

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



As we shift into September, I am reflecting on Shared Governance themes of “Together into Tomorrow.” **Together**, we welcomed everyone back in All-College and All-Campus meetings, and helped start the year right at Campus Kick-Off. At the same time that we are preparing to meet and learn more from our candidates for the Chancellor position, we are also making final preparations for our NWCCU Year 7 Evaluation visit. It’s a busy and exciting time.

As you know, enrollment is up, across-the-board, showing that the efforts of so many faculty and staff in support of our Strategic Enrollment Management plan are working. I encourage everyone to continue Putting Students First in all we do.

Soon, we will also welcome finalists for the Dean of the College of Health to campus, and will also be initiating a search for the Dean of the College of Business & Public Policy. I encourage everyone—but especially faculty and staff who work within these Colleges and their programs, to engage in the process and provide feedback. Your input is needed and valued!

Please direct questions or comments to the Provost (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!



Please join the evaluation team for the site visit Faculty Forum on Wednesday, October 8, 3:00-3:50 in LIB 307. Share stories about how you and your program are leading UAA into tomorrow through your teaching, research/creative activity, and service, and demonstrated particularly by the successes of your students!

Finally, check out the [Year Seven Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Report](#) itself.

The aspiration *We put students first* underlies UAA's definition of mission fulfillment, as well as UAA's evaluation and improvement processes.

Faculty leadership in Program Student Learning Outcomes Assessment and other improvement processes is a cornerstone of institutional effectiveness at UAA!

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

Student Success Report



As we begin this new academic year, I'd like to share a moment of appreciation. Many thanks to our Academic Advisors for all their hard work! From January to mid-August Advisors had over 21,000 appointments with students. They worked with colleagues in Student Affairs to provide Registration Labs at HOWL Days and to support students during the NSS/IRSC transition. They have also provided students with connections to faculty mentors/advisors, as well as to resources in Financial Aid, Tutoring in the

Learning Commons, CARE Team, Career Services, and much more. Truly, our Advisors put students first!

The Strategic Enrollment Management Recruitment and Retention Committee is seeking two faculty representatives for this academic year. This committee plays an important role in advancing institutional and BoR priorities. Key projects this year include strengthening student communication, increasing dual enrollment conversion, and scaling and coordinating student success efforts.

Mark your calendars for the Student Success Pep Rally. This new event during Homecoming Week will feature student success stories and offer a chance for students to give each other shout outs. The Pep Rally will be in the Library Amphitheater on Thursday, October 16th, from 11:30 AM - 1 PM. Come by for a cookie and a chance to celebrate.

Please direct any questions to Vice Provost of Student Success Ray Ball (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. As of now just over 36% of courses have been converted to Ultra! 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 September 15-19, with more coming soon.



I would also like to acknowledge that over 15% of UAA's full-time faculty participated in this year's Fall Teaching Academy (FTA), averaging over 3 sessions attended! Topics included Generative AI in Higher Education, Learning Centered Assessment, Community Engaged Teaching, Information Literacy, Student Mentorship, and much more. [All recordings](#) for the 2025 Fall Teaching academy are now available. Thank you all for your dedication, sharing, and continuous improvement in your craft.

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