

Faculty Senate Minutes
February 2, 2024, 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 & Pub. Admin.	X	X'unei Lance Twitchell, Juneau	X
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: None

- I. Call to order**
- II. Roll call** – (TC 0:00)
- III. Approval of agenda** – (TC 0:56) *J. Lamb moved to approve the agenda. A. Dewees seconded. The motion passed without objection.*
- IV. Approval of [Dec. 2023 minutes](#)** – (TC 2:06) *L. Twitchell moved that the prior meeting minutes be approved. C. Lewis seconded. The motion passed without objection.*
- V. Old business**
 - A. Faculty administrative reviews**

(TC 4:12) – J. Ward reported that the subcommittee has met and is working on a draft template for evaluating deans and directors. J. Ward and G. Wright recently met with HR to discuss the tools they have for administrator reviews. They learned that the format used for statewide senior administrators was inexpensive and of good quality. The subcommittee will meet again to work on the questions and prepare a prototype for review by Faculty Senate (FS) and administrators.
 - B. UAS Bookstore vendor**

(TC 6:10) – J. Lamb recently participated in a meeting with J. Lasinski and representatives from bookstore vendor Ambassador Education Solutions (AES). D. Weaver of UAA, R. Jacobus, and representatives from Ketchikan and Sitka were also present. AES is not requiring inclusive access at this time. The timeline for transitioning

from current provider MBS is still uncertain. UAS may be able to join UAA's agreement with AES. Another meeting is planned if faculty wish to participate.

J. Lamb noted that the textbook adoption process will be different, and some of the work that has been done by administrative staff will shift to faculty. There may be benefits to that model. The timeline is still uncertain and transitioning will have challenges. Of the bookstore vendors that were reviewed in response to a request for vendor proposals, AES seems to be the best choice.

Senators briefly discussed legislation related to inclusive access.

C. UGCC Category A proposals for second reading

1. **BHS S375** Current Issues in Behavioral Health
2. **OCAN S100** Food Sovereignty and the Science of Subsistence
3. **OCAN S101** Indigenous Studies I: Tlingit Language and Culture
4. **OCAN S102** Indigenous Studies II: Ideas, Frameworks, Bridges Between Cultures

(TC 15:30) – G. Wright reviewed the report provided by UGCC chair P. Schirmer. There are four courses ready for second reading by FS. Three are related to the relationship with Outer Coast College (OC), and one is part of a new degree program under development.

Concerns about the lack of General Education Requirement (GER) courses in the OC program were voiced. Provost Haavig briefly reviewed the timeline, noting that the Board of Regents (BOR) will have to approve moving forward with the relationship and that the degree program has not been reviewed. An OC Associate of Arts degree program proposal is expected to be submitted to UGCC next year. It is unknown at this time how OC courses will be proposed as GERs and could potentially need to move through the curriculum process again. After discussion, *A. Dewees moved to approve the four courses for second FS review. M. Dolese seconded. The four courses were approved for second FS reading.*

VI. New Business

A. UGCC Category A proposals

1. **Business Administration A.A.S.**
2. **Business Foundations, O.E.**
3. **BA 180 Fundamentals of Human Resources**
4. **ECON 101 Principles of Microeconomics**
5. **ECON 102 Principles of Macroeconomics**
6. **NWCA 260 Beginning Regalia Making I**

(TC 28:59) – G. Wright reviewed the background material provided by P. Schirmer on the listed courses. Concerns were voiced about the two ECON courses. The renumbering may create issues for some program students who need higher level courses, and proposer W. Urquhart does not currently have faculty status. President Wright will ensure those

concerns are conveyed to the Social Sciences department. *N. Voelckers moved to approve the six listed proposals for first FS reading. J. Lamb seconded. The proposals passed initial FS review.*

B. Accreditation, faculty representation

(TC 35:20) – B. Blitz raised questions about the selection process regarding the recent email request for faculty to serve as Accreditations Fellows. Provost Haavig put [this document](#) in the meeting folder about the accreditation task she is seeking faculty expertise to complete. The document to be prepared is known as the Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review (PRFR) report. She noted that the UAA and UAF provosts as well as our liaison at NWCCU have provided helpful input on how to prepare this important report.

With regard to the selection process of faculty, M. Haavig noted the need for particular experience with the focus areas of the report. It was suggested that as a matter of decorum, FS should be permitted to review the selections. The email requesting faculty participation was sent to all full time faculty.

C. UAF-style “[Faculty Expert Guide.](#)”

(TC 43:40) – A. Dewees reviewed a section of the UAF website that highlights faculty by areas of expertise and solicited interest in UAS having something similar. This will require website support. Provost Haavig reported that a second website position has been filled. A. Dewees was encouraged to reach out to J. Gross to follow up. M. Haavig also noted that the Areas of Study portion of the UAS website is being reviewed and considered for expansion.

