

ALASKA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE

Friday, October 13th, 2017
8:30 – 10:30 AM

MEETING NOTES

Members present:

Chancellor Rick Caulfield (chair)	Provost Susan Henrichs	Dr. Cathy Coulter
Provost Karen Carey	Interim Dean Steve Atwater	Dr. Jonathan Bartels
Dr. Katy Spangler	Dr. Amy Vinlove	Paul Ongtooguk
Ernestine Hayes	Dr. Sean Topkok	
	Diane Kardash	

Members absent: Interim Chancellor Sam Gingerich, Dr. Virgil Fredenberg.

Meeting notes taken by Simone Jagers, AKCOE Program Manager

1. Welcome/review of agenda

Chair Rick Caulfield welcomed members and the agenda was reviewed and approved.

2. Note about recording of meeting

Following a recent poll of committee members, it is agreed that individuals not on the committee will be able to listen in on meetings but not make comments. At the next meeting there will be a live stream link provided for non-members to listen in. This meeting (Oct 13) will be recorded and a link shared with Steering Committee members for dissemination to interested persons.

3. Review of previous meeting notes, Sept 29th, 2017

Dean Atwater brought up a clarification and asked for a correction regarding the LKSD model for para-professionals. There was no objection to this correction. The meeting notes are approved.

4. Update and reports from face-to-face faculty program meetings

The Chair invited faculty representatives to share comments about recent face-to-face faculty meetings.

- Elementary Education faculty meeting, October 6, Anchorage:

Dr. Vinlove stated that she felt the meeting was very productive and had positive outcomes. The Elementary faculty want to see a shared assessment method across elementary programs statewide. There is also support for a statewide portal to understand the certification process for pre K to 8th grade. The suggestion is of a map that shows statewide options for Elementary Education certification. The faculty discussed areas of strength in existing programs and areas needing improvement.

As part of her commentary, Dr. Vinlove emphasized the importance of having faculty and teachers involved in all discussions of P-20 transformation and change. As an example, she noted that there were no current teachers involved in the Educator Excellence committee discussion hosted by DEED.

Dr. Spangler commented that many of her colleagues feel overloaded, and it is difficult to find faculty who can do the committee work. Dr. Spangler observed that UA faculty have a lot of work to do; to be collaborative and enthusiastic, but faculty want to know “how can we add this to what we are already doing?”

Dr. Coulter agreed about the challenges of workload, but also that the Elementary faculty felt positive energy from the meeting. She felt that UA elementary faculty accomplished a lot. Ms. Kardash stated that having a portal with all the different programs laid out would help both UA faculty and student prospects. Provost Carey spoke that she heard from faculty at UAS that it was a very productive meeting and that is good.

Dean Atwater commented on the desire from some quarters for UA to “standardize” its curriculum or to make it “uniform.” While in some respects this could be beneficial, there are a variety of programs that have different stakeholders. Total alignment might lead to lower recruitment numbers. Chair Caulfield noted the distinction between “standardized” and “uniform” versus coordinated and aligned. In his view, the benefit of having faculty meet is to examine where coordinated and aligned programs make sense, even if they are not “standardized” or “uniform.”

Chair Caulfield observed that reports from UA Education faculty statewide all called for continuing face-to-face meetings on some regular basis. He invited comments about when such meetings should be planned for the coming year; that a budget needs to be developed for this and plans put in place. Steering Committee members voiced support for such meetings in the future. Discussion took place about timing for these meetings in Spring 2018. Some favored holding them early in the spring semester--a few weeks after classes begin (i.e. February). Dr. Vinlove noted that she has some foundation grant monies to bring 10 Elementary faculty together this spring as well, to talk specifically about arts education. She added that if we can align the meetings it would be great to have those two meetings coincide.

