacher preparation – Chair Caulfield noted that the Alaska Native Studies Conference will be held at UAS April 14-16. There are a number of conference presentations planned on teacher preparation. A program is available online.

The council discussed the frequency for these discipline-related faculty meetings. It was agreed that these meetings are quite valuable and should be continued. Chair Caulfield made note that having a meeting in the fall and again in the spring would be ideal, but that he and S. Atwater would need to discuss timing and funding. Chair Caulfield does think it would be a good idea to give more visibility to what emerges from the meetings, and to make sure the public is aware that they are taking place. He thinks that having the written report from a faculty facilitator after the meetings will help with that.

8. Planned council meeting schedules: Summer 2018 and Fall/Spring AY2018-19.

It was decided that during the summer there would be one meeting per month, and then in the fall resume biweekly meetings. Faculty council members will be provided 1 day of compensation for the summer and then in the fall move into a credit overload scenario. The summer meeting dates will be scheduled soon. S. Atwater and Chair Caulfield will meet next week and look at possible time frames, trying to avoid obvious conflicts. They will share those suggestions with the council next time.

9. Wrap-up and review of future meeting schedule

The April 13 meeting was canceled due to the ANSC and one of the faculty face to face groups. The April 27 meeting was changed to April 20, same time 8:30 to 10:30 AM.