

Faculty Senate Minutes
December 1, 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	
Neil Voelckers, Career Ed.	X	Angie Bowers, Sitka	X
Beth Hartley, Education	X	Kasia Polanska, Ketchikan	X
Andrea Dewees, Humanities	X	Maren Haavig, Provost	

Guests: P. Schirmer, F. Wagner

- I. **Call to order** – (TC 3:59)
- II. **Roll call** – (TC 4:10)
- III. **Approval of agenda** – (TC 5:23) *A. Dewees requested a change in the order of the agenda items so that the course scheduling item be taken up earlier, and moved that the agenda be passed with that minor change. J. Lamb seconded. The motion passed without objection.*
- IV. **Approval of minutes from November 3, 2023**
 (TC 7:30) – *J. Ward noted that a correction was needed to her last name. J. Lamb moved to approve the minutes with that correction. A. Dewees seconded. The motion passed without objection.*
- V. **Old Business**
 - A. **Faculty Administrative Reviews**
 (TC 8:23) – *President Wright noted that he will meet on December 12 with Provost Haavig, M. Boyer, B. Blitz, J. Ward, and A. Dewees to discuss the practicalities of moving this idea forward. The group hopes to have a proposal ready for senators to review at the February meeting.*

B. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UGCC): Category A approvals for second and final Faculty Senate (FS) approval. ([UGCC report link.](#))

1. **BA S151. *Introduction to Business.** Aligning with UAA and UAF to add to GER courses. (Smith).
(~~BA S180. Fundamentals of Human Resources.~~ Note: this item has been moved to first reading.)
2. **BA S254. *Personal Finance.** Aligning with UAA and UAF to add to accepted GER courses. (Smith).
3. **OCEI S101. Indigenous Science.** Outer Coast (OC). (Hood).
4. **OCEI S102. Seaweeds and Sapiens: A Holistic Ecology of our Coastal Environment. Outer Coast.** (Hood).
5. **OCWR S101. Journalism.** OC. (Alexander-Isett/Spellberg).

(TC 38:50) – UGCC chair P. Schirmer noted that one proposal, BA S180, should be moved to the second reading group further down in today’s agenda. Senators discussed the remaining five proposals.

Concerns were raised about the syllabus of the OCEI S101 course. After discussion about the amount of readings and variety of topics for this introductory level course, G. Wright requested that P. Schirmer relay senate’s concerns about the depth and breadth of the course content to Outer Coast.

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

VI. New Business

A. Course Scheduling

1. [Email from K. Krein](#)
2. [Federal Student Aid Revised Policy for Standard Term Length](#)
3. [Memo from Forest](#)
4. [Draft Memo from Senate to UAS leadership](#)

(TC 9:41) – G. Wright and F. Wagner led a review and discussion of this time sensitive topic. There are several information items in the drive that give the background on the request from Outdoor Studies and the Program on the Environment to have a special program calendar that would allow their students to participate in field activities that extend beyond the spring semester end date. The goal is to ensure adherence to federal and accreditation standards while not negatively impacting participating students with regard to financial aid and other academic activities. The topic has been discussed by academic leaders, administrative units, legal counsel, and program faculty for several months.

Senators discussed and asked questions about the background documents, and reviewed a memo prepared by G. Wright to UAS leadership to attempt to move the request forward for action. It was noted that there has been some flexibility in program calendars and

scheduling the last few years due to the coronavirus, but a permanent solution is needed. After further discussion, *A. Dewees moved that the Faculty Senate adopt the memo drafted by G. Wright. J. Lamb seconded. The motion passed with unanimous consent.* G. Wright will finalize and send the memo to UAS leadership and will request a meeting to take action on it.

B. Scheduling Handbook Committee

(TC 50:45) – (See President’s report at item VII. B.)

C. [Workplace Innovation and Opportunity Act Funding](#)

(TC 1:02:52) – J. Ward reviewed this informational item regarding a funding source for students that has been underutilized in the past. There are a substantial number of UAS programs that qualify, and students in those programs could apply for need-based funding support. Applications can be made through Alaska Job Centers.

The need for UAS to develop better relationships with the Job Centers was discussed. Senate leadership will follow up with the provost regarding developing relationships with local job offices.

D. Spring Meeting Schedule

(TC 1:06:54) – G. Wright noted that FS will not meet in January but will start meeting again on the first Friday of each month starting February 2. Please let him know if you have any problems with that schedule next semester. The last meeting of the year will be held on May 3.

E. UAS Bookstore contract

(TC 1:08:55) – J. Lamb reported that he recently spoke with J. Lasinski regarding the recent expiration of UAS’s contract with textbook provider MBS. J. Lasinski has a meeting with a potential new provider, Ambassador Education Solutions, and has asked J. Lamb to be part of the meeting. J. Lamb would like other faculty to be involved in that upcoming meeting. UAA is using Ambassador Education Solutions and J. Lamb has requested feedback from some colleagues about them. Let J. Lamb or J. Lasinski know if you are interested in participating in the vendor meeting.

