

ALASKA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE

Friday, April 21, 2017
8:00 – 10:00 AM

MEETING NOTES

Members present:

Chancellor Rick Caulfield (chair)	Interim Dean Steve Atwater	Provost Sam Gingerich
Provost Karen Carey	Dr. Amy Vinlove	Dr. Cathy Coulter
Dr. Katy Spangler	Dr. Sean Asiqtuq Topkok	Dr. Jonathan Bartels
Dr. Vigil Fredenberg		Prof. Paul Ongtooguk
Prof. Ernestine Hayes		

Members absent: Provost Susan Henrichs, Dr. Cindy Fabbri

Meeting notes taken by Keni Campbell, Chancellor's Executive Assistant

1. Welcome/review of agenda

Chair Caulfield welcomed members and reviewed the agenda. Reminder – there is a folder in the Google Drive for the Steering Committee with all available documents that all members should have access to. The public website about the overall planning process and work of the committee is: <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/chancellor/alaska-college-of-education.html>

2. Review of previous meeting notes, April 7, 2017

No changes were made.

3. Report on Engagement with EED: Alaska's Education Challenge – Committee on Educator Excellence

S. Atwater reported on DEED's Alaska Education Challenge meeting held on April 20 in Anchorage. The effort, led by Commissioner Michael Johnson, is a comprehensive reevaluation of Alaska's public education system, looking for recommendations for transformational change. Final recommendations are due to Gov. Walker and the Legislature by December 29, 2017. R. Caulfield and S. Atwater were nominated by President Johnsen to represent UA in the effort.

Five committees have been created in alignment with Education Challenge goals:

- 1) Improve student learning
- 2) Ensure excellent educators
- 3) Modernize the education system
- 4) Inspire tribal and community ownership
- 5) Promote safety and well-being

Both Atwater and Caulfield serve on the 'educator excellence' committee. More information about Alaska's Education Challenge can be found at <https://gov.alaska.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/AK-Ed-Challenge-White-sheet.pdf>.

Having heard the remarks of DEED Commissioner Michael Johnson at the Education Challenge meeting, Chair Caulfield suggested that we invite him to speak at the beginning of the May 11 face-to-face meeting. It would be beneficial to understand the Commissioner's views on the current status of P-12 education, the importance of UA to educator excellence, and the transformative role that AKCOE might play in Alaska's educational system. He asked the Steering Committee to consider this; no objections were raised to making this invitation.

4. Review/discussion of topics addressed at Chair's recent meetings with UAF, UAA, and UAS Education faculty and staff

The Chair, along with Steering Committee members from UAF, UAA, and UAS, met in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Juneau in recent weeks with UA Education faculty and staff. The purpose of these informal discussions was to share updates about our process toward creation of the single Alaska College of Education, describe requirements of NWCCU Substantive Change Policy, and invite questions and concerns about the work of the Steering Committee. A number of topics came up during the discussions. Chair Caulfield invited Steering Committee members who were present to share any comments or observations.

C. Coulter said most people are concerned about job security, although those questions were not asked outright. S. Atwater expressed a concern about only focusing on initial teacher preparation and not recognizing the importance of graduate and licensure programs. V. Fredenberg indicated that the May 11 meeting in Anchorage should provide an opportunity for him and other graduate faculty to meet and start working together.

A question arose about how the new AKCOE will offer programs not currently available at UAS but that are offered currently at other universities. Chair Caulfield clarified that, by Board of Regents action, UAS will be the accredited institution putting forward the Substantive Change Proposal. UAS will be the academic and administrative home for the AKCOE, assuming approval by NWCCU. However, the clear intent is that the College will serve the entire state--with faculty and staff at all three main locations (and perhaps others), now and in the future. Specific recommendations about how programs not currently offered at UAS will be sustained will be discussed at the May 11 meeting and in future work groups.

5. Update on Planning for May 11 face-to-face meeting, Anchorage

- **Meeting location** - LIB 307, UAA Consortium Library
- **Needed staff support, logistics, communication** – Raegan in Provost Gingerich's office is assisting with room reservation, catering, and parking. She is communicating with Chancellor Caulfield's assistant, Keni Campbell.
- **Planned meeting goals, meeting format and facilitation** –

Faculty representatives suggest focusing on three goals for the meeting

- 1) Getting to know each other
- 2) Sharing what UA offers in terms of programs, research, and service, and
- 3) Reviewing NWCCU substantive change requirements, especially as it relates to future educational programs in the AKCOE

The Chair noted that Susan Bell, Principal with McDowell Group in Juneau, has expressed interest in facilitating the meeting. He will be meeting with her later today to discuss details, and will report back to Steering Committee members.

