



Faculty Senate

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

RESOLUTION ON STRATEGIC PATHWAYS

Approved by UAA Faculty Senate 04 November 2016

WHEREAS, the central mission of the University of Alaska System is to advance and disseminate knowledge through teaching, research, and public service, emphasizing the North and its diverse peoples; and

WHEREAS, for Strategic Pathways to be successful and credible in supporting that mission, it needs to be fair, deliberate, transparent; and it needs to reflect the diversity of existing viewpoints, collect necessary information, and demonstrate careful examination of the impacts of the options being considered; and

WHEREAS, [Regents Policy PO3.01.010](#) specifies that faculty participation in university governance be an integral part of the university community's culture whose purpose is to provide an effective opportunity to play a meaningful role in matters affecting their welfare; and

WHEREAS, [University Regulation Chapter 03.01.E.01](#) specifies that "it is the responsibility of Faculty Alliance to represent the faculty in areas that may include but are not limited to: coordination on matters relating to academic affairs such as academic program review; the addition, deletion or merging of academic programs; curriculum; subject matter and methods of instruction; degree requirements; grading policy; course coordination and transfer; student probation and suspension; standards of admission and scholastic standards; and other matters affecting the faculty, and/or the general welfare of the university and its educational purposes and effectiveness"; and

WHEREAS, the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) specifies in its [Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities, Item 5](#), "The faculty has primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process. On these matters the power of review or final decision lodged in the governing board or delegated by it to the president should be exercised adversely only in exceptional circumstances, and for reasons communicated to the faculty. It is desirable that the faculty should, following such communication, have opportunity for further consideration and further transmittal of its views to the president or board"; and

WHEREAS, the number of faculty appointed to participate in all phases of Strategic Pathways has been minimal; and

WHEREAS, faculty provide the necessary understanding of the impacts of changes currently being proposed on students, the community, and the university, and; and

WHEREAS, options currently being considered and implemented have significant impacts on programs and curriculum; and

WHEREAS, accrediting agencies stipulate the role of faculty in program design and in developing curriculum, for example the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities [Accreditation Standard 2.C.5](#) states, “Faculty, through well-defined structures and processes with clearly defined authority and responsibilities, exercise a major role in the design, approval, implementation, and revision of the curriculum...” and the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) [Eligibility Procedures and Accreditation Standards for Business Accreditation, Section 2, page 23](#) specifies, “Faculty resources develop and manage Curricula...”; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Pathways option discussions and implementation processes circumvent the established structures, processes, authority, and responsibility of faculty in program design and curriculum revision at each university; and

WHEREAS, there have been no baseline costs or reductions in costs identified in any of the Strategic Pathways recommendations; and

WHEREAS, [the Summit Team](#) and [Board of Regents Policy](#) profess the importance of shared governance; and

WHEREAS, the recent Faculty Morale Survey conducted at UAA indicates a significant amount of dissatisfaction with a lack of faculty involvement in the process that may be contributing to losses of the university’s most valuable faculty assets;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the UAA Faculty Senate recommends that President Johnsen and the University of Alaska and the Board of Regents not proceed with Strategic Pathways implementation until the following issues are addressed:

- Membership on Strategic Pathways Committees affecting academic programs have a plurality of representation from faculty in those programs, and
- Faculty members on Strategic Pathways Committees be selected by faculty from the programs under consideration; and
- Faculty members be allowed and encouraged to discuss the contents of Strategic Pathways options and implementation plans with the community so that they can collect the necessary feedback to ensure that the conclusions reached by these committees and the Summit team will be well informed and considered; and

- The Summit Team should include faculty governance leadership from all three institutions in deliberations and decision making on Strategic Pathways options; and
- The University of Alaska Statewide Offices complete and publish a financial cost benefit analyses of Strategic Pathways options being considered; and
- The University of Alaska Statewide Offices complete and publish, in addition to cost benefit analyses, further analyses focusing on non-financial aspects and a risk assessment of Strategic Pathways options being considered; and
- Strategic Pathways options be discussed by the Faculty Senates of the respective affected universities and by Faculty Alliance prior to the formation of implementation plans.