Office of Academic Affairs Faculty Senate Report

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

Kudos: I recently had the distinct pleasure of attending a "soft open" at the UAA Culinary Arts faculty and students' lunch service at Lucy's. I always enjoy any opportunity where we can showcase the efforts of our UAA faculty, staff, and students.

The photo here is of the chocolate dessert, which was (not surprisingly) both beautiful and delicious. Kudos to the entire team at UAA Culinary Arts!

Another "shout out" is due to the members of the College of Health Dean search committee for conducting such an expeditious and effective search process. Dr. Jay Butler has accepted our offer and will begin in his new role on December 28th.

Thanks as well to the search committee that is beginning the search for the College of Business & Public Policy Dean. I'll continue to provide updates; we anticipate candidates on campus in mid-spring.

Important Update: as we begin the process of creating schedules for Summer 2026 and Fall 2026, I need to update you about some key changes that will impact the process. First, the shared scheduling deadlines that apply to UAA, UAS, and UAF were recently updated, with a goal to provide a longer window for students to register. The result is that the time allotted to schedule creation and for editing schedules has shortened. At about the same time, a new Alaska law is coming into effect that will require even more compression of the scheduling process. The new law requires us to provide information when students are registering about whether course materials are free (ZTC) or are low cost (LTC) as defined in the law–which is

different from how UAA previously defined it. In order to make this all work, numerous offices have collaborated with a goal of minimizing, to the extent possible, any negative impacts on the overall scheduling process. A key change for faculty is that they will no longer need to identify to the scheduler which courses use a free (ZTC) or low cost (LTC) book, *because the bookstore is now able to provide that information based on faculty submissions.* A second key change is that the definition of "low cost" must now change to meet the requirements of the new law. Previously, UAA defined any course materials that were ≤$40 as being low cost. With the new law, this will change based on the new definition.

Thank you to all faculty, staff, and administrators who are involved in the scheduling and book ordering processes. These are an important part of how we are putting students first, together!

Please direct questions or comments to the Provost (uaa_provost@alaska.edu)

Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness

Kudos: As this is our first governance report since the October NWCCU site visit, we wish to extend gratitude and congratulations to all the faculty, staff, students, and administrators who contributed to finalizing the report and planning the visit and who participated in meetings with the peer evaluators. UAA's collegial spirit, commitment to students, and really tasty baked goods made a very positive impression!

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

Student Success Report

Our Title III SAGE Success Grant has entered Year 3! Last month we had our annual external evaluation visit. Shout out to all the faculty, students, and staff who participated in those meetings. We would like to share that we are on target with the majority of the grant objectives. We've fully centralized tutoring services through the Learning Commons and successfully created and implemented comprehensive assessment of all current SAGE Success Programs. One of our Year 2 objectives was that students enrolled in target high-DFW gateway courses will succeed at a rate of 66%. We met that with a success rate of 69.9%. We truly appreciate faculty participation in the program and all of the peer-to-peer support that LAs, academic coaches, peer advisors, and tutors provide.

We are currently inviting Anchorage campus faculty who teach high DFW courses to submit their interest in joining the Learning Assistant Program for the Spring 2026 semester by Sunday, November 9th. To learn more about the Learning Assistant Program visit uaa.alaska.edu/LA or get in touch with Program Director for Peer to Peer Retention Initiatives Kearney Lewis at knlewis4@alaska.edu.

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

Faculty Success Report

Resources Available to Support Faculty with Accessibility

Faculty Success is here to support you with accessibility for your course materials. Our resources include:

- **Make Your Content Accessible (Asynchronous Online Training)**: This is an asynchronous training to help instructors learn basic accessibility skills, evaluate content for accessibility, and identify and fix inaccessible content in their courses. It should take about 3 hours to complete, with additional optional modules for instructors creating specific types of content. We recommend this training for all instructors without previous accessibility training or experience. Register for an upcoming session to participate.

- **Accessibility Afternoons (Monthly Virtual Workshop)**: Join the UAA Instructional Design team online on the last Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. for a workshop on making your content accessible. Each month looks at a different accessibility topic, followed by an open Q&A. We include resources on the monthly topic in our Faculty Success newsletter as well. Register for Accessibility Afternoons to be added to a calendar event, receive session recordings, and submit questions. The Accessibility Afternoons Info document has links to past recordings and descriptions of the topics for upcoming sessions.

- **Accessibility Support appointments with an Instructional Designer**: These appointments are regularly available, providing opportunities for faculty to work directly with an instructional designer, either over Zoom or in person. Book an appointment online, or reach out directly via email (uaa_instructionalmedia@alaska.edu).

Additionally, we have a channel of Accessibility Videos on Kaltura which includes all past accessibility-related recordings of sessions from Teaching Academies and the Accessibility

Afternoons workshops, as well as short explainer videos on accessibility topics, and other relevant recordings. Our Faculty Success website includes [UAA Accessibility Resources and Information](#) and [UAA Accessibility Tools](#) pages that contain more information as well.

If you have concerns or questions about accessibility or would like to discuss specific approaches, strategies, resources, or trainings that would be helpful for your colleges, schools, campuses and departments, please let us know. We want to do our best to support you as we strive to make UAA a more accessible environment for all.

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