





December 10, 2015

TO: Tom Case, Chancellor 
FROM: Sam Gingerich, Provost 
SUBJECT: Response to the Faculty Senate Motion on Tanaina

I have considered the March 6, 2015 Faculty Senate Motion on the Tanaina Child Development Center (TCDC) and I have noted my disapproval. I am providing these comments to you to frame my action.

The motion stated, "The Faculty Senate strongly urges the UAA Chancellor and Chancellor's Cabinet to reaffirm UAA's partnership with the TCDC by explicitly charging the current task force with finding space preferably on or near the UAA campus in line with the recommendations of the UAA 2010 Child Care Task Force Report to ensure that TCDC returns operations to campus by the start of classes in Fall 2015."

There is complete agreement with the first part of the motion. The Chancellor and the Chancellor's Cabinet did affirm partnership with TCDC by explicitly charging the task force with finding space for TCDC. Consideration was first given to finding space on campus and, when this determined to not be feasible, the focus turned to finding a location near the UAA campus. To this end, the task force facilitated the move of TCDC from UAA to St. Mary's Episcopal Church last May. In addition, the university provided some modest financial assistance for the center's moving expenses and summer space rental. This was done to ensure a smooth transition and ensured uninterrupted care for Tanaina families.

However, the last section of the motion seems to be contradictory, stressing that TCDC should have been returned to campus by the start of classes this fall. For a set of reasons that were articulated throughout the discussion last spring, this was not possible. TCDC continues to operate at St. Mary's.

Since the motion called for the return to campus, I have signed noting my disapproval.

If you elect to disapprove this motion, the Constitution of the Faculty Senate does suggest a path forward. Specifically, Section 5 or Article XI allows for the Senate to authorize the creation of a reconciliation committee tasked to formulate a recommendation to be considered by the Senate and the administration. This will allow for continued discussions of this issue because it is important to many students and to some employees of UAA.

Feel free to follow up if you have questions.