

**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
**September 6, 2024, 3:00-5:00 PM**  
**Egan Library 211**  
**and via Zoom**

Brian Blitz, President	X	Charmaine Lewis, Natural Sciences	X
Glenn Wright, Past President	<i>(See Soc Sci)</i>	Glenn Wright, Social Sciences	X
Ali Ziegler, President-Elect		David Cox for J. Ward, Library	X
Mike Boyer, Business	X	X’unei Lance Twitchell, Juneau	
Robin Gilcrist, Career Ed	X	Joel Markis, Sitka	X
Kevin Spink, Education	X	Kasia Polanska, Ketchikan	X
Andrea Dewees, Humanities	X	Carin Silkaitis, Interim Provost	X

Recorder: A. Parrish

- I. **Call to order** – (TC 4:35) B. Blitz called the meeting to order.
- II. **Roll call** – (TC 4:45)
- III. **Approval of agenda** – (TC 5:35) *R. Gilcrist moved to approve the meeting agenda. D. Cox seconded. The motion passed without objection.*
- IV. **Approval of [May minutes](#)** – (TC 6:49) *C. Lewis moved to approve the May meeting minutes. A. Dewees seconded. The motion passed without objection.*
- V. **Announcements** – (TC 7:54) President Blitz asked everyone to introduce themselves and which unit they are representing this year. It was noted that the Zoom AI Companion is being used on an experimental basis for this meeting  

If you are using Artificial Intelligence (AI) or addressing AI related topics in your classes, please inform B. Blitz via email. This is in response to an information request from the Board of Regents (BOR). A presentation was given to the BOR by Faculty Alliance (FA) Chair J. Carroll and UA Chief Information Technology Officer B. Shier, and the regents had many questions about how the university is using AI and keeping abreast of related issues.

B. Blitz also noted the April 2026 deadline for compliance with Title II related to disabilities. All Blackboard content including PDFs and videos should be compliant before that time. Instructional Designers can assist and there is funding available for captioning. Title II also addresses classroom accommodations and campus accessibility.
- VI. **[Curriculum Proposals](#)** – (TC 24:02)
  - **BHS 101, BHS 140, BHS 201, BHS 480**
  - **Deactivate: ANTH 200, 225, 335, 428, 435, 458, 475 (redundant with ANS)** – President Blitz noted that the four Behavioral Health Sciences courses need to be approved before a degree program can be proposed, and that BHS 101 is being proposed

as a GER. B. Blitz encouraged senators to review curriculum proposals prior to each meeting for efficiency. October 1 is the deadline for curriculum proposals to make it through the submission process (approved by dean/director) to ensure they are reviewed this year. B. Blitz noted that while the CourseLeaf interface looks as if senators should approve proposals, they should not do so. After FS reviews and approves proposals, he will click on the approve button on behalf of the senate and move them forward. If they are accidentally approved by a senator, they will need to be sent back through the system.

*A. Dewees moved to approve the eleven listed proposals for initial Faculty Senate (FS) review. G. Wright seconded. The motion passed without objection.*

## VII. Old Business

- **[Online Registration \(email from Registrar's office\)](#)** – (TC 30:38) B. Blitz noted that the process outlined in the email allows students to get instructor approval to add courses electronically rather than needing a paper Add/Drop form. The next agenda item has a link with detailed instructions about the process.
  1. **[Faculty registration override instructions](#)**
- **Summer term 2025 will be May 19 - August 5 (calendar sent by Anita on Sept 4)** – (TC 31:57) B. Blitz noted that the dates for the summer term have been changed and [the revised faculty calendar](#) has been distributed by email and posted on the provost's website. Be sure to share this information with your unit.

## VIII. New Business

- A. **Faculty Handbook Committee (Blitz, Wright, Ziegler, Dewees, Liddle)** – (TC 34:21) B. Blitz intends to start the annual update process shortly. The committee membership is defined in the handbook. The plan is to divide up the sections and look for major items that need to be revised, and then address housekeeping items as needed. The proposed changes will be reviewed by FS in the spring.
- B. **[Curriculum Proposal Process for Career Ed](#)** – (TC 36:05) The challenges Career Education (CE) faculty have with proposing needed curriculum changes in a timely fashion were discussed. CE needs to respond to external standards for their programs and there are only a small number of CE faculty who are members of the Faculty Assembly, and therefore eligible to submit proposals. Those faculty members may not be in the same discipline or geographical area where the change is needed. This results in the workload falling on a small number of faculty members.

