

## University of Alaska Southeast Faculty Senate Minutes

May 1, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Attendance:

H. Batchelder, President	X
D. Noon, President-Elect	X
R. Gilcrist, Past-President	X
G. Sampson, AK College of Education	
S. Nagorski, Nat. Sci. Dept.	X
J. Hamilton, Business & Public Admin. Dept.	X
J. Martin, Sitka Campus	

J. Fantasia, Career Education	X
R. Landis, Ketchikan Campus	X
K. Krein, Humanities Department	X
K. DiLorenzo, Juneau Campus	X
J. Ward, Library	X
D. Monteith, Social Sciences Dept.	X
K. Carey, Provost	X

Guests: C. Bennett, C. Brown, Mac Powell (NWCCU)

- I. **Call to Order** (TC 0:55)
- II. **Introductions**
- III. **Announcements**
  - a. H. Batchelder expressed appreciation for the service of senators during this challenging year.
  - b. Grades are due at noon on Wednesday, May 6.
- IV. **Approval of Agenda** (TC 1:45) – *D. Monteith moved to accept the agenda. K. DiLorenzo seconded. The motion passed without objection.*
- V. **Approval of April 2020 Meeting Minutes** (TC 2:00) – *D. Monteith moved to accept the April meeting minutes. R. Landis seconded. The motion passed without objection.*
- VI. **Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)** (TC 2:25) – President Batchelder invited Dr. Mac Powell of NWCCU to join the meeting to address questions or concerns faculty may have with regard to shared governance. She noted that the deadline for Board of Regents (BOR) policy changes has been rescheduled to occur prior to the UAF accreditation site visit. Faculty concerns about adherence to shared governance principles and lack of transparency remain. President Johnsen has requested that chancellors reduce costs and look at program consolidations again.
 

(TC 6:57) – With regard to trends in higher education towards offering classes in the fall, M. Powell noted that NWCCU has been conducting town hall meetings with constituencies to gather information about what institutions are doing to address the challenges of COVID. Currently there is a 30-day exception in place that allows institutions to offer courses by distance that are normally delivered face to face. The U.S. Department of Education would need to approve of changes beyond the existing exception. (Note: The Department subsequently extended that deadline.) NWCCU continues to seek additional clarity from the Dept. of Education about what exceptions or flexibility will be allowable, and how to support students in completing their degrees/certificates. Institutions around the region are reporting stable enrollments for fall, but are concerned about potential attrition due to the coronavirus.

(TC 9:55) – With regard to consolidation of some programs and potential closures that the statewide system is looking at within Alaska, M. Powell responded that NWCCU primarily would

look at how the educational needs of students are taken care of in the process, particularly if there are teach outs or transfers.

- VII. **NCHEMS: Response to the report** (TC 5:00 and 15:00) – There are several items in the shared drive in regard to this topic, including the full report system leadership requested examining administrative costs. H. Batchelder reported concerns in the way the data was gathered and analyzed to support the position of system leadership. There is a letter to NCHEMS from three UA faculty including A. Dewees raising concerns about the report, and a detailed commentary from UA faculty member Joel Potter.  
(TC 18:50) – D. Monteith has created a motion proposing administrative salary reductions in response to the budgetary challenges that can be found on the shared drive.
- VIII. **Vote on protection of faculty materials and mode of delivery** (TC 17:35 and 30:00) – President Batchelder referred to the UAF motion to protect faculty proprietary rights over course materials and delivery modes on the shared drive. After discussion, *K. Krein moved to have UAS Faculty Senate express support for the UAF motion. D. Monteith seconded. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.*
- IX. **Accept faculty handbook revisions** (TC 36:34) – *R. Landis moved to accept the proposed revisions to the Faculty Handbook. K. Krein seconded. The motion passed with no objections.*
- X. **Guidelines for adjunct instructor hiring** (TC 41:25) – Arts & Sciences has used a form to review potential adjunct hires for many years, and M. Trafton, with approval from Provost Council, is working on modifications to allow it to be used by all UAS units. H. Batchelder noted that it would be helpful to have faculty members develop guidelines for qualifications of adjunct instructors that could be added to the form. The ownership of the revised form and who would approve changes to the form is not yet clear. Provost Carey noted that one of the changes is to establish timelines so that programs know how long it will take to learn if an adjunct has been approved or not. Also, a line for Provost's signature has been added as the final approver. H. Batchelder asked for faculty volunteers to join the working group to help with the revisions, and K. Krein and R. Landis agreed to help.
- XI. **Academic Record Files – Protocol revisions** (TC 51:32) – A. Parrish reviewed the history of the handling of the Academic Record Files since they were dispersed from the Provost's Office to the offices of deans and directors over five years ago. The protocols that were developed for handling the files were recently reviewed by the file custodians and M. Haavig, and the suggested changes are intended to streamline and simplify those guidelines. Executive Provost's Council will also have a chance to review the changes and voice any objections. H. Batchelder asked if any senators objected to the suggested changes, and none were noted.
- XII. **Special Course Contract** (TC 57:19) – P. Sommers in the registrar's office has suggested some changes to the form to make it easier for staff to work with, but it does not change any of the form content. H. Batchelder asked if any senators objected to the suggested changes, and none were noted.
- XIII. **Feedback regarding differential tuition** (TC 58:29) – H. Batchelder solicited feedback with regard to differential tuition. She would like to hear back from units before the end of the contract year so she can pass it along to SPBAC and the president. There were questions about which programs would be considered for higher tuition, whether it was between higher division courses, or between resident versus non-resident tuition. Provost Carey clarified that the questions was raised initially with regard to specific Ph.D. programs at UAF.

- XIV. **TLTR Request** (TC 1:10:06) – M. Buzby reported that Juneau TLTR has received a request from Natural Sciences to install a camera in Egan 114 to facilitate the delivery of hybrid courses in the fall. The original request was for one camera, but in light of the coronavirus, perhaps more should be requested. R. Gilcrist plans to send out a survey to all faculty to see if there are additional technology needs due to the virus disruption.
- XV. **Ed Tech Notes** (TC 1:14:00) – J. Fantasia reported that Career Education faculty met with union representatives about the challenges in trying to deliver their coursework with limited or no face to face instruction. They are concerned about how this is going to work in the fall if social distancing is still in effect since programs such as welding are not easy to deliver by distance. Notes from that meeting can be found on the shared drive.
- XVI. **Elections update: Dave Noon is seeking a FS president elect** (TC 1:15:50) – H. Batchelder prepared a summary report for the year that is in the shared drive. She will begin leading Faculty Alliance when this Academic Year concludes. She will be available as needed during the summer. D. Noon reported that there is not currently a second candidate for president-elect for next year. Per the Faculty Handbook, there cannot be an election until Faculty Assembly at Convocation. H. Batchelder announced that F. Wagner will be the Juneau Faculty Senator at Large.
- XVII. **Adjourn** (TC 1:25:30) – *J. Hamilton moved to adjourn the meeting. R. Landis seconded. The meeting adjourned with no objection.*
- XVIII. **Faculty Discussion**