The Chair asked if Steering Committee members could canvas their colleagues about the timing of a Spring semester face-to-face meeting and report back at the next Steering Committee meeting on October 27. This would allow for planning and budgeting. The following individuals agreed to report back at the next meeting:

- Secondary Faculty- Dr. Bartels
- Graduate Faculty- Dr. Coulter
- Elementary Faculty- Dr. Spangler
- Special Education- Dean Atwater

Action Item: Steering committee members to reach out to UA education faculty across all departments to figure out timing for another round of UA education faculty in-person meetings.

5. Review of summary/themes from ACSA Superintendents' conference

Chair Caulfield shared a document of compiled responses from school superintendents about UA teacher education and potential partnerships; comments gathered at the ACSA meeting that took place in Seward on September 22. Chancellor Caulfield and President Johnsen both attended the meeting.

Discussion took place about some of the responses received. Some observed that there may be a need for “myth-busting” about UA Education programs. For example, it appears that some superintendents felt more clinical hours are needed, when in fact there are already hundreds of student hours put towards clinical work in UA programs. Dean Atwater agreed about the importance of making clear how many clinical hours are already required. He believes that many superintendents would be surprised by this. Chair Caulfield noted the importance of regular and substantive engagement with superintendents on this and other aspects of our programs; that there is turnover amongst superintendents and this information has to be shared again and again. He invited ideas about the most effective way of having those conversations on a regular basis.

Dr. Vinlove commented that too often UA education faculty are not at the table for these discussions, and there needs to be an awareness of who is at the table. Dr. Spangler commented that these Steering Committee meetings are a mechanism for identifying who can best represent UA at these types of conferences and meetings. Chair Caulfield agreed that a benefit of the Steering Committee is that UA Education programs can speak in a coordinated way and provide an opportunity for those voices to be at the table.

6. Discussion: Plans for recruitment of Executive Dean, AKCOE

Consistent with the President’s memo of October 3, the process of recruiting an Executive Dean is underway. The Chair shared an initial draft recruitment document just prior to the meeting so that comments can be provided. There was discussion about the recruitment process and timeline. The Chair noted the direction provided in the President’s memo, including the role of the Steering Committee.

In the discussion, the Chair noted the important role of the Committee will be to interview selected finalists and offer recommendations. He observed that the Committee is made up of representative faculty from all three universities (faculty make up a majority of the committee), and that it has diverse representation including Alaska Native Studies Council representatives. That said, several members emphasized the importance of broader vetting of candidates as well—beyond review of the Committee alone. It was agreed that having finalists meet with Education faculty and staff at all three universities—ideally in person—would be beneficial.

The Chair asked that Committee members review the initial draft recruitment document for the Executive Dean search and provide comments back no later than October 23. A near-final draft based on those comments will be shared with the Committee at its next meeting. The plan is to move forward with a national search beginning in the week of October 30. The position will be open until filled, with a likely first review after 3 weeks.

Action Item: *Steering Committee review executive dean recruitment document and provide feedback and comments by October 23rd.*

7. Discussion: Initial marketing campaign--Enhancing recruitment of Alaskan educators

Chair Caulfield noted that President Johnsen has committed \$100,000 of FY18 funds for teacher education marketing. This is part of a broader marketing and recruitment plan for UA as a whole. The plan is for this initial marketing to take place over the next 3-5 months, focusing on radio, TV, movie screens, and social media.

Chair Caulfield asked if anyone on the Committee would like to join in a marketing discussion with UA Public Relations staff member Robbie Graham. Steering Committee members Ernestine Hayes, Stephen Atwater, and Katy Spangler volunteered to join Chancellor Caulfield. A meeting is scheduled for next week.

8. Discussion: Transition from AKCOE Steering Committee to UA Teacher Education Council

Consistent with President Johnsen's memo of October 3, the plan is for the AKCOE Steering Committee to transition into the UA Teacher Education Council, chaired by the future Executive Dean. Chair Caulfield observed that Council representation is likely to remain that of the current Committee—with two Education faculty elected at each university, one faculty member from each university nominated by the Alaska Native Studies Council, and provosts from each university.

