

University of Alaska Southeast

Faculty Senate Notes

4 September 2020

3:00 – 5:00

Via Zoom

President – D. Noon	X
Past President – H. Batchelder	X
President Elect – A. Dewees	X
AK COE – G. Sampson	X
Business & Public Admin – M. Boyer	X
Career Ed. – J. Fantasia	X
Humanities – K. Krein	X

Juneau Campus – F. Wagner	X
Ketchikan Campus – R. Landis	X
Library – J. Ward	X
Natural Sciences – S. Nagorski	X
Sitka Campus – J. Markis for J. Martin	X
Social Sciences – D. Monteith	X
Provost – M. Haavig	X

Guests: C. Bennet, D. Cox, P. Pitney

I. Call to Order

II. Introductions

III. Announcements (TC 0:30)

- a. The Board of Regents (BOR) meeting is next week, September 10-11.
- b. Faculty under comprehensive review this promotion and tenure cycle need to submit their binders to their campus director or to the Provost's Office by close of business on Monday, September 14. A. Parrish has sent email messages regarding how to drop off binders in Juneau safely.
- c. A brief report on Convocation feedback is posted in the shared drive. Despite the pandemic limitations, the feedback is generally positive.
- d. Dean/Director evaluations are due [through this web link](#) to Chancellor Carey by October 1. For reference, the Position Description for your unit's leader can be found in the shared drive.
- e. H. Batchelder has posted [a form for Education faculty](#) to submit feedback about how teacher preparation should move forward collaboratively throughout the system.
- f. UA Interim President Pat Pitney is soliciting feedback on UA collaboration via [this Google form](#).
- g. Interim Vice Provost Maren Haavig is populating an inventory of existing UAS collaborative efforts [via this form](#).

IV. Approval of Agenda (TC 4:10) – *D. Monteith moved to approve the agenda. J. Ward seconded. No objections were noted.*

V. Approval of 1 May and 12 June Meeting Minutes (TC 4:50) – *D. Monteith moved to approve the minutes from the two meetings. J. Ward seconded. No objections were noted.*

VI. Guest: Interim UA President Pat Pitney (TC 5:45) – Interim President Pitney gave an overview of how she is gathering information and preparing to move forward as she takes on this new role. The budget presentation she gave to the BOR Audit Subcommittee has been added to the shared drive. Due to the compact with the state, further budget reductions will be made, and we should strive to find alignment when possible while having three institutions with three missions. She noted that the UA budget has

been cut seven of the last eight years, and will continue to shrink due to the compact. The changes will be difficult, and she seeks to work with the chancellors, faculty, and programs to identify our solid core programs as we reduce in size. Once we have established our smaller core of programs, we will need to create stability and build trust with students and our community. She will be on the Juneau campus September 17-18.

P. Pitney addressed questions raised by the senators. With regard to the incoming legislature, she believes that the compact will likely help prevent any further cuts. She acknowledged that much work must be done to rebuild trust within the system. It will be important to work efficiently together as we face a huge challenge in making such big cuts rapidly. With regard to across the board cuts, UAS's low enrollment is of great concern. Finding niche areas and strategic partners could help attract more students. For example, the Fisheries program could be showcased to bring in partnerships and students. There may also be ways to reduce the administrative footprint. While the fund balance is one tool, it has to be used very well. With regard to the chancellor search, she is still assessing the situation and is not ready to take action yet. She welcomes input.

VII. President's Report (TC 28:10) – D. Noon referred to his written report posted on the shared drive. He highlighted the following.

- He noted that A. Dewees will serve as Faculty Senate President Elect this year and her experience with the union is an asset.
- He attends the weekly UAS COVID incident management meetings and faculty who wish to provide feedback and concerns to the group can send their thoughts to him. M. Ciri continues to provide email updates from the group to the UAS community.
- The most recent Faculty Alliance (FA) meeting was held last Friday. M. Gower, UA Chief Equity and Compliance Officer, spoke about the new Title IX rules. While the current federal administration has made more types of student conduct permissible, the UA system will continue to have policies with more stringent expectations. Another change is that both parties to a Title IX report are now allowed an advisor to help represent them. These advisors require no skill or training. The university is considering assembling a pool of people to be available to serve in this capacity, but feedback from staff so far has been negative to this idea. Faculty input on this topic is welcome. The [online Title IX training module](#) is now live. The FA retreat will be held in October.
- Paul Layer, UA VP for Academics, Students, and Research, discussed COVID response and student mental health concerns across the system. He also discussed a possibility of addressing some UA debt with bonds to be matched by the legislature.
- H. Batchelder expanded on the request for input from Education faculty about moving forward with teacher education in the state. This is an opportunity to seek a 'bottom up' rather than 'top down' approach.

VIII. Interim Vice Provost's Report (TC 38:40) – M. Haavig noted that the form to gather information about collaboration was to prepare the chancellor with information she could share with the BOR about existing efforts they may not be aware of.

Faculty should assume that spring will look very much like fall with regard to course delivery and various campus services.

She encouraged faculty to listen in on the full BOR meeting next week. The BOR Academic and Student Affairs subcommittee met yesterday and heard information about accreditation and program reviews

from the three MAUs. UAS is not planning any expedited program reviews this year. UAA also does not expect to do any expedited program reviews this year, but will take them up if recommended cuts to athletic programs are not made. UAF reviewed half of their programs last year and will review the other half this year. The regents are paying closer attention to accreditation and teach outs in light of the experience with the recent program eliminations and the UAA teaching program accreditation issues. The BOR Audit committee met today, and President Pitney provided information to help bring them up to speed with how the budget process works. Pitney also emphasized that senior administrators are working on the budget issues and reviewed the difference between short-term tactics for cutting versus long-term planning for sustainability.

