

## ALASKA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE

Friday, February 24, 2017  
3:30-5:00pm

### MEETING NOTES

**Members present:** VPAAR Dan White, Chancellor Rick Caulfield (UAS), Provost Karen Carey (UAS), Provost Sam Gingerich (UAA), Provost Susan Henrichs (UAF), Interim Dean Steve Atwater (UAF), Dr. Cathy Coulter (UAA), Dr. Jonathan Bartels (UAA), Dr. Amy Vinlove (UAF), Dr. Cindy Fabbri (UAF), Dr. Katy Spangler (UAS), Dr. Virgil Fredenberg (UAS). Keni Campbell, Special Assistant to the UAS Chancellor was present to take notes. (see list of members— Attachment A)

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

*VPAAR Dan White welcomed members and invited introductions from all members.*

#### 2. Review and approval of agenda

*The agenda was approved with a request to incorporate explicit review of NWCCU Substantive Change proposal guidelines (see Attachment B) and to provide additional opportunity for faculty comments on the role and function of the Steering Committee.*

#### 3. Review of BOR decision and expectations:

*VPAAR White reviewed the Board of Regents decision of December 14, 2016 (Attachment C) to create a single College of Education and President Johnsen's memo of February 3, 2017 (Attachment D) setting the direction for planning of the new College.*

*Consistent with BOR action and the President's memo, the Steering Committee is charged with the following: development of an implementation plan in consultation with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU); phased implementation no later than fall 2018 subject to approval by NWCCU; leadership by UAS in close collaboration with UAA, UAF, and Statewide; programs of the highest quality delivered by faculty and staff to students at locations across the state; a dean of the College to be appointed after an open and inclusive search; a college council with representation from faculty, staff, and students in programs across the state; an external advisory council to advise the dean and the faculty of the college.*

*A goal of the Steering Committee is to have an Implementation Plan prepared no later than the end of June 2017. The first steps for phased implementation of the new College are expected in Fall 2018, subject to NWCCU approval. A plan is underway to hire a project manager to assist with support for the Steering Committee's work.*

*Chair Caulfield added that next steps will include early consultation with the NWCCU to solicit guidance about preparation of a Substantive Change proposal. UAS has submitted a letter to NWCCU providing notice of the Board of Regents action of December 14, 2016 (Attachment E). Chancellors already have a scheduled meeting by phone with NWCCU President Dr. Sandra Elman on Monday, February 27, 2017. Further consultation will take place with CAEP officials.*

VPAAR White noted that President Johnsen has communicated directly with all UA Education faculty and students regarding the Board's decision and next steps (Attachments F and G). His office is working to establish the External Advisory Council called for in the President's February 3 memo. He will forward the names of prospective Council members and organizations to the Steering Committee for additional input and ideas.

#### 4. Aspirations for excellence: Inviting committee members' comments

- *What is the most important action that UA can take to expand the number of quality teachers and administrators in Alaska's schools by 2025?*
- *What is the foremost action we can take in the next six months to move toward fulfilling that aspiration?*

Committee members were invited to offer comments on the two questions listed above. UAS faculty prepared a written response (Attachment H). The comments emphasized that UA needs to look at underlying issues that impact the number of Alaskans seeking to become teachers. Improving teacher education needs to be a bottom-up process involving many voices across the state. UA needs to provide flexible, innovative, and creative programs with both on-campus and online options. UA needs to bring faculty together to update and create needed programs, and it must prioritize selection of a dean. UA should consider replacing CAEP accreditation with an Alaska accreditation structure.

*J. Bartels observed that there are declining enrollments in teacher preparation programs across the US; Alaska is not alone in facing this challenge. We should avoid any assumption that UA programs lack quality or that faculty and staff are unwilling to make needed changes. UA needs a rigorous and aggressive marketing effort to encourage more Alaskans to become teachers. To achieve the goal of 90% Alaskan-hired teachers by 2025, UA needs to aggressively hire new faculty.*

*S. Gingerich concurred with the above noting that inquiries and applications for teacher preparation are down by 20% or more across the nation.*

*C. Coulter emphasized that we need to focus both on quality and quantity in teacher preparation. We need time to make necessary realignments and we need funding. We also need faculty buy-in and clear articulation about how consolidation into a single college will achieve the desired outcome.*

*S. Henrichs noted that UA alone cannot achieve the desired goal; community support and partnerships are essential. There need to be tangible incentives for Alaskans to choose teaching: loan forgiveness, financial incentives. In the K-12 environment, disadvantaged students are falling further behind; they need to be a focus of the new College as it educates teachers.*

*A. Vinlove agreed that community partners are essential to UA success. We need to recognize that in recruiting new teachers we're pulling from a small pool. We need to provide support services to many first generation students seeking to become teachers. We also need to look carefully at the scope of existing programs. Clarity is needed about what programs should continue; there is uncertainty and confusion about this.*

*C. Fabbri emphasized that all three universities currently have quality programs. We should recognize the many efforts that are working well. To grow the number of teachers we need broad community support (e.g. districts, legislature); UA restructuring alone will not achieve the desired result. The Steering Committee needs to move forward in a logical progression—making rational changes based upon data.*

