

University of Alaska Southeast

Faculty Senate

September 8, 2023

3:00-5:00 PM

Egan Library 211 and via Zoom

Glenn Wright, President	x	Charmaine Lewis, Natural Sciences	x
Jennifer Ward, Past President	x	Melissa Dolese, Social Sciences	x
Brian Blitz, President-Elect	x	Jonas Lamb, Library	x
Mike Boyer, Business & Public Admin.	x	X'unei Lance Twitchell, Juneau	
Neil Voelckers, Career Education	x	Angie Bowers, Sitka	x
Beth Hartley, Education	x	Kasia Polanska, Ketchikan	X
Andrea Dewees, Humanities	x	Maren Haavig, Provost	X

Guests: P. Schirmer

- I. **Call to order** (TC 3:21)
- II. **Roll call** (TC 4:16)
- III. **Approval of agenda** (TC 5:19) – *M. Boyer moved to approve the agenda. B. Hartley seconded. The motion carried.*
- IV. **Approval of May 2023 [minutes](#)** (TC 6:45) – *N. Voelckers moved to approve the minutes of the prior meeting. M. Boyer seconded. The motion carried.*
- V. **Old business** (TC 7:59) – None.
- VI. **New business**

A. Logistical Items. G. Wright: Shared drive, committees, meetings

(TC 8:05) – G. Wright gave an overview of how he intends to organize the meetings this year. The Google shared drive will have a folder for each meeting where agendas and meeting topic materials will be found. A draft agenda will be circulated in advance and additional meeting topics can be added if needed.

Committee reports will only be added to the agenda if requested. Submitted written committee reports can be linked in the agenda and/or mentioned in the president's report.

To keep the agenda moving efficiently, each agenda item will be associated with an individual and will have a time allotment noted. Agenda contributors are encouraged to provide relevant background material or policy proposals, or note if an item is for discussion only.

It was noted that the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UGCC) will likely need time at each meeting.

B. Chancellor's Committee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Cultural Safety (DEICS) faculty representation selection. *G. Wright*

(TC 14:35) – M. Trafton co-chairs the committee and has asked what the process for selecting the Faculty Senate appointed committee members should be. He believes that committee members self-select.

(TC 25:23) – A Dewees noted that there were multiple initial candidates for the faculty committee seats, and that an election was held a few years back to determine who would serve. G. Wright welcomes feedback on whether the existing committee members can self-select or if another method should be used.

C. Student conduct. Link. *G. Wright*

(TC 15:50) – It was noted during Convocation that the recently posted reporting process for suspicion of Academic Dishonesty on the Dean of Students website is in conflict with the UAS Faculty Handbook section on Academic Integrity. Senators discussed what may have been the source and reason for the change. Concerns were expressed about the change being made without faculty input. G. Wright solicited feedback from senators. Whether UA legal counsel may be behind the change was considered. It was suggested that the policy may be copied from UAA's policy. G. Wright will reach out to N. Bodenstadt as a first step to address the conflict at the lowest level.

(TC 27:50) Senators further discussed academic integrity and what the best policy for UAS should be. If UA legal counsel was involved in the recent change, then this may be a Faculty Alliance (FA) matter.

D. Open Educational Resources (OER) Survey. Link. *J. Lamb*

(TC 29:38) – J. Lamb discussed the survey link from a colleague at Southern Georgia University. The survey takes about 10-15 minutes to complete and is part of a research study to gather information about how OER and Open Access (OA) work is evaluated with regard to promotion and tenure processes. He also shared the following link to a matrix that could be adapted for use by faculty reviewers.

https://www.doers3.org/uploads/1/3/2/2/132273765/the_oer_contributions_matrix.pdf.

This may be a topic for FS to consider adding to the handbook with regard to tenure and promotion review criteria.

E. [UA Land Grant/Native land claims](#). *J. Lamb*

(TC 33:14) – J. Lamb led a discussion on this item that was raised at the recent Advancing Native Dialogues on Racial Equity (ANDORE) training. The background document provides more detailed information about the University’s [Land Grant Initiative](#) and the potential conflicts this has with many Alaska Native groups. Other compounding historical and legal issues were discussed. Whether Faculty Senate(s) or FA should suggest a different course of action to UA leadership was discussed.

It was suggested that FA could get further information about the status of the initiative from P. Loyer, P. Pitney at upcoming meetings.