VII. President’s Report

A. Faculty Handbook process and [proposals](#)

(TC 51:40) – The Faculty Handbook committee held an initial meeting in January. Several updates have been suggested. The process for changing the handbook was discussed during that meeting. Please see the handbook subfolder in the FS AY 2024 folder (link above) for more details. G. Wright asked senators to share with their units. Current suggested changes include:

- Clarify the process for removing courses from Alaska Native Knowledge Graduation Requirement (ANKGR) listing. *This has been forwarded to the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Alaska Native Education (CACANE).*
- Clarify the due date for sabbatical reports.
- Clarify the intent of Category A UGCC proposals coming to FS. *(A draft of this section is in the handbook subfolder.)*
- Revise the promotion and tenure publications criteria in the Psychology supplement. *(A draft of this section is in the handbook subfolder.)*

- Clarify information regarding the Faculty Senate President’s summer salary by relocating to a more pertinent section. *(A draft is in the handbook subfolder.)*
- Develop a process regarding how to proceed in the event no FS president-elect candidates are identified by Convocation. *(A draft of this section is in the handbook subfolder.)*
- Update “housekeeping” items. *(A Google Docs summary is in the handbook subfolder.)*

G. Wright noted that FS has delegated responsibility to the Handbook Committee for updates, but the process for substantive changes was unclear. He intends to ensure adequate time for FS review of changes by having a first and second reading during the next two FS meetings. Changes other than housekeeping items will be presented as first readings during the new business portion of the March meeting. Second reading will occur as part of the April meeting. The handbook needs to be finalized and approved by the May meeting. The handbook committee will meet at least one more time.

B. FS Departmental representatives. Academic units elect between March 1 and 10. Campus senators by March 20.

(TC 50:24) – G. Wright noted the upcoming deadlines for unit and campus senators. The handbook clarifies those dates in the bylaws ([Chapter 2b](#)). This will be discussed further at the next meeting. *(Note: Senators must be members of Faculty Assembly.)*

C. FS President. Nominations March mtg.

(TC 49:20) – Nominations for the next Faculty Senate President-Elect will open at the March meeting. G. Wright asked senators to bring this item to their units with a goal of multiple, timely nominations.

VIII. Provost’s [Report](#) – (TC 1:05:25) Provost Haavig highlighted the following from her written report.

- Faculty are encouraged to pay attention to the upcoming Board of Regents (BOR) meeting. Regents are very focused on recruitment and retention. She especially recommended listening in to the Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) committee meeting on the 22nd.
- An Equity in Retention Academy (EIRA) will be held as the next step of the Gardner Institute transformation project. The participants from the recent “sense making” sessions are invited to be part of the academy.
- The Committee on Retention will have a faculty vacancy when R. Alexander retires.
- The search for a Director of Research, Sponsored Program, and the ACRC has been paused and will be revamped as J. Fellman will become the [ACRC](#) Director in July. Provost Haavig is working with J. Vigil to ensure the revised position’s duties are clarified, especially in regard to research compliance.

The provost responded to questions from faculty about the ACRC, retention efforts, and recent class cancellations due to snow.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Faculty [Alliance Report](#)

(TC 1:18:45) – J. Ward will travel to Fairbanks for the BOR meeting later this month in her role as Faculty Alliance (FA) Chair. FA will meet next Friday afternoon. The FA legislative retreat will be held in Juneau at the end of the month. This is an opportunity to advocate for issues of importance to faculty. President Pitney has stated that her priorities are to fully fund staff and faculty raises and address deferred maintenance.

J. Carrol of UAF is helping to organize the first annual UA Faculty Alliance Thought Leaders Forum. A [call for proposals link](#) was shared for interested faculty. The link will be published on the FA website. The topic for this year's event is **Artificial Intelligence**.

Proposed wording changes to FA Constitution and Bylaws were reviewed. The goal is to strengthen the role of FA in performance reviews of UA senior executives. J. Ward asked that the proposed amendment be shared with the units and asked for feedback by the end of the month. B. Blitz suggested edits to make the additional clause stronger.

The Faculty Initiative Fund (FIF) awardees have been announced. J. Ward and senators congratulated A. Dewees for her successful application. J. Ward noted that the program was more competitive this year and has become a popular program. She has encouraged President Pitney to enhance the program in the future.

Feedback to the BOR's **Roadmap to Empower Alaska** document has noted the lack of emphasis on quality education. The BOR will vote on the final document later this month.

J. Ward fielded questions from senators regarding her exclusion from the last ASA meeting; how to express to the BOR the importance of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Cultural Safety (DEICS); and the Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP). She encouraged senators to reach out to her with any issues they want brought to FA. She noted that the BOR is open to stories about the impact we have on our students. Provost Haavig noted that the student voice is the most powerful with regard to conveying the need for DEICS efforts to be strengthened.

X. **Adjournment** – (TC 1:38:28) *N. Voelckers moved to adjourn the meeting. J. Lamb seconded. The motion passed without objection.*