

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2005

Officers Present: President Lynn Shepherd, President-Elect Chuck Craig

Faculty Senators Present: Brian Blitz, Jennifer Brown, Eve Dillingham, Tim Ewest, Virgil Fredenberg, Lisa Hoferkamp, Yuliya Ivanova, Joe Liddle, Nina Chordas (for Jane Terzis), Robin Walz

Ex-officio and Guests: Provost Robbie Stell, Wynne Waugaman

1. Approval of minutes for November 4, 2005 meeting: Moved, seconded, and approved.
2. Approval of agenda: Wynne Waugaman's Faculty Handbook updates added to agenda.
3. Assembly members' comments: none.
4. Old business

A. Performance-based budgeting: Is currently in effect. Guidelines available at these web sites:

White papers: <http://www.alaska.edu/swbudget/pm/details.xml>

Academic Program Outcome Assessment

<http://www.alaska.edu/swbudget/pm/currentpm/oadetails.xml>

Provost Stell elaborated upon some of the performance-based matrices: credit-hour production, rates of graduation, meeting state needs.

B. Copyright for instructional materials – discussion papers (attachments 4B.1 and 4B.2)

Curt Madison: We have to work through the Distance-Education Steering Board to provide input into the development of distance education policies and procedures across the UA system .

UAS Reps: Katy Spangler, Susy Fero, Cathy Lecompte. Usually, DESB agendas are only distributed about a week in advance; Faculty Alliance Chair Shepherd suggested to Curt Madison that a two-month lead time is needed for effective feedback. Madison seems agreeable; next meeting in March. **Have units discuss the copyright ownership issues and bring opinions to the Faculty Senate in January and February in order to prepare a response before the DESB meeting in March.**

C. Online course evaluations (attachment 4C)

Lynn Shepherd prepared a list of questions and concerns about the on-line course evaluations for prioritization. Solicited additions:

Brian: Return rates.

Eve: Who has access and what is the “chain of custody” for aggregate as well as individual results.

Lisa: Distinguishing between TA and professor or between professors in team-taught courses.

Virgil: Problem of evaluating adjuncts—some do not even know how to use UAS Online themselves, let alone steer students toward it.

Yulia: Need to distinguish between two kinds of evaluations: outcomes (competencies) and inputs (course and instructor).

General discussion about the purpose of the evaluations: What is it we want to do?

Jeffrey Johnston “UAS Conversations” presentation next Thursday, December 8, 1:30-2:30 pm.

For those who cannot attend, the presentation is streamed (RealVideo) in UAS Online. Go to FAC-02 in Fall 2005 or use “conversations” and By Description.

Provost Stell asked for suggestions for Spring 2006 UAS Conversations topics.

Motion: To postpone work on revisions to the on-line course evaluations until after Jeffrey Johnston’s presentation.

Motion: A Faculty Senate working group (Yulia, Lisa, Virgil, Jennifer, Robin) meets with Jeff on December 12 to discuss strategies for revising course evaluations.

Shepherd: Directive to discuss in unit meetings the purpose and objectives of evaluations for discussion at the January Faculty Senate meeting.

5. New business

A. Diversity in hiring (attachment 5A)

Lynn Shepherd: In response to a letter from the Humanities Department: We have an affirmative action plan from 2004 in place (<http://www.uas.alaska.edu/personnel/AA04-combo.pdf>). **Have units review it and suggest strategies for enhancing faculty and staff diversity within departments.**

B. Curriculum quality assurance

Academic Policy Formulation and Curricular Review

Faculty Handbook, pp. 52f. <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/FacultySenate/handbooks/FacultyHandbook2003.pdf>

Lynn Shepherd: A number of issues have come up: Questions about Math and Social Science adjunct faculty who have not been vetted by faculty groups. Some DE courses that are being counted for program credit, although there is minimal student interaction with instructors, most content is ‘taught’ by textbooks and accompanying CDs, and local faculty can’t evaluate content for its equivalence because the DE instructor isn’t affiliated with a program. Some DE courses that students claim are easier than local courses. According to the Faculty Handbook, we are charged with curriculum quality control and are not supposed to let this happen.

Qs: Is there something we can add to the Faculty Handbook to structurally improve the situation (or, perhaps simply follow the procedures that are already there)? Will that require further resources (e.g. bringing adjunct and FT program faculty together regularly)? What about

transferability (from UAA, UAF, and their attendant distance classes)? **Talk to faculty groups and bring perceived problems and proposed solutions to the January Senate meeting.**

Wynne Waugaman announcement: Working with John French on a mock page for the new, on-line the Faculty Handbook: <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/FacultyHandbook>. The “Introduction” is available for viewing and critique. It will just be the “clean handbook copy” with internal links.

Provost Stell: Thanks to Wynne for assistance with institutional research (IRB, etc.).

6. Reports

A. Senate President Reports

Chancellor’s Cabinet: EasyBiz memo (attachment 6A.1): Distribute to faculty groups.

Faculty Alliance: ORP recommendations by Statewide Human Resources to BOR (attachment 6A.2 and 6A.2b): The proposed amendments are the recommendations on page four. The new ORP will be a defined contribution (of unspecified amount) to health care plans; specific retirement income amounts not defined. Faculty should be aware that changes are being proposed.

DE Steering Board and faculty input (attachment 6A.3): The system wide DE Steering Board is defining the DE agenda (see attached agenda). This is not a faculty-driven committee or process. If we want input, we’ve got to be proactive and give our UAS representatives consensus opinions. Units are being asked to provide answers to questions 1, 3, 4, 5 on the attached memo. The Senate’s DE Committee has been asked to suggest answers to those questions too. We will discuss units’ and DE Committee proposals at the January meeting and provide DESB representatives with our input before their March meeting.

B. Standing Committees

Academic Information Services: Distributed at the meeting.

Curriculum (attachment 6B.2): Elise, Mona, and John French are working on an effective, efficient on-line curriculum forms. A prototype may be ready for review beginning February 2006.

Graduate (attachment 6B.3): No discussion.

7. Date for January Faculty Senate Meeting: January 13, 2006, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

8. Provost Announcements:

Deans of Engineering from UAA and UAF: Meeting December 12, 2005, to develop an articulation agreement for Engineering programs so local students can take the first two years of coursework at UAS.

“Alaska Ethics Act: Working Within the Law” presentation by Mike Hostina, December 13, 2005 2:30-4:00 Egan Library 104.

Spring Convocation: Focus on Student Advising, January 9, 2006.

Supplemental Instruction Workshop: Presented by Drs. Glen Jackobs and Sandra Zerger, University of Missouri-Kansas City, January 10-11, 2006.

Curt Madison and DE Steering Board will meet in Juneau on March 30-31, 2006.

Minutes prepared by Robin Walz, December 2, 2005

Reviewed and corrected by President Lynn Shepherd, December 8, 2005.