

MINUTES
University of Alaska Southeast
Faculty Senate Meeting
September 2, 2011
Egan Library 211

Meeting Called to Order at 3:07 p.m.

Senators Attending: Dan Monteith (President), Brian Blitz, Vickie Williams, Robin Gilcrist, Anne Jones, Rose Goeden, Carolyn Bergstrom, Wendy Girven, Sol Neely, Coleen McKenna, Priscilla Schulte, Rick Caulfield (Ex-Officio)

Guests: Thomas Duke, Mike Stekoll, Chuck Craig, Maria Moya

Action Items:

These minutes focus primarily on capturing actions taken (versus discussion content).

1. **B.A. Special Ed Program Proposal**

Dr. Thomas Duke forwarded a proposal to add a B.A. in Special Education degree to UAS' program offerings. Dr. Duke explained that the degree is intended to address a need for Special Education instructors in K-19. He said that the State of Alaska Department of Labor and Department of Education & Early Development identified Special Education as a high demand job field. Dr. Duke summarized the course requirements (information submitted in Faculty Senate packet) and explained how the degree would lead to institutional recommendations to certify graduates to teach Special Education in Alaska.

Motion Forwarded by: Coleen McKenna forwarded motion to accept the proposal and advance for review by Curriculum Committee

Seconded by: Vickie Williams

Vote: All in favor, except Brian Blitz (who abstained)

2. **Occupational Endorsement Mine Mechanic**

Chuck Craig asked for Faculty Senate's approval of a Mine Mechanic occupational endorsement (OE). Mr. Craig explained that the occupational endorsement is in partnership with local mining companies. The program will be part of a multi-step educational pathway: 1) training in conjunction with local high schools, 2) a two week mining academy, and 3) the UAS Mine Mechanic Occupational Endorsement. Mr. Craig explained the new OE would make the educational pipeline more seamless for students.

Motion Forwarded by: Priscilla Schulte forwarded motion to accept the proposal and advance for review by Curriculum Committee.

Seconded by: Brian Blitz

Vote: All in favor

3. **Workforce Credentials**

Robin Gilcrist pointed out the Faculty Senate packet includes a memo pointing out that a workforce credential is something approved by the Board of Regents in 2005. She went on to explain that, up to this point, UAS has not requested any workforce credentials. Career Education have some workforce credentials in mine training and weatherization that will be coming up. Ms. Gilcrist explained that the University President delegated to Chancellors the authority to directly approve these credential independently, without Faculty Senate action. President Monteith reaffirmed this provision in Board of Regents policy. He thanked Ms. Gilcrist for notifying the Senate of these pending workforce credentials activities.

Vickie Williams asked for time to discuss the approval process with her faculty, as well as the process for approving OEs. President Monteith asked Senators to discuss with OE vs. WFC with their faculty, as well as the relevant BOR policies.

4. **TLTR Committee Assignments and Goals**

Provost Caulfield passed out to the Senate printouts from the UAS TLTR website. He asked for the Senate's input on representation on the committee, as well as its role and function. The Provost explained that the TLTR is not a committee of Faculty Senate, but serves in an advisory capacity to the Provost. He added that membership is appointed by the Provost and explained that he is looking to have a broader, more regional representation on the committee. He went on to say that his goal is to call a TLTR meeting in the next 2-3 weeks to chart out the committee's direction.

One from each school/campus, Lib, LC, IT, students

President Monteith stressed that, with Blackboard transition under consideration, it is important to have faculty actively engaged in these teaching and technology issues this year in particular. He urged Senators to put technology on the radar of their constituencies. He also suggested that the TLTR include membership from each department and perhaps have a TLTR member be assigned to report regularly to Faculty Senate. The Provost said he would welcome this and stressed that Faculty Senate engagement is important. President Monteith asked Senators to go back to their departments and ask whether they would like the committee to be a Faculty Senate committee. He also asked Senators to forward to their departments' recommendations for committee membership to the Provost directly.

5. **Grading Deadline Change – Resolution**

Vickie Williams said the School of Management feels that having grades due on Tuesday after finals week doesn't offer enough time for faculty to assess projects and provide students good feedback. They suggest changing the date to the Friday after finals.

Ms. Williams said she and Kathy DiLorenzo will work on drafting a resolution to forward to the Senate.

President Monteith asked Senators to alert their departments this issue will be coming up.

6. **Faculty Handbook Final Draft – Report**

President Monteith said he wants to keep it moving along, but also that faculty have time to review it. He asked Senators to consider what would be a reasonable timeframe.

President Monteith asked Senators for a read on their departments' preparedness for a vote on the draft Handbook. Anne Jones said that the School of Education is in the middle of preparations for an October NCATE accreditation site visit. She suggested that action be taken afterwards. Brian Blitz said the draft Handbook is better than what currently is in effect, so perhaps it's best to pass it as a temporary measure. Brian Blitz and Sol Neely said their units are ready to move forward on a vote. Wendy Girven said the Library is interested and prepared to approve the draft Handbook. Coleen McKenna pointed out that her department noted some language change is needed to reflect the correct number of academic units. Priscilla Schulte said Ketchikan needs a little more time. Vickie Williams said BPA needs time to resolve CIOS omission, has questions about whether past Faculty Senate decisions are represented in Handbook, and old language about graduate programs. Rose Goeden said Sitka is not ready yet. Robin Gilcrist said Career Education wants to see workforce credentials corrections made before approving Handbook.

The Provost suggested that the current committee be enlisted to consider these comments (and any others), meet to tighten the Handbook language up some more to clean up issues in time to have a newly revised Handbook for the next Faculty Senate meeting. Suggestions for changes should be forwarded to Sherry Tamone.

President Monteith suggested Senators to go back to their units and explain the above. He added that he will be asking for a motion on the Handbook at the next Senate meeting.

7. **Presidential Task Force on Student Evaluations – Appoint a Chair and Committee**

President Monteith explained that the issue of student evaluations came up at Faculty Alliance. He said he wishes to appoint a committee to try to revamp the instrument; have a discussion about how to administer it. UAA and UAF will be doing the same. He asked

Senators to go back to their units with his wishes. He is interested in forming a committee to address the issue and will be looking for representatives and a chair.

8. **Research Committee Reappointment**

President Monteith asked for nominations to the Research Committee and Chair. He said he will clarify that, up to this year, the committee was ad hoc, but made permanent by act of the Senate. He also noted this change will need to be reflected in the Handbook.

9. **Sustainability Committee (Ad hoc) Reappointment**

President Monteith asked if there are any nominations for membership to the Sustainability ad hoc committee. He asked Senators to ask their units if it should be ad hoc or standing, and forward volunteers.

10. **Curriculum Committee – Review of Deadlines**

President Monteith announced that Curriculum Chair, Erica Hill was unable to attend today's meeting due to a schedule conflict. She has committed to attending meetings in the future.

11. **Faculty Senate Retreat – Date and Agenda**

President Monteith explained that the Chancellor is interested (and willing) to have a retreat with Faculty Senate. He asked the Senate to consider if they are interested in a retreat, and if so, what would be the goals. Senate discussed the history that lead to earlier retreats. President Monteith said he would get prior historical information out to Senate. He asked Senators to read over this material and consider the Chancellor's request.

12. **Deleting Communications Committee**

President Monteith entertained a motion to delete the Communications Committee. Discussion ensued; no motion was forwarded.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:58 p.m.