Discussion of Proposed May 11 Meeting Agenda:

A. Vinlove drafted an agenda which is available in the shared drive. She proposed two rounds of information gathering: having identified program area groups for the first round, and the second focusing on research and service activities statewide. The goal would be to get everything on the table that UA offers in all existing schools and colleges of education--every degree program, research and service activities, what faculty resources are required, including faculty, staff support, infrastructure.

A. Vinlove suggested that, for the first round, faculty would be pre-assigned to ensure equal distribution across programs. UAS representation should be included in each group even if programs not offered through UAS. Each group would have a predetermined facilitator. Participants would use Google Docs to fill out program information ahead of time and be ready to discuss at the meeting.

As a starting point for the May 11 meeting, P. Ongtooguk recommended review of *Shaping Alaska's Future* goals and Board of Regents expectations for this merger as a reflection of what the community is demanding. From that perspective, meeting participants can assess what gaps exist in what we are currently offering. The discussion needs to include the direction desired, not just gaps in programs. In particular, teacher recruitment and retention in rural Alaska and for other minority populations needs to be considered. Ideas for consideration might include a center of excellence for Alaska Native and indigenous scholarship as well as advancing education research for rural Alaska. We need to consider a mission statement for the AKCOE, figuring out metrics and baseline, and tracking progress.

K. Spangler voiced the hope that at this meeting we can talk about the future more than simply what exists now. She and others asked if there is a way—in advance of the meeting—to assemble the data about what already exists. Perhaps data summaries can be prepared ahead of time so that at the meeting can address aspirations, gaps, and redundancies. C. Coulter wondered how A. Vinlove's draft could be reframed to include the *Shaping Alaska's Future* goals.

Chair Caulfield commented on the DEED Alaska Education Challenge that took place the day before, and how it consciously focused on a vision for systemic, transformational change in Alaska's educational system. In his view, the May 11 meeting needs to focus on a similar vision—aligned with *Shaping Alaska's Future* and Board of Regents goals.

S. Atwater agreed that a clearer vision is needed. Is this consolidation, or is it creation of something optimal? Faculty are desperate to dig into differences and iron those out. Without a vision, the process will not have clarity.

A. Vinlove expressed concern about resources and capacities--that these need to be known before a meaningful discussion can take place. The Chair noted that at the DEED meeting, Commissioner Johnson expressed the view that good ideas will attract resources. From the Chair's perspective, a discussion based only on what can be done with existing resources—and perhaps minus 5% from yet another legislative cut--will not lead to transformational change. We need to think more broadly and creatively.

E. Hayes thinks using the concept of transformative change as the beginning of a conversation might lead to a vision. She observed that P. Ongtooguk's comments provide an opportunity to identify which areas are ripe for transformative change.

A. Vinlove said some faculty have been frustrated by those types of conversation because no attempt has been made to find out what is actually happening in reality in relation to all of these goals and aspirations. She is concerned that no one takes the time to learn what is actually happening. Assertions are made that certain things aren't happening, and the people involved end up frustrated and reactive.

Chair Caulfield summarized the initial discussion about agenda, noting that having a clear vision for AKCOE is important. As a first step, it is essential for the meeting participants to get to know each other and talk more in detail about their programs. This should be a major focus on the meeting. He noted no objection from committee members to inviting DEED Commission Johnson to be an initial speaker, if the Commissioner's schedule allows. This would help frame the discussion about how UA aligns with DEED's Alaska Education Challenge and the importance of "Educator Excellence." Following this, breakout groups identified in the earlier agenda draft (e.g. Elementary, Secondary, Special Education) could meet to explore what is currently offered, where there are gaps, and what opportunities exist for future collaboration. At the end of the day the full group can circle back around to talk about gaps and opportunities, and what they have learned in their conversations with one another. This process will be only the first of many such discussions—not a final conclusion.

In structuring breakout groups, C. Coulter noted that many faculty members wear more than one hat and that participating in only one group might be difficult. She suggests that Session 1 should be broken up into 2 or 3 smaller sessions to allow better engagement for those involved in more than one program.

There was further discussion about how much information and data could be assembled prior to the meeting. J. Bartels noted that having basic data ahead of time would be good but that there are a lot more to programs than what is just on paper. Having faculty working with one another to define what is really important will be key and necessary before a big picture discussion. A. Vinlove observed that asking for preparation of data ahead of the meeting would not be well received by faculty, as it is the end of semester and is a very busy time. K. Spangler observed that it would be beneficial to have as much in advance as possible—that the meeting timeframe and agenda don't allow both for gathering data and for substantive sharing of ideas.