F. **Volunteers needed for Gardner “Sense-Making”? *G. Wright***

(TC 41:30) – G. Wright and M. Haavig provided background information on the Gardner Institute project. Gardner is an educational research group that began working with UAS last fall on a five-year project. The name of the project is Transforming the Foundational Postsecondary Experience. G. Wright, K. Handley, M. Haavig, and L. Klein are the UAS leadership team for the project. They are preparing to send out two surveys to faculty and staff shortly. Once the survey data is collected, a faculty team will be needed to help make sense of the data. It will involve a few Zoom meetings for 3-5 faculty members. This will then inform the next steps in the project. The project is likely to be of interest to faculty who are interested in enhancing the first year experience for our students. The contract with Gardner is being funded through a statewide grant. UAF is also participating, but not UAA. (This item is further discussed in the president’s report.)

VII. **President’s report**

A. **Gardner volunteers needed**

(TC 58:50) – (Also see New Business item F above.) The exact timeline has not yet been determined for this work. The total time commitment for each faculty member will likely be around six hours, and will probably be structured as two, three-hour meetings. The work will take place later in the fall, likely the beginning of December.

B. **M. Ciri retirement**

(TC 52:45) – G. Wright noted M. Ciri has been an especially welcoming presence and is looking for ideas about how FS could best honor his departure from UAS. The BOR recognized his contributions at the most recent meeting. Suggested ideas included encouraging people to contribute to the fund he and J. Cary established to benefit GED students. Another idea was to make a more light hearted commendation, in keeping with M. Ciri’s cheerful disposition. A. Dewees noted that FS has recognized his leadership as the UAS Covid Incident Commander. H G. Wright will start a Google Doc so that people can contribute their thoughts.

VIII. **Provost's report** – Provost Haavig's written report is also on the Google drive.

A. Annual program assessments

(TC 1:00:37) – The provost is suggesting three changes to the [Annual Program Assessment Report](#) template. The goal is to streamline it and reduce the amount of faculty effort in the process. The three changes are to 1) Clarify that the Program Summary should be brief. 2) Add a footnote that no enrollment data is required. 3) Prompt faculty to confirm that the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) listed in the online catalog are accurate and well written.

A. Dewees moved to make this an action item today. B. Hartley seconded. The motion carried. J. Lamb moved to approve the proposed changes to the document. M. Boyer seconded. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

B. Outer Coast (OC)

(TC 1:07:15) – M. Haavig and the Executive Director of OC provided updates to the BOR Academic and Student Affairs committee recently. UAS faculty are reviewing the OC program and courses, and are preparing proposals for the UGCC.

(TC 1:18:05) – It was noted that OC is paying for the work being done by UAS faculty to review the course proposals. OC was discussed at the BOR meeting. There were some very detailed questions and concerns that may be due to the fact that so many of the regents are new. This will continue to be discussed and information provided to address misconceptions and clarify the benefits of working together.

The written report also contains information about:

- A minor correcting update has been made to the [5-year Program Review](#) template. She is looking to form a committee to improve and streamline the template. This may be an action item for next month. She wants each campus and school represented, so 3-6 faculty will be needed. K. Handley will also serve on the committee. Hopefully an improved template will be ready for next year's review cycle.
- A search is in process for a Director of Research, Sponsored Programs, and the Alaska Coastal Resource Center (ACRC). C. Lewis, K. Jensen, J. Vigil, E. Wall, and J. Fellman have agreed to serve, but another person to serve as the chair is needed as soon as possible. She noted that this is the first time the two positions are being combined, and provided some background on the history of the research administration position.

IX. Committee reports

A. [Faculty Alliance \(FA\)](#) J. Ward

(TC 1:25:05) – J. Ward currently serves as the FA President. Her written report is on the shared drive. She provided background information about the current membership and role of FA.

The Faculty Innovation Fund (FIF) Request for Proposals will be released shortly. It will provide awards in two tiers. The first tier is for longer projects and has a maximum amount of \$30,000. The second tier awards will be capped at \$10,000. Three faculty reviewers will be needed for the FIF program. If you are planning to apply for the fund you probably should not serve as a reviewer. It is a good opportunity for SW service experience. *Please share the need for reviewers with your faculty.*

She has seven minutes to speak at each Board of Regents (BOR) meeting. She used her time at the August meeting to help inform the regents about the variety of work faculty did this summer. The BOR will focus on “[Three Pillars of Excellence](#)” which is distilled from the previous Goals and Measures document. The three pillars are *Reputation Enhancement; Financial Health & Long-Term Viability; and State and Arctic Leadership*. Several special meetings on these topics are planned in the near future.

Faculty are also being sought for a new statewide HR committee on employee feedback and assessment. They are looking for input on questions regarding assessing administrators. This will be discussed further at the next FA meeting.

- X. Adjourn. No later than 5 PM** (TC 1:33:47) – *J. Lamb moved to adjourn the meeting. M. Boyer seconded.* Senators expressed appreciation to B. Blitz for his service as incoming president and also to B. Hartley for being willing to serve. *The meeting adjourned without objection.*