As for membership, Caulfield also suggested that—in his view—a data analyst focusing on education should also be on the Council. He noted that UA data teams are already working together to meet accreditation needs. Representatives of all three universities are collaborating on this: Erin Homes at UAA, Ian Olson at UAF, and Brad Ewing at UAS. Chair Caulfield said that there is a need for development and coordination of Education data. Having one person on the Council would ensure that coordination.

There was discussion about the structure of the future Council. Mr. Ongtooguk noted the benefit of having someone who understands the issues of rural and Native education, including the problem of teacher turnover. He thought our committee would benefit from having representation from one of these rural schools. Dr. Coulter suggested that Council members have alternating terms of 2 academic years so that there are opportunities for new members to become engaged. These could be staggered so that there is a balance between continuity and new perspectives. Turnover would presumably take place at the end of the academic year.

Chair Caulfield proposed that the transition from the existing Steering Committee to the new Council take place effective January 1, 2018. Since faculty compensation and workloads are already in place through the fall, this would be a logical time to make this change. Committee members agreed. The chair indicated that bylaws for the Council will be drafted for further consideration, taking these ideas into account.

Existing Steering Committee members were invited to consider whether or not they'd like to continue serving into Spring semester 2018—as members of the new Council. If any feel like they cannot continue, this might be a logical time for a change. The Chair asked any who'd like to discuss their future participation to be in touch with him directly.

9. Teacher Education in UA FY19 Budget

Chair Caulfield noted that UA chancellors and provosts have been involved in expedited FY19 UA budget development, working as part of the Summit Team. The FY19 budget proposal will be presented to the UA Board of Regents first on October 24. Action on the budget is expected at the Board's November meeting. There will be opportunity for public testimony in advance of the November meeting.

As part of this process, President Johnsen has articulated five major UA system goals; expanding teacher education is one of them. Provost Henrichs noted that all three universities put in substantial requests for student recruitment and retention. With specific reference to teacher preparation, UAS proposes significant investment in *Educators Rising* and the PITAAS program (Preparing Indigenous Teachers and Administrators for Alaska's Schools). UAS also proposed funding for teacher education marketing, arguing that a sustained multi-year effort is needed. UAS also requested funding for an Education data analyst and for faculty engagement around STEM and other high-demand programs. UAF budgeted for RAHI expansion, as well as for Educators Rising. UAF requested for an additional faculty position that would be focused on enhancing teacher preparation programs. The third area requested was to hire a recruiter focused on teacher preparation.

Chair Caulfield noted that the President is just now considering these proposals. Over the next week, all UA universities will get a better idea about which proposals he will be putting forward to the Board. Chair Caulfield noted that, in the future, the UA Teacher Education Council will be an excellent venue for developing collaborative funding requests for Education programs of benefit to the entire state.

Dr. Spangler asked about City and Borough of Juneau's (CBJ) endowment of \$1M to the UAS-based Alaska College of Education; how does that fit into our process here. Chair Caulfield responded that CBJ put the funds into the Juneau Community Foundation (JCF). It is likely that the earnings will total something like \$50,000 annually from this endowment. They can be used statewide. The City is also encouraging others to add to this endowment. Decisions about how the funds will be used each year will be in the hands of the Executive Dean.

10. Wrap-up and review of future Steering Committee meeting schedule

The next meeting is set for October 27th. However, the planned meeting of November 10 conflicts with a Board of Regents meeting. The subsequent meeting would fall during the Thanksgiving weekend. In light of these scheduling issues, the Chair proposes meeting on October 27, then meeting again on December 8th. This was agreed to. A spring schedule for the new Council will be discussed at the December 8 meeting.

Ms. Hayes asked how that this would work with the Executive Dean recruitment schedule. Chair Caulfield said that if a recruitment document is finalized at our next meeting (October 27), the recruitment can get underway. The first review of candidates could begin in early December and then continue after the holidays.