

Faculty Senate Minutes

October 4, 2024, 3-5 PM

Location: 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		Jennifer Ward, Library	x
Mike Boyer, Business	x	X'unei Lance Twitchell, Juneau	x
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

A. Parrish, Provost's Office, Recorder

Guests: D. Medina, J. Lamb

- I. **Call to order** – (3:05) B. Blitz called the meeting to order shortly after 3:00.
- I. **Roll call** – (3:05) Senators and staff introduced themselves for the benefit of today's guest, Dean of Students Damian Medina. It was noted that A. Ziegler should be able to start attending meetings next month.
- II. **Approval of agenda** – (3:23) *R. Gilcrist moved to approve the agenda. A. Dewees seconded. The motion passed with no objections.*
- III. **Approval of [September minutes](#)** – (3:24) *K. Spink moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. J. Markis seconded. The motion passed with no objections.*
- IV. **Announcements**
 - A. **Damian Medina, Dean of Students** – (3:09) D. Medina introduced himself, noting his previous experiences in higher education. He has been at UAS for three months. In his role as Dean of Students he oversees all aspects of residential life and an array of student services including health services, dining services, counseling services, and disabilities services. His responsibilities cover all students whether via distance or in person on all three campuses. Student leadership and engagement activities, including the Native and Rural Student Center, are part of his responsibilities, as are student conduct/misconduct issues. He coordinates the Care Team and noted how important that group is for student retention.

His outreach efforts include a regular email communication to all students on the first Monday of each month. He also invites students to join him in the dining hall on Monday evenings and has an online session planned for students not on the Juneau campus. He has a trip planned to the Sitka campus and another in the works for Ketchikan. He intends to visit Sitka and Ketchikan at least once each year.

He is open to collaboration and hopes to support faculty and build a sense of community across campus. Some activities, such as Perseverance Theatre nights, are coordinated with academic units. Upcoming events include the Hispanic Heritage Month Extravaganza and Halloween activities.

Dean Medina fielded questions about transportation issues for Career Education students and noted other challenges students face such as food security. He is gathering data on how the current shuttle is utilized and hopes to work with faculty and the campus community to address student needs and ensure they know what opportunities they have.

V. Curriculum Proposals

- A.** ANS 100, ANS 321, ANTH 303, ANTH 455, PSY 304, PSY 314, PSY 400, – (3:35) B. Blitz explained the method for grouping the proposals to expedite the review process. *G. Wright moved to approve the listed proposals for first Faculty Senate (FS) review. A. Dewees seconded. The proposals were approved for first FS review with no objections.*
- B.** Integrative Behavioral Health [BA](#) & [BS](#), BHS 385, BHS 494, BHS 499 – (3:37) President Blitz noted that these proposals will need to be reintroduced by G. Wright as S. Niecko is not yet a member of Faculty Alliance. *G. Wright moved to approve the proposals for first Faculty Senate (FS) review. J. Ward seconded. The proposals were approved for first FS review with no objections.*
- C.** Outer Coast GERs: **OCAN 101, OCAN 102, OCAN 103, OCAN 105**, OCAN 106, OCAN 201, **OCAR 101, OCAR 102**, OCAR 201, **OCBI 101**, OCBI 102, OCCO 101, **OCEI 101, OCEI 102, OCEN 101**, OCEN 102, OCHU 101, OCHU 201, OCMA 101, OCPH 102, OCPH 103, **OCPS 101, OCWR 101**, OCWR 102 – (3:37) All of the proposals in this grouping are being proposed as General Education Requirements (GERs). B. Blitz explained that the course proposals that are bolded were approved as courses last year, while the others have not yet been reviewed. *L. Twitchell moved to approve the proposals for first FS reading. G. Wright seconded.*
- Senators discussed several items related to Outer Coast (OC), including why the bolded courses were not reviewed as GERs last year, UAS's level of responsibility for assessing OC's GERs, and the status of the relationship between UAS and OC. Interim Provost Silkaitis reviewed [the current MOA](#) on the Administrative Services website and outlined the benefits of UAS supporting OC.
- After discussion, *A. Dewees proposed an amendment to the motion, noting that the UAS General Education Learning Outcomes (GELO) committee should work with OC on GER assessment. J. Ward seconded. The amended motion passed with no objections.*
- D.** Outer Coast – not GERs: OCAL 191, OCAL 291, OCMA 102, OCUN 299 – (3:50) *L. Twitchell moved to approve the proposals for first FS review. G. Wright seconded. The motion passed with no objections.*
- E.** NWCA 201, NWCA 270 – (3:52) B. Blitz noted that these are coming to FS because they are GERs. The proposals change the course designator and numbers. *G. Wright*

moved to approve the proposals for first FS review. A. Dewees seconded. The motion passed with no objection.

