![UAA Academic Affairs - University of Alaska Anchorage logo]

December 6, 2024

Communication

Provost

As one of our UAA Core Competencies, we have already affirmed that effective communication is vital to our University community. In an article about the challenges of serving as a provost, Theresa Billiott noted:

> *Even if you send countless emails, participate in college meetings, host listening sessions, lead town hall sessions and attend faculty senate meetings, people can still complain that you aren't communicating sufficiently or well enough.*

I certainly take this message to heart. Throughout my career, I've wanted, but probably not always been able, to communicate "sufficiently" and "well enough." One of the reasons I provide long, written messages is because I hope that faculty will share them with colleagues, reference them during discussions, and–especially–follow up if they generate questions or if you want to give feedback.

I joke regularly that nearly my entire job consists of meetings. With 17 individuals who report directly to me, that is absolutely true, but it also means that I often have to rely upon these employees to communicate my ideas, decisions, and actions to broader audiences. We all recognize that such communication has its own challenges.

I would love to hear your feedback on what, how, and when, you want to hear information directly from the Provost. Would you prefer short videos? A regular newsletter? Are these written Senate Reports and the regular Provost Communications to Faculty helpful?

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

Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness

A priority for Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness is to get faculty, staff, and administrators the information they need. We have created several websites to try to meet this need, and they are described below.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Academic and Related Policies and Procedures This is where you find policies and processes that are not in the catalog. Examples include the Course Fee Policy; policies related to teaching online, accessibility and Regular and Substantive Interaction; syllabus guidance; and the Standard Time Blocks for scheduling. Under procedures you will also find a link to guidance and templates for the Academic Dispute Resolution Procedure, among other processes.

Prior Learning This is where you find the department forms for evaluating UAA equivalencies such as through credit by certification, credit by examination, and credit by portfolio; as well as current articulation agreements.

Curriculum This is where you find guidance related to all things curriculum, such as the Curriculum Handbook, the catalog templates, CCGs for courses that are not yet fully in the CIM system, and available course numbers. This is also where you find access to the course and program management systems, the forms for Experimental Courses and for new prefixes, as well as information about the new program proposal process.

Program Student Learning Outcomes Assessment This is where you find information about the value and goals of assessment, the assessment process and cycle, as well as assessment plans and past reports. Look under your college for specific information about the seven-year cycle, as well as the relevant plans and reports.

Academic Program Review This is where you find information about the value and priorities for Program Review, the seven-year schedule of reviews, past reviews, and the annual reports to the Board of Regents.

Continuing Studies - Coming soon. This page is under construction, as UAA is moving to an institutional approach to noncredit offerings. It is where you will find information about the different processes and procedures for offering noncredit opportunities, ranging from personal enrichment opportunities to professional development opportunities.

Licensure and Certification This site is required by the US Department of Education. For programs that lead to licensure issued by the State of Alaska, this page shows whether or not the UAA program also meets licensure or certification requirements in each of the 50 states and nine US territories. Faculty contributed hours of work to make the determinations posted here. Thank you to those faculty!!!

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Institutional Accreditation Here is where you find information about the current institutional accreditation cycle, which has been in play for the past 6 years. The items here include the Student Success Metrics reports, as well as materials from the numerous Open Forums and workshops held around such topics as the Core Competencies. There is also a link to NWCCU Reports and Responses. Of particular note: UAA's Fall 2024 Policies, Regulations and Finances Report, the NWCCU-requested addendum, and the corresponding evidence site for the report. You will also find documents from UAA's 2021 mid-cycle evaluation, as well as our 2020 Ad Hoc report.

Institutional Peers These were selected at the beginning of this accreditation cycle. As part of our year of self-reflection, UAA is relooking at this list of peers.

Institutional Research The Institutional Research page includes quick facts, known as UAA by the Numbers, a series of public dashboards and websites to show, for example, progress on mission fulfillment and student success goals, as well as comparison with our peers. The site also includes a list of resources, including a page that lists resources used by leadership and others in environmental scanning to provide context for decision making, as well as a page required by the US Department of Education called the Student Consumer Information page.

Please direct questions to Senior Vice Provost Susan Kalina (smkalina@alaska.edu)

Student Success Report

One of our priorities in the Office of Student Success is to provide faculty and staff with information and tools that can foster student success. One of the key ways that we communicate this is through our website. On our website you can find everything from which academic advisors serve which degrees and programs to Navigate FAQs (a new training library will be coming soon, as well).

The Learning Commons updates its website nearly daily in order to communicate accurate information around tutoring hours and the availability of our peer-to-peer tutors. Our tutors not only help to communicate subject matter to students so that they gain greater understanding but they also will walk students through how to communicate with their professors or how to use UAA technologies like Blackboard.

The Office of Student Success also relies on emails. For example, we recently sent out an email asking faculty to save the date of 4/18 from 9am to 1pm for the Annual Student Research and Creative Activity Showcase. We will be sending out a follow up soon with

a nomination form that will allow faculty to let students know that they thought their work in the lab, classroom, or studio was phenomenal and worthy of submission to the showcase.

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

Faculty Success Report

Faculty Success aims to provide professional development resources and support for all UAA faculty throughout their careers. These resources and support are only effective if faculty are both broadly aware of them and how and when they can access them. The Faculty Success website is a fantastic source for upcoming events, resources to support teaching, learning technologies, and community engagement.

Faculty Success events and programming describes Center for Advancing Faculty Excellence (CAFE) professional development opportunities, including recordings from past Teaching Academy sessions. Our teaching resources cover cornerstones and foundations of course prep, pedagogies and practices of evidence-based teaching, and high impact practices. Instructional Design links faculty to support for accessibility tools, resources for instructors in using Blackboard, tools to foster peer communication, media productions, and more. Resources specific to community engaged teaching and research are hosted on the Center for Community Engagement and Learning (CCEL) page.

Please keep your eyes peeled for our biweekly newsletter where we highlight upcoming events, opportunities, and deadlines! For example, this week's newsletter includes details regarding commencement, our Winter Teaching Academy, Confluence, CCEL faculty mini-grants and CESAs, updates with Digication Kora, and more.

Our offices can be reached here. Please direct questions to Interim Vice Provost Colin McGill (cmmcgill@alaska.edu)