

MINUTES
UAF FACULTY SENATE MEETING #160
Monday, September 14, 2009
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
BOR Conference Room – 109 Butrovich Building

I Call to Order – Jonathan Dehn

Faculty Senate President Jonathan Dehn called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

A. Roll Call for 2009-10 Faculty Senate

Members Present:

Members Present - continued:

B. Approval of Minutes to Meeting #159

The minutes were approved as distributed.

C. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as distributed.

Jon announced Brian Rogers' appointment as the new chancellor; the academic master plan is slowly coming to fruition; accreditation is starting in full swing this semester; and a variety of other issues making it a busy year for the senate. President Hamilton announced his retirement recently, and the search committee meets Thursday (Jon is a member of the committee). Jon will be suggesting further faculty involvement in that search, preferably from all three campuses. At a minimum, he'll suggest forums where the faculty can interact with the board and have a say in what they want to see in a new president.

Following up on a suggestion from the vice provost, the bylaws and constitution of the senate will be reviewed. Committee roles will be examined and updated to meet relevant needs.

The BOR meeting last June brought only limited success with some new academic programs. A couple of the programs were not passed and they're looking at the reasons for that. There will be further discussion later in the meeting today.

Several meetings of the Statewide Academic Council occurred over the summer, and have been moving forward with the Academic Master Plan.

They met with the Vice President for University Advancement, to discuss a more coordinated and successful approach to the legislature by the governance bodies.

Last, Jon mentioned the MacTaggart Report for UAF. It's linked on the web sites for the Chancellor's office and UAF Governance. It focuses on involving students in research. He encourages everyone to read it.

Jane W. asked about the composition of the UA president search committee. Cathy C. noted that Jon is the only faculty on the committee presently, which has just been posted online. Dana T. also mentioned that a forum is taking place tomorrow morning.

B. President-Elect's Report – Cathy Cahill

The difficulty of getting programs through at the last BOR meeting was mentioned. Cathy encouraged everyone to look at their programs in their units with a view toward updating courses and programs and eliminating those that are not active any longer. Let the Provost know. We want the BOR to know we're responsive to the needs of the state and staying current.

Jane A. commented about the reception at the Chancellor's this evening, asking if future dates could happen when a face-to-face meeting occurs. Chancellor Rogers responded that the timing of the reception would be corrected for future years.

V A. Chancellor's Comments – Brian Rogers

Terry MacTaggart was hired last spring to make recommendations about UAF's executive administration. His report is out and posted on the Chancellor's web site (as well as the Governance web site). One item that became apparent to him as he was holding meetings was the role of research at UAF, and the opportunity of connecting research with undergraduate education. Brian asked for faculty input on how to recognize faculty for the extra effort it takes to be involved in undergraduate research. And, he'll be looking at ways of funding costs of undergrad research. MacTaggart has suggested a reallocation of funding to support efforts, and Brian has ideas on research.

They've been getting complaints at ASUAF, particularly from freshman, about problems with the bookstore. There's confusion among them about how to get their books. Jane W. noted complaints about problems getting books from her students, also. It's been especially painful as Jane teaches math. Latrice L. agreed with her as she's also seeing problems in her math class with students not having books. They have three books in their math lab to share among 40 students.

Jon D. asked about students being able to get PDFs while waiting for their books to arrive. Latrice noted that students can go to Printing Services and get the first chapter printed out, but it doesn't help with the number of students that drop/swap between math courses. Jane W. noted that they're also using computer programs along with their books, so if they don't have the book the student doesn't have the access code needed for the computer program that comes with the book itself. To go four weeks in a math class getting behind is too much.

Ken A. said that he talked with a regional bookstore representative personally, who told him bluntly that UAF is a guinea pig for Follett, only having an online bookstore with no brick-and-mortar bookstore on campus. Every other campus they're doing business with has the actual bookstore in addition to the online store. He'd like to see some type of formal process adopted for faculty and staff to get ideas, suggestions and problems reported to the bookstore to improve the whole process.

Foreign Language faculty are seeing a problem with students not having books as well. Jon D. mentioned that Anchorage said they'd like to go the online route at Faculty Alliance, and they were vehemently advised not to do that by the Fairbanks delegation. A faculty teaching both local and distance ed courses noted that the Center for Distance Ed bookstore has been helping out with the local book problem quite a bit.

Gabrielle R. from Rural Student Services mentioned that she is seeing students who can't get their books very far in advance because of their financial aid situation. She asked about having books available at the library, checking them out and then paying for them later if they decide to keep them. Jon D. noted that a forum for this ongoing discussion is needed (time being a factor at the meeting today) and that the subject will be discussed at the next meeting of the Administrative Committee.

