

# UA Teacher Education Council

Friday, April 20, 2018, 8:30 – 10:00 AM

**DRAFT**

## 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
Prof. Ernestine Hayes		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, March 30, 2018**

There were no changes.

**4. Reports from the Spring 2018 Education faculty face-to-face meetings**

**Research:** The research group met in Fairbanks on March 30 to discuss the role of research in the state of Alaska. Dayna DeFeo, Director of CAEPR also joined. Their objectives for the meeting were to 1) build knowledge across institutions about current research projects; 2) showcase findings and gaps in the research that might be pursued; and 3) identify opportunities for collaboration around central research questions, for pursuing funding sources and leveraging expertise across the system. They discussed increasing opportunities to network with school districts and support for navigating systems across the state. They talked about forming a UA-wide graduate student colloquy, funding sources for this, and how it could benefit recruitment. They also talked about creating a publication showcase for student and faculty work. C. Coulter noted there is a lot of interest nationally in what the UA system is doing.

Chair Caulfield asked about CAEPR involvement in the discussions. L. Richardson said that Dayna DeFeo broke out how they engage with staff and what resources they can provide. They are interested in cross-MAU collaboration shared research. Chair Caulfield asked S. Atwater about his work with Northwest Lab; if there are links with CAEPR. S. Atwater said CAEPR is a great resource, but is more dependent on stimuli from external sources. He said that ISER is interested in growing CAEPR but would require accessing outside resources to make that happen. C. Coulter has worked with CAEPR; there is a lot of data collection that intersect with CAEP, and they are working on instruments, finding out what they need in terms of CAEP and how that relates to broader questions they can address. They are really good with grants, and have supported her in one recently. Northwest Labs is very interested in working with the university for English language learners, and were listed as an evaluator. C. Coulter pointed out that recently a book was published by Agatha John-Shields, a doctoral student from UAF and several faculty at UAA. Chair Caulfield congratulated everyone who had contributed to that. He will get a copy soon and would encourage everyone to read that.

S. Atwater said there is interest in the emergent bilingual research going on at UAF, which extends down into the work UAA is doing. C. Coulter has been collaborating on programs across the system. She and colleagues are hoping to support programs that share coursework and provide predictable and sustainable programs. Expertise fits well together, different areas of strength. They have been talking about building capacity for state of the art programs. L. Richardson said there have been generative conversations in M.Ed. Programs focusing on language and literacy. There is a wide range of expertise that allows us to think about how we might capitalize on those strengths in coursework, and also look at redundancies that could be streamlined. The most exciting thing to her is bringing these opportunities forward for graduates to engage in a rich M.Ed., and people coming forward with recommendations for reading specialists and ESL teachers. These complement each other well. C. Dybdahl said that in the past there was a big push and effort to seek more collaboration between the three universities and had done interesting things including shared K12 reading specialist program. She is glad to hear it is happening again. Chair Caulfield noted that in their work with the superintendents, two comments were made about the desire to link up with real time needs of principals, superintendents and classroom teachers. He would like to engage in that conversation with faculty involved in research to see where interest is and what applications there are for classrooms across the state.

They plan to get together again in the fall and have more focused group discussions.

**Secondary:** J. Bartels said faculty discussed commonalities and how content methods courses are approached in different ways across UA. He noted that the number of faculty in secondary across UA is quite limited. Each university has about 2 people running programs that serve up to 8 different content areas. They discussed how to better work together to address capacity issues they face. There are opportunities to create things from the ground up. Talked about using some K12 components as a jumping off point, like PE, music, and art, which require licensure with secondary education programs.

K. Spangler commented that she was looking over the notes from the elementary meeting and noted discussions about music and PE. UAS may serve a role in the state for PE programs so that they can be a PE teacher. This is true for elementary as well. Need to do something about the specialist areas. Would also add emergent teachers to that list.

Chair Caulfield said the UATEC has talked in broad terms about having these faculty groups continue to meet on a semi-regular basis. He plans to work with Steve Atwater in his new role to secure funding that will allow for this.

