

## 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

As we near the end of the Fall semester, I want to offer gratitude to each member of the UAA Faculty. For those who are teaching our students, those who are conducting research, and all who are serving our university and broader community in myriad ways. Thank you!

I'll have more to share during my verbal report to the Senate, but I wanted to give you all a heads up that the February 2026 Board of Regents meeting will likely include discussion of a UA Systemwide Academic Portfolio Review. This idea has been brewing for some time, and was elevated in the recent report from EAB for [UA System Student Attainment Framework](#). The process will likely involve, at minimum, a high level look at current offerings, enrollment, and completions across the 3 universities, with an eye to understanding how well we are meeting workforce needs and student interests/demand, as well as such perennial concerns as efficiency and duplication.

**Important Policy Reminder:** All faculty need to meet during the scheduled Final Exam time if your class is scheduled as an in person course (meaning, either on campus on or zoom). The full time is needed in order to meet the regulations for our [Contact Hour policy](#). If you are teaching asynchronously, however, you should not give an exam at a "scheduled" time. If you need to give an exam in an asynchronous course, you should offer a reasonably broad window of time, since a primary reason students take asynchronous courses is to accommodate their work and/or family commitments. Most of our students take a blend of course modalities, and so some of your students may also have an exam already scheduled for whatever time you might choose.



**Kudos** also, to the College of Business & Public Policy, for their recently opened “Suite” (pictured here) which is a dedicated student area in Rasmusson Hall. Campus vibrancy is improved when students and faculty can come together to study and collaborate, and this new space is well planned to facilitate such connections.

Speaking of CBPP, the search for the College’s next Dean is underway. Thanks to all of the committee members, and especially to search committee co-chairs Helena Wisniewski and CTC Dean Ray Weber. We look forward to welcoming finalists to campus in the spring.

Finally, please make plans to attend the end of the semester ceremonies:

- [Fall Awards Ceremony](#) for Emeritus/Emerita, Meritorious Service and Honorary Degree recipients.
- Our Graduate Hooding.
- Commencement ceremonies.

Your colleagues, and our students, want to see you supporting them at these milestone events, so please make every effort to attend!

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

## Student Success Report

As we head into finals week, the OSS team wants to thank you for your contributions to student success. Faculty, as you read those final papers and evaluate those final projects, please consider encouraging your students to submit to the Annual Student Showcase on April 17, 2026.

Last month the Strategic Enrollment Management Recruitment and Retention Committee provided over \$94,000 in microgrant funding to students who had holds on their accounts because of balances between \$500 and \$2000. Through coordinated efforts between Student Affairs and Student Success staff, we have cleared the barriers for 69 students to register for their spring courses.



**Kudos** to the Seawolf Debate Team. Over 15 members of the squad will be participating in a

tournament at Seattle University December 5-7. They will be joined by several UAA alumni who are serving as judges.

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

## Faculty Success Report

### Resources Available to Support Faculty with Accessibility

As we all approach the end of another incredible semester, I want to thank you all for the outstanding work you do with your students in and out of the classroom and your contributions to your fields with your research and scholarship. Looking forward to next semester, there are a few opportunities I want to highlight.



This year's [Winter Teaching Academy \(WTA\)](#) and Adjunct Academy and Orientation will focus specifically on helping faculty convert their courses to [Blackboard Ultra](#). At WTA you will learn how to convert your courses to Ultra, use features of Ultra (discussions, tests, accessibility, grading), add tools (LTIs), and integrate publisher content. Registration is now open, so check out the schedule to see what sessions you'd like to attend, and save the date.

[Confluence](#) is a faculty development series in which faculty of all levels engage one another discussing challenging aspects of the UAA faculty experience. This year's topic ranges from burnout, cultivating leadership, navigating professional challenges, and more. Check out the schedule to see descriptions of each session and decide which you would like to attend. Come ready to engage in conversation, share experiences, and support one another in achieving professional goals.

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