Jane A. at Kuskokwim Campus mentioned, on behalf of both Kuskokwim and Chukchi Campuses, they get their books through CRCD a

VIII New Business

A. Motion to Adopt the AACU – LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes (Attachment 160/2)

The motion was tabled (with one nay vote), and referred to committee for further discussion.

B. New Research Advisory Committee of the Faculty Senate – Jon Dehn

The purpose of this new ad hoc committee is to provide a faculty voice into research policy. With the statewide Research Advisory Council having been combined with the Statewide Academic Council, it's unclear at the campus level what the faculty input is regarding research policy. The new ARC - Advisory Research Committee - will provide a forum for faculty to express concerns and give input on research policy decisions, and it will provide a faculty perspective on the process of streamlining grant processes. It will provide administrators with a sounding board to faculty on new and major program initiatives. The ad hoc committee would create its own bylaws. At the end of this year or by next year the Faculty Senate could vote to decide whether or not it becomes a permanent committee. The Vice Chancellor for Research would be an ex officio member.

Issues are coming up that affect research on campus. The current VC for Research, Buck Sharpton, is stepping down from his position – is this research role one to be filled with a vice chancellor or would a vice provost be more appropriate, given the link between the academic and research enterprise which was emphasized in the new MacTaggart report. With tightened funding opportunities, questions are coming up about going back to classified research on campus and these need faculty input. There is the issue of overhead sharing policies, with different units on campus having different agreements rather than a standard one, which has caused problems with submitting proposals. Another issue is the separation of the Office of Sponsored Programs from the Grants and Contracts office. There are issues about getting undergraduate students involved in research without overlooking the commitment to graduate students who are the backbone of research effort. There are issues about technology transfer and the university possibly making money from that; as well as internal use of university research to get better return on the dollar.

Jon asked for volunteers to raise their hands, and Orion Lawlor and Roger Hansen responded. They'll choose a chair, who'll attend the Administrative Committee meetings. Anne C. asked whether people outside the senate could serve on the committee, and Jon felt that in order to get good representation for research interests, that should be the case. He asked everyone to communicate to their constituents about this committee.

C. Academic Master Plan Update – Jonathan Dehn

Jon said some progress has been made. Faculty Alliance and the President's Cabinet have seen a copy of the report to date, shared by Statewide Academic Council. Jon gave assurance that the Faculty Senates will have input and will not be asked to rubberstamp the plan. The primary issues that he sees concern the division of resources among the three main campuses, and defining what's been called each university's "lane". How do they move forward in defining the mission without cramping or crippling any of the campuses? He hopes the plan

will be given to the Senate before Christmas. Susan commented that currently they're

Michelle Bartlett, director of Summer Sessions, spoke to the importance of Maymester, in response to Anne C.'s earlier comment. Two-thirds of the students who took Maymester last year also took courses in Summer Sessions I. The aim is to improve the time it takes to earn a degree, which currently averages six years. It allows for courses to be offered at times

Rajive G. commented about the six-year graduation rate. Through his work with the Advising Center he's aware that many students don't have a clue about what they wish to major in for several years when they start college. It's not that there aren't enough sections offered of lower-level courses. The courses that do have scheduling constraints are the higher-level courses for seniors, which are never going to be offered during Summer Sessions or a two-week-long compression. He do

Dana T. urged that as these themes are being looked at and discussed, to look back at UAF's existing mission statement. Connect wording in the mission to the themes.

The new seven-year cycle will be completed by UAF in Fall 2011, and it immediately will start over again in 2012. The themes need to reflect what has been done in the last five years, and what we're able to implement and assess before 2011. The online survey is very short – only four questions long. Please respond to it. Some things that are not listed in the themes, like diversity, access and quality, are actually values - not themes. A brief discussion about this is included in the preamble to the survey. Things that contribute to achieving the mission (facilities, and student advising, for example) are not a part of the themes. Keep these things in mind during their discussions.

Falk H. mentioned, being in Alaska, we should consider including some environmental issues, sustainable development, climate change and globalization, for example. Right now the themes make it appear that we're a production, job creation institution. Dana mentioned his concern about the many uses of the word "sustainability" by institutions. For each core theme, the Commission will send an evaluator. Falk said we should also see it as our vision and opportunity, a (s) r vision)Tj0.0003 Teo ssions.

G. Faculty Appeals & Oversight (to be convened)

H. Faculty Development, Assessment & Improvement – Josef Glowa, Alex Oliveira

They've met and had a brainstorming session. No current burning issues yet.

I. Graduate Academic & Advisory Committee – Rajive Ganguli