5. **ACSA Fly-in workshop feedback:** Rick and Steve attended the ACSA Juneau Fly-in, April 8, which included superintendents, principals, and others from around the state. There was great interest and encouragement from districts across the state in the work the UATEC is doing. They are interested in adding clarity to the relationship between the university and the districts. Steve summarized the feedback received. Group was about 60-70 people, and about 30 people turned in cards with answers to these questions:
1. Is there a UA process or policy tied to UA teacher preparation that you view as limiting or not making sense?
  2. Because of the teacher shortage there is interest in UA offering alternative teacher certification pathways. Given what you know about teacher preparation and the limitations and advantages of alternative certification, how supportive are you to UA developing an alternative pathway for teacher certification?

Their feedback shows a lack of understanding of what is happening on the inside, i.e. reference to student teaching time, when we have 1000 hours of that. This is an opportunity to share what we are doing. There were comments about a lack of required participation from principals in the evaluation of student teachers. School leaders felt that K12 should have a greater role in program design. They are generally in favor of alternative certification, but had trepidation. There was a suggestion of having a micro-credential as a way to drive certification; this is being used more and more on the professional development side of K12. They would like to see a push for paraprofessionals playing a greater role. Steve noted that at UAF they are working hard to address that. This is a good sampling of feedback, but the bottom line is that there is a need to continue these types of interaction, to help them understand what the university is actually doing.

S. Atwater noted that the number of people looking for teaching positions is dwindling. A recent teacher fair brought the lowest attendance ever. It will behoove UA to work on addressing that need. Politically UA will need to respond soon because the K12 voice is much louder than UA voice in that realm. Would be a mistake not to respond. UA's role will be critical in helping with the induction piece once people are actually in the classroom.

C. Dybdahl asked if alternative certification programs would need to be accredited. S. Atwater said that the state would have to approve the pathway. CAEP would also need to approve for national accreditation. C. Dybdahl said she hopes that one thing we can do under the UA umbrella is to get really good data about where are the shortages,

what are the content areas, so that we can make our existence strategically meeting the need exactly what it is. Combine resources, figure out how to address it. She feels that sometimes decisions are made without looking at the actual needs.

Chair Caulfield asked the council members to think about what will be the important nexus of engaging with superintendents and other educational leaders, like the commissioner and his staff. Think about what mechanisms available to UA to make sure that misconceptions are addressed and opportunities fully explored.

S. Atwater said it will be important to get on the agendas of meetings like this to address this. The commissioner is interested in expanding the partnership between UA and K12. The UA External Advisory Council was developed to advise this process and does include K12 representation. It may make sense to expand that role, and he will work with the President and this council. Chair Caulfield noted it would it make sense to have a once a year meeting between the UATEC and the advisory council. S. Atwater noted he doesn't believe there is an external sense of the depth of the work being done. There are opportunities to share what we are doing, to make sure those are as clear as possible to these external groups.

6. **Alaska Native Studies Conference, Juneau, April 13-15**

Chair Caulfield noted that UAS hosted this statewide event last weekend. There were about 200 participants. This event rotates each year between the three universities. Ernestine Hayes was co-chair and shared this report:

The Alaska Native Studies Council holds this conference on a regular basis (annually in recent years), with UAS, UAA, and UAF taking turns as host. This year (2018), Juneau hosted with the theme "Past, Present, Future, Working Together." The planning committee made special efforts to include students and community members as well as scholars, and were pleased that over 200 people participated.

Our focus on Education got off to a solid start with a PhD pre-conference event led by Juneau Education faculty Alberta Jones with 45 Native PhDs, PhD candidates, and their guests attending the pre-conference activities.

At Saturday's conference, attendees were danced in, were welcomed by Aak' waan people upon whose land UAS is located, and were acknowledged. Over the two-day conference, sessions on such subjects as Inupiaq Studies, Permafrost Teaching Kits, Alaska Native Writing Style Guide, Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Language in K-12 Stem Education, Visual Arts, Mathematics, Indigenous Science, Critical Theory, and many more such subjects were presented.

