

## Office of Academic Affairs Faculty Senate Report

Welcome to the start of the Fall 2025-2026 Academic Year. Each month, the Office of the Provost is pleased to provide a summary of our ongoing work, with highlights of accomplishments, notice of forthcoming efforts and events, and reminders about key processes, dates, and deadlines. Please make time to read these notices; if you miss one, or need to refer back, you can find all of our reports along with a variety of other information and messages at the [UAA Provost Communications](#) website.

### Office of the Provost



I begin this month with hearty congratulations to the faculty, staff, and students of the UAA College of Health as they cut the ribbon on the [new lab and health simulations center](#), in the renovated Sally Monsrud Hall.

Also, the 4 finalists for the College of Health Dean position have now had their campus visits. For those who have attended sessions with the candidates, and/or have the

chance to view the recorded [Open Forums](#), I strongly encourage you to also submit the feedback form for the search committee's use in compiling the strengths and weaknesses and helping us to move the search forward.

Finally, a kind reminder that we will be soon launching the search as well for the Dean of the College of Business and Public Policy. I look forward to working collaboratively with faculty and staff on that process as well.

Please direct questions or comments to the Provost ([uaa\\_provost@alaska.edu](mailto:uaa_provost@alaska.edu))

## Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness

As you prepare for our NWCCU site visit, for inspiration, you might take a look at the Graduate Exit Survey results on the [Surveys and Results](#) page of the Institutional Research website. Your students not only recognize their own personal growth relative to the core competencies. They acknowledge the role of UAA's awesome faculty and staff in helping them get there!



Share your stories and examples!

### Reaffirmation of Accreditation Site Visit Forums (All in LIB 307)

**Faculty Forum:** Wednesday, October 8, 3:00-3:50 p.m.

**Staff Forum:** Thursday, October 9, 10:00-10:50 a.m.

**Student Forum:** Thursday, October 9, 11:00-11:50 a.m.

*(Please plan to attend only the forum that aligns with your primary role at UAA. Per NWCCU, supervisory personnel should not attend these forums.)*

How do you personally contribute to UAA's mission and to student learning and success? What opportunities are there to participate in governance and decision making in your unit or at the institutional level? What makes you proud to be at UAA? What would you improve?

Please direct any questions to Senior Vice Provost of Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness Susan Kalina ([smkalina@alaska.edu](mailto:smkalina@alaska.edu))

## Student Success Report

As the days darken, thank you, faculty and staff, for being sources of light to our students! We'd like to highlight the contributions of the [Learning Commons](#) and its team of dedicated staff and student workers. **Over the course of the 2024-2025 academic year, subject tutors had over 6,300 appointments with students.** Our Academic Coaches also had over 150 appointments, assisting students with things like time management, technology and software help, goal setting, and study skills. The Learning Commons serves students across all campuses and also is open to community members. One way UAA moves together into tomorrow is through the weekly [English Conversation Group](#) facilitated by Professor Sarah Kirk. If you haven't been in the Learning Commons lately, stop by and check out the new murals Professor Thomas Chung has



been working on since the summer. Faculty are welcome to bring their whole class in for a session!

The Student Success Pep Rally will take place during [Homecoming Week](#) on Thursday, October 16th from 11:30am-1:00pm in the Consortium Library Amphitheater. Come and let us know who is making a difference at UAA by shouting out students, faculty, and/or staff. We'll also have a form in the Green & Gold that you can fill out and our amazing emcee will do a shout-out on your behalf.

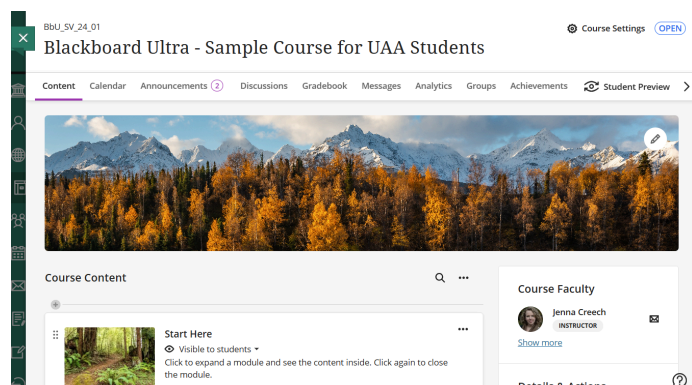
[Education Abroad](#) will host a Study Abroad Fair on Wednesday October 29, from 9:30am-12:30pm in the SSB Lobby. Study Abroad program providers will be there to discuss their opportunities for students to participate in summer, semester, and year-long programs. Some things to know about Education Abroad include that students really don't have to be any particular major to take advantage of these opportunities; in many cases a student's financial aid can be applied to study abroad programs and many of our partners offer scholarships; and there are shorter-term programs in January and the summer. Over the past couple of years the most popular destinations for UAA students have been Japan and Spain.

Mark your calendars for the Annual Student Research and Creative Scholarship Showcase on Friday April 17, 2026.

Please direct any questions to Vice Provost of Student Success Ray Ball ([rball11@alaska.edu](mailto:rball11@alaska.edu))

## Faculty Success Report

As we start the academic year, I'd like to thank the [Instructional Design](#) team and UAA Faculty for the outstanding efforts in our transition to Blackboard Ultra. **UAA now has 47% (837/1772) available Fall 2025 courses in Ultra**, and the remaining 53% still in Original. This is an increase from approximately 20% of courses last Summer, and 12% last Spring, 2025. We are well on our way to



being fully in Ultra by the Fall 2026 deadline! However, continued progress requires continued coordination, communication, and support for faculty.

If you are interested in converting your courses for Spring, Instructional Design has developed a one-week, [asynchronous training](#) to help orient you in Ultra, help you evaluate how easily your courses will convert, and walk you through the conversion process. The next training is from October 13-17, with more coming soon.

Faculty Success would like to hear from you about how AI is changing the faculty experience. Join the Center for Advancing Faculty Excellence (CAFE) for an open conversation about how artificial intelligence is shaping teaching, learning, and faculty work at UAA. This is a space for faculty to share their experiences, concerns, and ideas. Sessions will be October 15 (2:00-3:00pm) and October 23 (9:00-10:00am) in LIB 211M with the option to join via Zoom. [Register here](#)

The Faculty Success offices can be reached [here](#). Please direct questions to Vice Provost Colin McGill ([cmmcgill@alaska.edu](mailto:cmmcgill@alaska.edu)).