S. Atwater noted that there is a document already that lists programs at each school, but not specifics. He has put this in the reference file in the Google drive for Committee members to review.

In addressing the challenges of creating a meeting agenda and a new College, P. Ongtooguk reflected on the challenge facing the Alaska Federation of Natives in its early years. AFN's early founders faced many obstacles--regional differences, involvement of oil companies, feds, state, conservation groups, and lack of resources. Those obstacles were such that initially everyone could easily have thrown down their hats and walked away. But instead they tackled the issues one at a time: looking at immediate issues and those that were midterm and long term. They never lost sight of the goals they had set, and today AFN is a major force in Alaska.

Chair Caulfield commented on a brief data presentation made at the DEED meeting the day before which may be helpful at the May 11 meeting. It speaks to the goals of growing more Alaskan teachers and also notes the significant educational challenges facing students and schools in many parts of Alaska. He will forward a copy of the Powerpoint once it is available.

The Committee found itself short on time to finalize the May 11 agenda. The Chair invited members to serve on an ad hoc subcommittee that could take the comments from today's meeting and produce a new draft based upon A. Vinlove's contribution. The new draft will be shared with the full committee. In addition to the Chair, the following individuals offered to assist: P. Ongtooguk, E. Hayes, K. Spangler, S. Topkok. The plan is for the subcommittee to complete a new draft by 4/26/17.

Action Item: *The ad hoc subcommittee will continue to develop agenda and structure for the May 11 meeting—reporting back to the full committee by 4/26/17.*

A. Proposals for Work Groups membership and facilitation leaders

It was agreed that Work Groups should be those most closely associated with the NWCCU Substantive Change Policy. Work groups identified at previous meeting are:

- 1) Proposed Educational Offerings
- 2) Student Services: Registration, Advising, Financial Aid, Student Support Services
- 3) Physical Facilities and Equipment
- 4) Library, Information Technology Services, and Instructional Design Support
- 5) Human Resources
- 6) Budget and Fiscal Planning:
- 7) Innovative Partnership Models (school districts, Alaska Native entities, rural paraprofessionals, stakeholders)

Discussion:

It is expected that each work group will consist of representatives from all three universities, and that members may include those outside of Education programs (e.g. personnel involved with facilities). Work groups will likely have 2-3 members from each university; a total of six to nine or perhaps ten individuals. Ideally, an AKCOE Steering Committee member will serve as a facilitator and report back to the full Committee. Each group will be provided with a set of

questions or data needs. They will be asked to report back to the full Committee in early fall 2017.

Chair Caulfield asked committee representatives from UAS, UAF, and UAA to assemble a list of potential names for the work groups and identify a potential facilitator for each. At this stage we are simply brainstorming potential participants; not formally inviting them. Nominations should be sent to the Chair by Friday, April 28.

Action Item: *Committee representatives from UAS, UAF, UAA to assemble a list of names for potential service on work groups and identify a facilitator for each. Names should be sent to Chair Caulfield by April 28.*

Action Item: *The ad hoc subcommittee will use A. Vinlove's document to develop a revised draft agenda for review by the full Committee by the end of Wednesday next week, April 26. Chair Caulfield, E. Hayes, K. Spangler, S. Topkok, and P. Ongtooguk will be on this subcommittee.*

B. Updates about workloads/compensation for faculty serving on Committee

K. Carey has had some conversations with Provosts S. Henrichs and S. Gingerich, as well as deans. More discussion is needed. Work group participants may also need compensation, and some will have more work to do than others. K. Carey encouraged Committee members to email her any input they may have.

Action Item: *K. Carey will follow up with provosts and deans regarding workloads and compensation for faculty serving on the Committee.*

C. Recruitment of Project Manager

The position is currently listed, open until filled. The job is intended to be Juneau-based and is a 2-year term position. The successful candidate will possess good organizational skills, and ideally, a background in education.

D. Wrap-up and review of Steering Committee Meeting schedule

Chair Caulfield will invite facilitator Susan Bell to join the next meeting and share thoughts about agenda refinement.

Action Item: *Chair Caulfield to invite Susan Bell to next meeting on May 2 from 8-10am.*

Upcoming meetings:

Date	Day	Time	Mode
May 2, 2017	Tuesday	8 – 10 AM	Audio Conference
May 11, 2017	Thursday	10 AM – 4 PM	All Faculty Meeting, F2F, Anchorage
May 19, 2017	Friday	8 – 10 AM	Audio Conference
May 30, 2017	Tuesday	10 AM – 12 PM	Audio Conference
June 16, 2017	Friday	8 – 10 AM	Audio Conference
June 30, 2017	Friday	8 – 10 AM	Audio Conference