Participants discussed the need for indigenous faculty to meet and discuss possible collaboration, and the need to forward indigenous education as an FY20 priority. This all will begin with teachers in place now, and those that are being prepared. This Council, with the voices across the state, is in an excellent position to help identify the issues and how to go after funding to make that possible.

Next year's conference is planned for UAA. Their planning committee has it structured so that every odd year they have working, writing sessions at the Kenai campus, with rotation of hosting the Conference on even years. Discussed possible engagement and involvement of UATEC for the next Kenai meeting, looking at helping with policy formulation. Timing is perfect for UATEC priorities. P. Ongtooguk noted that all faculty (whether Alaska Native or not) interested in indigenous education are welcome and should be encouraged to attend.

7. **Selection of Executive Dean, Alaska College of Education**

At the end of March the University of Alaska Teacher Education Council recommended Steve Atwater for the Executive Dean of the UAS Alaska College of Education. Atwater will begin his new position on July 1. One of Atwater's priorities is to bring the UATEC together at the end of August for a full day retreat to establish meeting norms, and to begin work on a strategic plan for Education programs across the state. Thereafter, the Council will hold bi-weekly meetings through the academic year.

8. **Updates:**

**UA FY19 budget relating to Education** – UA is waiting for the legislature to act on the university's budget and there are important components related to education and education leadership. There have been ongoing discussions within university leadership about different scenarios depending on where the budget lands. President Johnsen and the BOR see Alaska College of Education as a priority and remain supportive. Chair Caulfield is confident we will see some new investments in teacher education.

**CAEP accreditation updates** – S. Atwater updated on the visit happening soon at UAF. Team arrives tomorrow night and will work beginning Sunday afternoon, leaving Tuesday. This should provide good feedback on where we are. Feels good about it, but is a daunting task ahead. D. Kardash noted there is a good community of student teachers, mentors cooperating teachers, students, to help explain what they do at UAF. C. Dybdahl noted that Anchorage is next for a CAEP visit.

**Educators Rising/Alaska Teacher Placement (ATP)** – National conference coming up. Students representing Alaska compete, and it is an opportunity for training. Gaining more traction with school districts across the state. ATP is an ongoing effort to recruit; it is increasingly difficult to find people wanting to come to Alaska to teach. The past model may have run its course and ATP is looking at revamping itself moving forward.

**UNAC Faculty Initiative Funding RFP** – This initiative came out as a result of CBA with UNAC and UA. It references opportunities for cross-university collaboration including the things like this council. Chair Caulfield is interested in knowing if council members and their colleagues are aware of anyone taking advantage of this opportunity. He is thinking about the recent reports about faculty getting together regarding research, indigenous and minority education. This is an opportunity for funding for those efforts. S. Atwater said that Joanne Healy is submitting, specifically relating to UAF-area children with autism and using dogs in partnership with veterans' organization. S. Henrichs said they have not been specific about limits or minimums for awards, but thinks there

would be an underlying desire to have it spread across all three universities. The deadline is next week, April 27. Would guess it would be an underlying desire to spread it across all three. Rick noted deadline of April 27, next week.

**Other opportunities discussed** were the UAF Indigenous Languages Institute in May, and the Tleix Yaak'w/One Canoe conference in Juneau in June. Sealaska Heritage is also putting on a culturally responsive education conference in August.

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

Discussed the possibility of having summer meetings on the last Friday of each month for May, June, July, and August – a doodle poll will be sent out to help arrange that. [Decision was made subsequently not to hold summer meetings due to schedules].

Composition of the UATEC is expected to change with the new academic year. Steve Atwater will become chair and Chancellor Caulfield will step back from that role. Provosts will no longer serve but instead membership will include identified Education school 'directors' at UAA and UAF.

As noted above, Steve Atwater anticipates an all-day, face-to-face meeting of the UATEC in August. Chair Caulfield suggested having the group resume every other week meetings at this same time.

Chair Caulfield thanked all of the council members for their active participation over the year. This group has come a long way, and he is pleased that S. Atwater is stepping into the role of chair as of July 1. He is mindful that S. Henrichs will be retiring, and thanked her for her commitment to the university system as a respected and greatly appreciated administrator.