

Faculty Senate Minutes
October 6, 2023, 3-5PM
Location: 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	X	X'unei Lance Twitchell, Juneau	
Neil Voelckers, Career Ed	X	Angie Bowers, Sitka	X
Beth Hartley, Education	X	Kasia Polanska, Ketchikan	X
Andrea Dewees, Humanities	X	Maren Haavig, Provost	X

Guests: K. Handley, A. Palmer, P. Schirmer

- I. **Call to order** – Zoom Tape Count (ZTC) 3:34
- II. **Roll call** – (ZTC 3:38)
- III. **Approval of agenda** – (ZTC 5:00) *M. Boyer moved to approve the meeting agenda. J. Lamb seconded. The motion passed without objection.*
- IV. **Approval of Sept 2023 minutes.**
https://docs.google.com/document/d/16b5p7WIIIRMuTIRLX4aR7Em_9rKGEk0p0/e/dit?usp=drive_link&oid=116344680614825924856&rtpof=true&sd=true
 (ZTC 5:26) – *J. Lamb moved to approve the prior meeting minutes. N. Voelckers seconded. The motion passed without objection.*
- V. **Invited guest: Chancellor Palmer, Enrollment**
 (ZTC 7:55) – Chancellor Palmer and K. Handley joined the meeting to discuss enrollment and retention. This is a high priority focus area for the chancellor and she intends to meet with various groups this fall to engage support.

 K. Handley reviewed the Enrollment Targets Summary data that is part of the Strategic Enrollment Plan currently under revision. The targets are being updated and an additional year has been added. By fall 2026 we aim to have an increase of 5% headcount compared to the current semester. The plan also seeks to increase the headcount of degree seeking students by 1% annually and to focus on increasing our retention rate. While current headcount is flat compared to last year, we have increased our retention rate from 65% to 71%, likely due to the efforts of faculty and staff. K. Handley noted that the updated document will be posted on the Institutional Effectiveness website soon.

Chancellor Palmer noted that focusing on enrollment was a clearly stated goal when she was hired and described recent marketing efforts designed to help with recruitment. Today she is asking for help from faculty on retention efforts. She expressed appreciation for the work already done that resulted in such an improvement in retention this year. She is actively soliciting ideas and seeking faculty engagement to build a concerted, focused, sustained effort to retain students. She described a continuous improvement model that would review efforts each year and revise as needed. She described experiences and examples from previous institutions.

The chancellor described how raising retention rates helps achieve our mission by helping students get their degrees, and how it also makes us financially sustainable. She reiterated how important having faculty involved by sharing their ideas and recommendations to forge a path forward

Chancellor Palmer will be meeting with the chancellor's cabinet, advisors, provost's council and other groups in the coming weeks on this topic. She noted that faculty are the most important people in the student experience, and that is where our retention efforts must begin.

A lively discussion continued with ideas being suggested, additional data being shared, and other possible strategies being suggested. The long term Gardner Institute project was discussed as well as potential barriers such as the tuition differential between upper and lower division courses. In closing, the chancellor encouraged working together to develop solutions and noted that our small size can be of advantage in creating change.

VI. Curriculum: Category A approvals. [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VDYiC-Tce8Dm9of2aLn3LuFAAHJiNY9H/edit?usp=drive link&oid=116344680614825924856&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VDYiC-Tce8Dm9of2aLn3LuFAAHJiNY9H/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=116344680614825924856&rtpof=true&sd=true)

(ZTC 1:13:05) – P. Schirmer reviewed the twelve Category A proposals listed below. The process for Category A proposals was clarified. They first come to Faculty Senate (FS) so that everyone is aware of them, then they go to Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UGCC) for a detailed review that includes a first and second reading. After the detailed UGCC review, they come back to FS for final action. Chair Schirmer noted that the inclusion of the two BA courses as General Education Requirements (GERs) has been reviewed by the Social Sciences department. The remaining course proposals are related to our mentoring relationship with Outer Coast College. There is also one program proposal for consideration today.

- **BA S151.** *Introduction to Business. Aligning with UAA and UAF to add to GER courses.
- **BA S254.** *Personal Finance. Aligning with UAA and UAF to add to accepted GER courses.

- **Health Sciences, A.A.S** Program change based upon feedback from 5-year program review, includes changing identifiers from HUMS to BHS adding SOC and STAT advisor approved electives.
- **OCBI S101.** Community Ecology and Ecosystems of Sitka. Outer Coast (OC).
- **OCAL S191.** Service Internship I-II. (OC).
- **OCAN S101.** Indigenous Studies I: Tlingit Language and Culture. (OC).
- **OCAN S102.** Indigenous Studies II: Ideas, Frameworks, Bridges Between Cultures. (OC).
- **OCAN S103.** Indian Country in the American Imagination. (OC).
- **OCEI S101.** Indigenous Science. (OC).
- **OCEI S102.** Seaweeds and Sapiens: A Holistic Ecology of our Coastal Environment. (OC).
- **OCPS S101.** Neuroscience of Consciousness. (OC).
- **OCUN S100.** Introduction to College: Skills Building and Educational Values. (OC).

