

Faculty Senate Minutes
November 3, 2023, 3:00-5:00 PM
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 & P.A.	x	X'unei Lance Twitchell, Juneau	x
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: P. Schirmer

- I. **Call to order** – (TC 1:53)
- II. **Roll call** – (TC 2:05)
- III. **Approval of agenda** – (TC 3:25) *J. Lamb moved to approve the meeting agenda. M. Boyer seconded. The motion passed without objection.*
- IV. **Approval of minutes from October 6, 2023 minutes**
 (TC 3:55) – *E. Hartley moved to approve the prior meeting minutes. N. Voelckers seconded. The motion passed without objection.*
- V. **Old Business**
 (TC 5:24) – None. Several items from the previous agenda have either been addressed or are not ready for discussion today.
- VI. **New Business**
 - A. **Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UGCC): Category A approvals**
 - **OCEI S101.** Indigenous Science. [Outer Coast]. (Hood).
 - **OCEI S102.** Seaweeds and Sapiens: A Holistic Ecology of our Coastal Environment. [Outer Coast]. (Hood)

(TC 5:38) – UGCC chair P. Schirmer noted that these two proposals were inadvertently sent back through the workflow in CourseLeaf, and need to be reapproved by Faculty Senate (FS). Discussion ensued regarding Outer Coast (OC), particularly regarding General Education Requirements (GERs). It was noted that none of the OC proposals reviewed so far are GERs for OC. Provost Haavig reported that UAS and the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities meet regularly with OC leadership to ensure

that the ongoing mentoring process works for all parties. A discussion about transfer credits clarified that in order for UAS GER requirements to be met by an incoming student with an Associate's degree, that degree must have been conferred by a regionally accredited university, per the academic catalog.

Discussion of the content for these and other OC courses continued. P. Schirmer noted that similar discussions are occurring during UGCC meetings and that OC will be able to participate in future meetings to ensure that problems are resolved during the review process. Provost Haavig provided additional information about the structure of OC.

J. Lamb moved to approve the two listed proposals for initial FS review. K. Polanska seconded. The motion passed with no objections.

B. Faculty Administrative Reviews

1. https://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/files/Group-A-and-B-Administrator-Rev-Guidelines_5-5-2014-1.pdf
2. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hk--k20_oBON7MsolQrWEDZ2-hjo5uKU/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=116629403963813890529&rtpof=true&sd=true

(TC 27:10) – J. Ward noted that the first document linked in the agenda is UAF's old policy about reviews of administrators, which they are planning to update. The second one is a new survey being piloted by UAA. These documents are intended to start a conversation about what a process for UAS might look like. B. Blitz, G. Wright, M. Haavig, and J. Ward have had a preliminary meeting about this and M. Haavig noted that the deans and directors are supportive of this type of review.

Senators discussed ideas and concerns about a review process. These include the small size of UAS making anonymity difficult, the scope and frequency of reviews, and the transparency of the results.

After discussion, it was suggested that a subcommittee of FS be formed to make recommendations with the goal of having something to pilot at UAS this spring.

C. Admissions and Recruitment

(TC 45:18) – M. Haavig reported that the [Strategic Enrollment Plan](#) is now posted on the website and the Strategic Enrollment Task Force will meet in December. R. Alexander is Faculty Senate's representative on the group. The chancellor has been meeting with various groups to discuss recruitment and retention and to gather ideas about the best way to move forward. It is possible that a separate retention committee may be formed, but that has not been decided. Senators discussed additional ideas around improving student retention.

(TC 1:02:38) – A Dewees reported that a new Director of Admissions will be in place starting in January. A possible recruitment suggestion to bring forward to the new

director is the idea of engaging more faculty in a recruitment role. A. Dewees is curious to know if faculty are interested in participating in academically oriented recruiting opportunities such as clubs, contests, and fairs. Dean Silkaitis has expressed support for the idea of these types of service opportunities. It would also support the teachers in our community. G. Wright will include this query to faculty in his follow up email.

VII. President's report.

A. Online Proctoring

(TC 53:05) – G. Wright has received anecdotal privacy concerns about an online proctoring application called Proctorio that is being used by at least one faculty member. It was noted that TLTR recommends Respondus, which is a less invasive product. There is training and support for Respondus through CELT. It was suggested that information be sent out to all faculty regarding the availability of Respondus.

B. Employee Engagement Assessment Steering Group

(TC 57:52) – G. Wright has received a request for faculty volunteers from the Talent and Acquisition HR team at statewide. They are trying to streamline how to gather feedback on employee satisfaction. There are currently many different tools and information gathering efforts by different groups at different times throughout the system. They hope to better coordinate efforts and utilize a common set of tools. They are seeking faculty input into this process. He will include this request in a follow up email to senators.

C. Proposals for Faculty Handbook changes

(TC 1:01:29) – President Wright will send out an email reminder that this important annual task is approaching. Suggestions for updates to the handbook are encouraged.

VIII. Provost's Report

(TC 1:06:01) – M. Haavig's written report is on the FS Google Drive. She encouraged faculty members to tune into the upcoming Board of Regents (BOR) meeting. There are several new regents this year. In particular, she suggested faculty listen in to the Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) committee on November 9 and the full BOR meeting on November 10. Public testimony will be held on Tuesday, November 7.

The Gardiner Institute "Sensemaking" activity will occur on November 13 and 16, with a team of faculty, staff, and administrators. The group will be reviewing feedback from the recent survey with the assistance of our Gardner Institute liaison.

M. Haavig reported that President Pitney has requested a longer timeline for the process of bringing Outer Coast (OC) on as a branch campus. At this time it is anticipated that it will be about five years for them to achieve independent accreditation. The relationship between UAS and OC was discussed further. OC currently operates as an institution of higher education through the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education.

- The application phase of the Director of Research search will be closing soon, and reviews are scheduled for later this month.
- The interview process is underway for the Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services, with three candidate Zoom interviews scheduled. Campus visits will occur in early December.
- Zoom interviews will be scheduled soon for the Ketchikan Campus Director position, with onsite visits likely early next year.

IX. Committee reports

X. Faculty Alliance (FA) Report

(TC 1:13:35) – J. Ward is preparing for the upcoming BOR meeting where she will provide a report as the FA chair. FA had a retreat in Anchorage last month where they selected priority areas for advocacy. These include encouraging the state legislature to invest in strengthening the UA Scholars program. FA remains committed to improving communication with the BOR by having a faculty regent. FA continues to discuss concerns about threats to academic freedom. The role of Artificial Intelligence in teaching and learning is also a topic of discussion this year. The role of faculty in student recruitment and retention is another priority area for FA this year.

XI. Adjourn

(TC 1:24:07) – *M. Boyer moved to adjourn the meeting. N. Voelckers seconded. The meeting adjourned without objection.*