Senators discussed the different processes for regular curriculum items and Workforce Development proposals. Various possible solutions were discussed such as waivers to current requirements, an Ad Hoc committee to make recommendations, and revisions to the faculty handbook. Several faculty members expressed interest in discussing handbook edits that could address the problem. *This item will be revisited at a future meeting.*

- C. **[GPA requirement for degree programs](#)** – (TC 59:34) President Blitz described the more selective enrollment criteria UAS currently has for degree programs versus the criteria at UAA and UAF. To be consistent across the system, the chancellor and interim provost are asking FS to consider eliminating the high school GPA required for enrollment in certificates and associate programs and reducing the GPA requirement for bachelor's programs from 3.0 to 2.5. This change will also help UAS to be listed as an

open enrollment institution next year. After discussion, *senators were asked to discuss this with their units and be prepared to act on this request at the next meeting.*

**IX. FS President's Report:**

- **Pre-Nursing and Pre-Rad Tech Certificates suspend admission** – (TC 1:12:48) Interim Provost Silkaitis led a discussion about this item. After the memo seeking to suspend admissions to the program was received, further problem-solving discussions occurred with UAS, UAA, and Vice President P. Layer. Currently the program is not eligible for financial aid as it only leads towards enrolling in further programs. A task force is working on ways forward that would improve and streamline the program. This includes developing at least one pathway for students to earn a workforce credential, making it eligible for federal aid.
- **Student guide to AI from Dean of Students** – (TC 1:20:45) B. Blitz wants faculty to be aware that this student guide has been distributed to all students by D. Medina. The publication was provided to Dean Medina from J. Lamb. D. Medina will be a guest at the next FS meeting.

R. Gilcrist shared that CELT has developed helpful information and syllabus language for faculty. It can be found at <https://uas.alaska.edu/celt/knowledge-base/generative-ai-guidance.html>.

- **Faculty Alliance (FA)**
  1. **Banner (UAOnline) upgrade will occur all year long** – (TC 1:22:30) B. Blitz passed along informational items from the most recent FA meeting. Things may look unfamiliar as the UAOnline platform is upgraded this year. It will allow employees to edit their information directly. Share with your faculty, especially if they wish to change their picture on UAOnline.
  2. **Alaska College of Education Consortium** – (TC 1:23:30) Also discussed at FA were issues that arose this summer when it appeared that the BOR and Alaska College of Education (ACEC) staff were involved in curriculum development. These matters are starting to resolve. C. Silkaitis explained that the BOR mandated a process for apprenticeship models. The interim provost noted that apprenticeships are not programs but get attached to existing programs. The language used was unfortunate, but what the BOR wanted was a checklist to ensure that apprenticeship models meet accreditation standards. ACEC developed a lengthy document in response to the BOR request during the summer when faculty were off contract.

Subsequently, the provosts have worked with B. Weiss of ACEC to streamline the document and create a workable framework. It appears that the issues around this item are being resolved.

**X. Interim Provost's Report** – (TC 1:29:10) C. Silkaitis highlighted the following from the written report on the shared drive.

- The annual recognition of faculty longevity will now occur in the spring at the Faculty Excellence event rather than at Convocation. Interim Provost Silkaitis is considering options for awards for various milestones.
- The provost's office is grateful for the abundant Convocation feedback this year.

- Planning for Spring Startup is underway. C. Silkaitis wants it to be more vibrant than it has been in the past and welcomes faculty feedback.
- A. Staudinger worked with Career Education and the School of Education to offer a more robust orientation and mentoring experience for first-year faculty, and it is off to a strong start.
- Erica Hill has a new role as Director of Research at UAS and is available to faculty at all three campuses for assistance with grant submissions. Please take advantage of her knowledge and expertise.
- The Gardner ‘Retention, Persistence, and Student Success Academy’ (formerly Equity in Retention Committee) will begin work in October and detailed information about the project is available in the written report.
- Please take the Strategic Plan survey and remember to solicit feedback about AI and pass it along to B. Blitz.
- The interim provost expressed appreciation for the support received since taking on the new role in June.

**XI. Committee Reports** – (TC 1:40:45) President Blitz plans to include time each meeting for report outs as warranted for FS committees. Please let him know at least a week ahead of the meeting so that time can be allotted on the agenda.

It was suggested that FS leadership resume meeting once a month with the provost. C. Silkaitis noted that the Executive Provost Council, consisting of deans and directors, meets every two weeks. Every other meeting is a full [Provost Council](#) meeting. Those expanded meetings include the FS president, the Registrar, the Institutional Effectiveness Director, the Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services, the Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, and the Financial Aid Director.

It was also suggested that FS leadership and the provost meet with the chancellor once per semester.

**XII. Adjournment** – (TC 1:47:22) *G. Wright moved to adjourn the meeting. M. Boyer seconded. The meeting adjourned without objection.*