



Faculty Senate

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

October 2014

Report of the President

UA Regents Meeting September 18-19

The University of Alaska Board of Regents met in Juneau September 18-19. According to Dave Valentine, Faculty Alliance chair, who was in attendance, the UA Regents expressed anger at UA faculty for not moving forward quickly enough on implementation of the common calendar across the three universities. Moreover, the UAA Faculty Senate resolution from the September 2014 meeting, requesting that the Regents reconsider their decision, especially angered them.

The Regents also voted against a tuition increase, with several stating that UA needs to overhaul budgeting processes and delete "mediocre" programs. We do not know what data they were using in making these statements.

In response to public testimony at this and previous BOR meetings, Regent Wickersham has indicated that he will introduce a motion in December to change policy to make the UA system smoke-free.

A summary of actions taken by the Board of Regents is at: <http://www.alaska.edu/bor/agendas/2014/sep-18-19/>

The Board of Regents will be meeting in Anchorage December 11-12. Each day, there should be time for public testimony, generally at 8:30 am on Thursdays and 9:00 am on Fridays. Sign-up sheets are available each morning prior to the meeting. The Comments are limited to three minutes and are at times shortened to two minutes, depending on how many people show up. In addition the chair determines when public testimony is closed, whether or not everyone who has signed up has had time to speak. That said, we encourage faculty to come and share their input on issues before the Regents and also on broader issues of concern. If you cannot attend in person and would like to listen to the discussion, there is live video streaming except during executive session at: www.alaska.edu/oit/services/video-conferencing/streaming-conferences/

Tara Smith and I are also discussing with USUAA Student Body President Stacy Lucason a strategy for student outreach to the Regents and to the public (e.g., via *Compass* pieces) to make sure that their voices are heard on issues such as the common calendar.

Faculty Senate Meeting October 3, 2014

The faculty senate voted to approve a one semester extension of priority registration for Honor students. There was a lot of discussion about whether or not any particular group of students should have this privilege (currently the only other group who receives this is athletes). A larger conversation about this topic will happen over the next few months with Student Affairs and others.

The Senate also voted to establish an Emeriti Faculty Evaluation Process Ad Hoc Committee to develop comprehensive evaluation guidelines and procedures for the appointment of Professor Emeritus or Emerita.

We are also working with Academic Affairs to establish a Faculty Handbook Task Force. The questions this taskforce will address include the following:

- 1) unique content that should be included in the Faculty Handbook,
- 2) what existing information needs to be linked,
- 3) best location for electronic hosting

Faculty interested in serving on either of these committees should let me know.

Faculty Alliance

Faculty Alliance met on September 12. The Alliance finalized language on recommended actions in response to the Board of Regents policy on a common calendar, and resolution concerning UA General Education Requirements. The policy on the common calendar is attached to the October 2014 Faculty Senate agenda as an information item, but in short calls for a task force including three faculty members, three student services professionals (e.g., registrars), one “technical advisor” and a representative from a rural campus. The task force is charged with scoping and assessing “the benefits, costs and any mitigating or prohibitive circumstances to aligning elements of the calendar...” and also is to reach out to affected communities such as students, school districts, faculty members and so forth. A preliminary report is due December 1, 2014 and a final report February 16, 2015.

As a response to the resolution on developmental and GER courses, the Faculty Alliance is requesting that the English Community of Practice across the universities be reconvened, with representation from all three universities, and with support from University of Alaska Office of Academic Affairs and Research to meet and continue their work. Alliance is also the UAS Department of Mathematics, UAA Department of Mathematics and Statistics, UAA College Preparatory and Developmental Studies department, UAF Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and the UAF Department of Developmental Studies to form a working group who will work with the UA Registrars to:

1. Address the unifying of shared 200 and below course prefix, names, and numbers
2. Address the unifying of shared 200 and below course outcomes and descriptions
3. Determine how to proceed with the discussion on unifying placement tests, cut scores, and the length of time placement tests and prerequisite courses are valid
4. Determine what changes in current UA systems are necessary to implement these actions.

UAA Provost Search

The search for a new provost is moving forward. The committee has met and collaborated on developing the job description including the desired attributes for successful candidates. A rough timeline for the search is as follows:

- Early October – recruitment begins
- December – screening of candidates
- Early January – videoconference interviews with semi-finalists
- Early to mid-February – campus visits by finalists
- End of February – selection of provost

As soon as the job announcement is released, we will share it broadly. We encourage you to reach out to your colleagues on our and other campuses you think would be good, and get word out about the opening through your professional networks as well. Please contact me or other members of the search committee with any questions or ideas you have.

University of Alaska Vice President of Academic Affairs Search

The search committee for the VPAA has been set. Both Mark Fitch, past Faculty Senate President and I are serving on this committee. The position will be posted this week, with a closing date of December 31. Screening of candidates will be done in January, and the goal is to complete the search in mid-March. We will keep you informed on the progress, and again, if you know good candidates for this position, please encourage them to apply!

GELO GER Outcomes and UAA GER Outcomes

On September 14th, the GERC committee put forth a proposal around adopting the GELO GER outcomes. The response from many of you was very thoughtful and invited more discussion on this issue, including how best to link the UAA GER outcomes to the collaborative effort by our colleagues at UAA, UAS and UAF around developing common GER outcomes.

The Faculty Senate and GERC are working together on a process that will include as many voices as possible in creating a consensus around the GELO work. We are planning an open forum on October 24 to gather input on ideas for addressing this issue. Draft proposals will be sent prior to this forum. We will pull together this information, report out the results by November 3, and ask for your feedback again on how we proceed. GERC will consider all of the input at their regularly scheduled meeting on November 14. Our goal is for UAB to do a first reading on the final proposal that same day, and, if necessary, a second reading on November 21. The Faculty Senate will discuss and take action on the UAB approved proposal on December 5.

Survey of faculty and staff on Smoke-Free Policy and Related Issues

Dr. Gabriel M. Garcia and Dr. Joy Chavez Mapaye have finished summarizing the results of the survey of faculty and staff around the proposed smoke-free policy for UAA. A total of 439 staff and 313 faculty members completed the survey, with approximately 39% and 53% response rates, respectively, and around 200 departments/programs represented. More than 80% of UAA faculty and staff who responded to the survey support having a comprehensive smoke-free policy on campus, with more than 60% strongly supporting it. These results have been communicated to the UAA administration.

Community Campus Visits

I visited the Kenai River campus of the Kenai Peninsula College (KPC) in September. I had a chance to meet with faculty and administrators, and see the beautiful new residential hall and advanced career and technical center. I urge faculty members and staff from other campuses to stop by KPC if you are headed down the peninsula for any reason. Tara Smith and I will visit the Mat-Su campus on October 14.

Please let me know if you have ideas, concerns or comments!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Hirshberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail.

Diane Hirshberg
dbhirshberg@alaska.edu
907-786-5413