Senators discussed the mechanics of the proposal review process in CourseLeaf. It was noted that the GER box should not be checked on any of the OC proposals as they will not be UAS GERs. It was also noted that the degree program for OC will not be reviewed until all the courses in the program are reviewed. At this time, only 100 level OC courses have been submitted to UGCC.

M. Boyer moved to approve the twelve listed proposals for initial FS review. N. Voelckers seconded. The motion passed with no objections.

VII. Old business

A. Student conduct.

(ZTC 1:29:48) – G. Wright had the opportunity to discuss the student conduct and academic dishonesty policy posted on the UAS Dean of Students website with N. Bodenstadt. Questions have been raised about the policy by statewide legal counsel, so at this time we do not need to follow it, and can just use what is in the faculty handbook. N. Bodenstadt would appreciate it if faculty would voluntarily report incidents of academic dishonesty as his office has no way to gather that information. This will be helpful as he is dealing with many issues related to plagiarism.

The policy across all three universities is under review and N. Bodenstadt will reach out when more information is available. That is unlikely to happen until the spring.

B. UA Land Grant/Native land claims.

(ZTC 1:34:25) – G. Wright recently discussed the concerns raised at the last meeting with President Pitney. She is aware of the potential land claims issues and noted that the lands selected by the university are far from the landless communities. She suggested following up with the statewide lands management staff if we would like to discuss this further. Senators discussed the value of attempting to bring this issue forward at this time. No action was taken at this time.

VIII. New business

A. TLTR committee status.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vfdvxSXXv4eY4NaRV-WpFzhCr76TdqL2/view?usp=drive_link

(ZTC 1:39:05) – President Wright summarized the linked memo that recommends merging the Teaching, Learning, and Technology Roundtable (TLTR) into the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) to reduce redundancies in faculty workloads. Provost Haavig provided background on the formation of CELT as a shared governance committee. She supports the suggestions outlined in the memo. There are no known objections to this merger moving forward.

B. Back Loop crossing.

(ZTC 1:41:35) – N. Voelckers voiced concerns about the pedestrian crossing at the Back Loop Road entrance. It is a high-risk area due to several factors. It was noted that Natural Sciences has expressed concerns for many years about similar safety issues with students getting to the Anderson Building. N. Voelckers will draft a memo with his concerns. President Wright will finalize the memo for FS and bring it to the attention of R. Sand & N. Leigh at Facilities.

C. Curriculum committee deadline.

Not discussed.

IX. President's report.

A. AK Native curriculum issues; NWCA, language requirements.

B. AK Native faculty retention. https://drive.google.com/file/d/14Ckhh-K_o6rcAk_eGDGQLyWoe-9thOUy/view?usp=drive_link

Not discussed.

X. Provost's report. 4:40

(ZTC 1:56:32) – M. Haavig's written report is on the FS Google Drive. She invited senators to contact her if they had any questions.

XI. Committee reports

A. Faculty alliance.

1. [Report to Senate](#)

(ZTC 1:47:07) – J. Ward's written report is on the FS Google Drive. The deadline for submitting Faculty Initiative Fund (FIF) proposals is November 5. Two UAS faculty reviewers are still needed. Please send names to FS leadership by Oct 27.

2. Update on Faculty Alliance (FA) Evaluation of Executive Administration

- a) The UA President is evaluated every August by BOR. The outgoing Chair of FA will write a memo each May at the end

of their term as input to the Regents on the President's performance.

- b) The FA Chair will have the opportunity to provide input on performance evaluations of all the President's direct reports.**
- c) I am in the process of scheduling meetings with Pat about her performance review and with Pat and Paul about VP Layer's performance review.**

(ZTC 1:48:37) – J. Ward reported that FA has made progress on having input into the evaluation process for executive administrators at the system level. This includes the president and her direct reports. J. Ward will have a meeting with President Pitney and Vice President P. Layer to provide feedback to Dr. Layer. The BOR will review the president annually each August, and FA will have an opportunity for feedback during review. J. Ward is working to get language into the constitution and bylaws so that the process is institutionalized.

She noted that a draft UAA feedback survey for leadership at the campus level is in the Google drive. Senators were asked to share it with their units as a possible evaluation tool for UAS campus leaders. This topic will be discussed at a future meeting.

XII. Adjourn.

(ZTC 1:56:54) – G. Wright noted that some of today's agenda items will be moved to the November meeting. *N. Voelckers moved to adjourn the meeting. M. Boyer seconded. The meeting adjourned without objection.*