The faculty review committee assignment memo has gone out. The Provost's Office is working on safe drop off procedures for binders as well as scheduling workspaces and cleaning supplies for the committees to do their work safely. It will take more planning and coordination to do the reviews this year due to COVID and to allow for the mailing of the binders between Juneau and Sitka.

The City and Borough of Juneau has CARES Act funds for residents who are unemployed under employed due to COVID. This may help some of our students. The Financial Aid office is working with the city on this. The deadline will have to be extended beyond December 31.

- IX. IT Report (TC 48:35)** – C. Bennett reported that updates to Blackboard happened over the summer and some tools changed. There was an email forwarding policy change by the UA system that affected a small number of employees. Classroom Support, the Help Desk, and Media Services have been very busy with additional requests due to the pandemic. Zoom will begin enforcing a security change on September 27. Zoom meetings will now need to have a passcode or waiting room enabled. Blackboard is migrating to a web-based service and statewide staff are working to prepare for this change. Currently our system is based on a server in Fairbanks. The web-based version will require us to run the most current version of Blackboard. They are working to get a better backup generator for the Butrovich building in Fairbanks, which houses the UA data center. A recent power outage created a service gap and the new system should help prevent such problems in the future. There will be some outages during that change, likely in October, which will be communicated and kept to a minimum.
- X. CELT Report (TC 55:55)** – A written report from R. Gilcrist is in the shared drive. A Trauma-Informed Teaching Practices workshop was held earlier in the day. The next CELT event is at noon on September 11 and there will be a workshop on VoiceThread on September 22. The [CELT website](#) has a useful calendar of all upcoming opportunities.

XI. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees (TC 57:23)

- i. Undergraduate Curriculum** – D. Cox shared that the deadline for deans to submit the proposals for inclusion in the next catalog is October 1. The committee membership has been updated on the website.
- ii. Graduate Curriculum** – L. Richardson's written report is on the shared drive.
- iii. Research and Creative Activities** – D. Tallmon will chair the committee this year. They are just getting underway for the year and do not have much to report. They are considering combining a number of student events into one large springtime event this year.
- iv. Sustainability** – H. Pearson will chair the committee this year. There is not much to report yet from this committee as well.

b. Other/Shared Governance (TC 1:00:15)

- i. **Title IX** – If you have any technical problems with the new training module, please contact R. McAdams or A. Parrish for assistance.

XII. Old Business

- a. **Dual Enrollment (TC 1:01:35)** D. Noon noted that there is a report on the shared drive from the Spring 2020 FS Dual Enrollment Task Force. With enrollment being such a critical need, building relationships with high school students can help in the short run and can help as a long-term recruitment tool. There are two funding streams available to help support dual enrollment students with tuition. The statewide Alaska Advantage Program allows students to take specific classes for reduced tuition of \$500 per class. The STEPS grant at UAS can pay full tuition for the students. Ways for faculty to help promote dual enrollment have been discussed with leadership, such as creating lists of faculty and their disciplines who are willing to provide presentations to high school classes. The work could be less time consuming now that their classes are online. The school district is looking at UAS classes their students could take for elective credit. The more we can raise our profile amongst high school students in Southeast the better.

Senators discussed the work done so far by the task force and how best to move forward on dual enrollment growth. The provost has not yet responded to the report and recommendations made by the committee. M. Haavig will provide a response to the report and FS can then help set priorities. M. Haavig suggested the task force be retooled to include staff who work with this population as several logistical issues came up with staff and parents with the roll out of the Alaska Advantage program that could have been avoided.

H. Batchelder noted that Superintendent Weiss has been a great advocate for UAS and would welcome UAS faculty supporting district teachers. Faculty who might be willing to be guest speakers can let H. Batchelder know to help coordinate district need with subject area expertise.

XIII. New Business

- a. **Six-Year Course Sequence Committee (TC 1:16:12)** – D. Noon explained that A. Piotrowski, B. Urquhart, and M. Trafton were recently asked to review the sequence in light of how many faculty and program changes have occurred recently to ensure students can plan their course of study using it as a tool. They are looking for some guidance from FS as to how to proceed, and forming an ad hoc committee has been suggested. The pros and cons of creating a committee were discussed. The need to collaborate and coordinate well between programs, particularly in light of the president's remarks about downsizing to a smaller core of programs was emphasized. Senators were asked to discuss with their departments how best to maintain and update the sequence while meeting the needs of all students, and bring back feedback for further discussion at the next meeting.
- b. **Revising FS bylaws for elections (TC 1:30:15)** – D. Noon noted the recurring problem of finding a second candidate to run for president elect. The other MAUs do not require having a second candidate and it may be time to amend the bylaws to allow for an election with a single candidate. This could be done in conjunction with the annual review of the faculty handbook. M. Haavig suggested a review of section six of the bylaws as there are some extra actions needed at FS meetings for bylaw changes. If the handbook committee does not begin work until spring, there may be problems with getting the change enacted in time if we are not paying attention to those requirements.

- c. **Electronic Portfolios for Tenure and Promotion** (TC 1:35:05) – In light of COVID 19, the idea of electronic portfolios has been suggested by K. Carey. This was voted down by faculty most recently in Spring 2019 due to cost issues and concerns about their ability to represent some disciplines well.

XIV. Juneau Business items – None.

XV. Adjourn (TC 1:41:55) – The next meeting will be October 2. *D. Monteith moved to adjourn the meeting. S. Nagorski seconded. The meeting adjourned without objection.*

XVI. Faculty Discussion