*S. Atwater agreed that a comprehensive effort will require broad partnerships. The Steering Committee needs to look at the big picture; 'what does this machine look like?' We need to be clear about the vision and have consensus about where we are heading. Communication is key.*

## 5. Role and Function of Steering Committee

*Committee members touched on the role and function of the Steering Committee in comments under #4 above. There was agreement to continue discussion of role and function at the next meeting, to include additional input from UAF faculty (per C. Fabbri).*

## 6. Toward an Implementation Plan, June 2017

*Steering Committee meetings: Committee members agreed to a general plan of meeting every two weeks; this plan will likely continue at least through spring semester 2017. The next meeting will be planned for Friday, March 10, 11am to 3pm. It will be a face-to-face meeting in Anchorage. Subsequent meetings are expected to be conducted by video- and audioconference. Provost Gingerich will make arrangements for the 3/10 meeting.*

*Tentative dates for future meetings are: March 10, March 24, April 7, April 21, May 5, May 19, June 2, June 16, and June 30. VPAAR White said he will look for funding to support the travel of the faculty members of the steering committee to face-to-face meetings.*

*All faculty meeting: A meeting of all Education faculty statewide is tentatively planned for Friday, April 7, 10am to 4pm in Anchorage. Provost Gingerich offered to work on arrangements at UAA. Committee members agreed that the agenda for this meeting needs to be carefully thought out. The proposed agenda will be discussed further at the Steering Committee's March 10 meeting.*

*Early consultation with NWCCU: Chancellors will meeting with Dr. Elman at NWCCU on Monday, February 27. A report about this consultation will be provided to the Steering Committee at the March 10 meeting.*

*Engagement with CAEP: Provost Gingerich noted that UAA is completing its self-study for both NWCCU and CAEP and that there is ongoing consultation between UAA and these entities. Provost Henrichs noted that UAF is also about to embark on preparation of its self-study for NWCCU accreditation.*

*Consultation meetings with faculty and staff at UAA, UAF, and UAS: There was discussion about potential benefits of holding listening sessions in early March with faculty and staff at each institution. The goal would be to identify issues and concerns that may need to be incorporated into the work of the Steering Committee and addressed at the all-faculty meeting. Chair Caulfield will follow up with Steering Committee members at each location to assess whether such consultation meeting would be useful.*

*External Advisory Committee formation: VPAAR Dan White will forward potential names of EAC members and organizations to Steering Committee members. All Steering Committee members are invited to submit suggestions for potential EAC members; please do so no later than March 3.*

## 7. Staff support and resource needs

*With support from VPAAR White, the Chair will pursue hiring a project manager to assist with work of the Steering Committee. More information will be provided by email and at the March 10 Steering Committee meeting.*

*It was agreed that a UA website should be established to provide general information about creation of the single College of Education. Chair Caulfield will work with the VPAAR to establish this website and to keep it up-*

*to-date. Committee members stated that Google Docs will be the best means of sharing information internal to the work of the Steering Committee.*

*Several committee members commented that workloads of faculty members serving on the Steering Committee may need to be adjusted or extended in order to meet the goal of having an Implementation Plan in place by the end of June 2017.*

## **8. Special engagement ideas**

*Special engagement with Alaska Native educators:* The Chair invited feedback on the idea of holding an Alaskan Native educators roundtable as part of the implementation planning of the Steering Committee. The general sentiment is that this would be worthwhile given the importance of preparing teachers for predominantly Alaska Native and smaller rural communities. A suggestion was made that perhaps First Alaskans Institute might be a facilitator for such a discussion, but other facilitators might be worth considering. This topic will be on the Steering Committee's agenda again on March 10. One suggestion was to hold this during the week of April 17. Another idea could be to align this with the already-planned Alaska Native Studies Council meeting in Fairbanks, April 7-9, 2017.

*Special engagement with Alaska Council of School Administrators:* Lisa Parady of ACSA has invited UA representatives to participate in a panel discussion on April 9 in Juneau on the topic of teacher preparation and creation of a single UA college. VPAAR White and Chancellor Caulfield plan to attend.

## **9. Wrap-up & next Steering Committee meeting: Planned for Friday, March 10, 11am to 3pm, UAA Campus**

### **Attachments:**

- A—VPAAR memo of February 17, 2017 appointing Steering Committee members
- B—NWCCU Guidelines for Substantive Change Proposals
- C—Minutes of UA Board of Regents decision creating a single College of Education, December 14, 2016
- D—President Johnsen memo of February 3, 2017 entitled "Alaska College of Education"
- E—UAS letter of February 24, 2017 to NWCCU providing notification of Regents action to create single college
- F—UA President Johnsen letter of 12.22.16 to Education faculty about implementation of single college
- G—UA President Johnsen letter of February 22, 2017 to UA Education students
- H—UAS School of Education Bullet Points for Steering Committee Meeting, February 24, 2017