F. UGCC Category A proposals for first reading

- 1. Environmental Resources, B.S.** Category B. Update Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs). (Maier)
- 2. Environmental Science, B.S.** Category B. Update PLOs. (Maier)
- 3. Environmental Studies, B.A.** Category B. Update PLOs. (Maier)
- 4. 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. (Samuel).
- 5. BHS S375. Current Issues in Behavioral Health: Selected Topics.** New course. (Urquhart)

6. **OCBI S101. Community Ecology and Ecosystems of Sitka.** Outer Coast (OC). (LaBounty). (Noted the word “Program” will need to be removed until the program has been added)
7. **OCAL S191. Service Internship I-II.** OC (Monteith). (Noted the word “Program” will need to be removed until the program has been added)
8. **OCAN S100. Food Sovereignty and the Science of Subsistence.** OC. (Haven). (Noted the word “Program” will need to be removed until the program has been added)
9. **OCAN S101. Indigenous Studies I: Tlingit Language and Culture.** OC. (Burge). (Noted the word “Program” will need to be removed until the program has been added)
10. **OCAN S102. Indigenous Studies II: Ideas, Frameworks, Bridges Between Cultures.** OC. (Haven). (Noted the word “Program” will need to be removed until the program has been added)
11. **OCAN S103. Indian Country in the American Imagination.** OC. (Haven).
12. **OCAN S105. Tribal Governments in Alaska.** OC. (Twitchell). (Noted the word “Program” will need to be removed until the program has been added)
13. **OCPS S101. Neuroscience of Consciousness.** OC. (Dolese). (Noted the word “Program” will need to be removed until the program has been added, learning objective 4 seems unmeasurable)
14. **BA S180. Fundamentals of Human Resources** – Note: this item was moved on today’s agenda from a first to a second reading.

(TC 51:25) – UGCC chair P. Schirmer provided background on the 14 listed proposals and answered senators’ questions.

Senators further discussed how General Education Requirements (GERs) are going to work for the OC program and how OC graduates could continue to a UAS program. P. Schirmer reported that OC may have all of their courses be designated as GERs. There may be an articulation agreement developed between OC and UAS for their graduates. Discussion ensued regarding how articulation agreements are developed.

J. Lamb moved to approve the 14 listed proposals for initial FS review. M. Dolese seconded. The motion passed with no objections.

VII. President’s report.

A. Gardner Institute

(TC 1:15:57) – G. Wright and K. Polanska have participated in several meetings related to the contract with the Gardner Institute. There was a good response from the recent surveys. The surveys indicate that UAS is ready for institutional change, and that we need a lot of change, particularly around student equity. There is another set of meetings coming up with our Gardner representative to begin the process of making decisions and planning how to best move forward. So far it has been a positive experience.

B. Faculty Handbook

(TC 1:13:55) – G. Wright noted that a few suggested revisions have been received and he welcomes additional edit suggestions. The composition of the committee is defined in the constitution. The leadership of FS serves on the committee and Ketchikan and Sitka must be represented. The union has a representative and the Provost and Faculty Services Coordinator round out the membership. J. Liddle does not intend to serve from Sitka this year, but A. Bowers is interested. C. Ianuzzi will likely represent Ketchikan.

C. Volunteers for student recruitment to Andrea

(TC 1:12:55) – G. Wright reported that A. Dewees has had responses to her request for faculty interested in recruitment. N. Voelckers, D. Monteith, and K. Maier have expressed interest. If anyone else is interested, please let A. Dewees know.

VIII. Provost's Report

(TC 1:18:45) – M. Haavig is in Vietnam and no report is available.

IX. Committee reports

A. Faculty Alliance (FA) Report

1. [December report to Faculty Senates](#)
2. [Roadmap to Empower Alaska](#) – Guiding Principles, System Goals – Comments to P. Layer by mid-January/February 1 from Faculty Senates.
3. UA Career Coach [homepage](#). Connect with Career Pathways and DOL data on job placements.

(TC 1:19:10) – J. Ward's written report can be found on the FS Google drive and is linked above. Please share this information with your units.

With regard to the Board of Regents (BOR), J. Ward sent a memo requesting clarification on why she was excluded from the executive session of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting during the November meeting. She plans to attend an upcoming special meeting of the Facilities and Land Management committee. An update on the Land Grant Initiative will be presented.

Also of note, the governor has invited former Illinois governor and former Purdue president Mitch Daniels to talk to the BOR regarding his ideas on transforming universities.

The BOR will be voting on the Roadmap to Empower Alaska, which includes the old Goals and Measures document. They are requesting feedback on the Guiding Principles and System Goals sections of the document. Comments can be sent to J. Ward, G. Wright, or P. Layer by mid-January. It was noted that enrollment is a high priority for everyone, and that diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts can increase the number of students we attract.

J. Ward met with P. Pitney this morning. They discussed the president's performance review and it was a good discussion.

J. Ward noted that Career Coach is a tool being used by some UAS programs to connect students with job market information. She encouraged faculty to check it out.

X. Adjournment

(TC 1:27:38) – M. Boyer moved to adjourn the meeting. A. Dewees seconded. The meeting adjourned without objection.