F. PHYS 124, PHYS 212 – (3:53) There are two different physics course sequences, and J. Amundson has had to do course substitutions to allow students to take the second course in the opposite series. This change will allow students to take the second course without additional paperwork. *J. Ward moved to approve the proposals for first FS review. R. Gilcrist seconded. The motion passed with no objection.*

G. Accounting Minor – (3:55) *L. Twitchell moved to approve the proposals for first FS review. M. Boyer seconded. The motion passed with no objection.*

H. Introduction to Mining Science, O.E. – (3:56) C. Silkaitis described the three pathways that are available in the program and noted strong student interest and industry support for the program. *L. Twitchell moved to approve the proposal for first FS reading. R. Gilcrist seconded. The motion passed with no objections.*

VI. Old Business

A. [GPA requirement for degree programs](#) (vote this meeting) – (3:59) This proposal was discussed at the last meeting. It will eliminate the GPA requirement for students entering associate or certificate programs and lower the GPA requirement for bachelor's degrees from 3.0 to 2.5. This will make UAS consistent with UAA and UAF. *G. Wright moved to approve the change. L. Twitchell seconded. The motion passed with no objections.*

B. [Curriculum Proposal Process for Career Ed](#) (I don't think there is anything new) – (4:00) Senators discussed the need to develop an alternate way for Career Education curriculum proposals to be proposed. The small number of tenure track and senior term faculty able to propose curriculum for Career Education was discussed. This item will be revisited in a future meeting.

VII. New Business

A. [Career Education: Revisions to the Course Substitution Form](#) (Gilcrist) (4:05) Senators discussed issues with the current course substitution form, noting that it serves more than one purpose at UAS. The ways in which the form is used and who all should sign it was discussed. There was general agreement that reducing the number of signatures was preferable and that faculty should be signing rather than staff advisors or deans/directors. *M. Boyer moved that the form be amended to remove the third signature line (head of academic unit) L. Twitchell and G. Wright seconded. Which faculty member should sign on the second line was discussed. L. Twitchell amended the motion to change "original" to "substituted" for the faculty signature line.* Senators further discussed the difference between course equivalency versus course substitution for a degree requirement. The academic petition forms used at UAA and UAF were reviewed. This item will be taken back to faculty for review. It was suggested that staff advisors and the registrar also have input to the form revision process. B. Blitz will discuss with the registrar and senators should discuss with their units and be prepared to vote on this at the next meeting.

(4:53) G. Wright prepared [a draft version of the form with the proposed changes](#) so that senators can share it with their colleagues.

- B. **[Low Textbook Cost \(LTC\) course marking](#)** (Lamb) – (4:35) J. Lamb provided information about a new act that was recently signed into law by the governor. It defines what low-cost textbook courses are and will require us to mark such courses so that information is available by July 1, 2026. The linked document provides further information and recommendations. The Proposed Course Offering (PCO) process could be updated to include an additional column marking such course sections. We need to consider how and when we will implement this upcoming requirement.

VIII. **FS President's Report: (4:51)**

- A. Faculty Initiative Fund reviewers needed for 2024-25 (review in November) – B. Blitz noted that about five more faculty reviewers are still needed. J. Ward added that this is a great service opportunity. Please email B. Blitz if you are interested.
- B. Faculty Alliance (FA) has asked the University to be more proactive with AI. – As an example, B. Blitz suggested this might mean something like the system purchasing a higher quality AI version rather than just using free versions.
- C. Faculty Alliance retreat in Anchorage on Oct 5. – B. Blitz will travel to Anchorage for the FA retreat tomorrow.

IX. **[Interim Provost's Report](#)** – (4:53) C. Silkaitis highlighted the following from the written report on the shared drive.

- A. The Anderson Building has been officially given a second name, Ḡathéeni T'aak Hít, which means House Beside Sockeye Stream.
- B. The UAS strategic planning workshop is planned for next week. The goal is to create a foundation for a draft report that can be circulated for feedback early in the spring semester.
- C. Interim Provost Silkaitis wants ideas on how to make Spring Startup a more engaging experience and welcomes input.
- D. UAS submitted more Appropriation Proposals than they have before thanks to Erica Hill in her new role as Director of Research. Knowing how little time faculty have, Dr. Hill took the lead in developing faculty ideas into proposals.
- E. The recently submitted annual accreditation report received positive feedback from NWCCU. The accreditation committee is working on the Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review (PRFR) draft report.
- F. UAS's retention numbers are much improved. Thanks to everyone who has helped make this a priority.

X. **Committee Reports**

A. **Graduate Committee** – (5:00)

1. Proposal for a Post baccalaureate Certificate in Higher Education Leadership
2. Discussion of Graduate Certificate requirements
3. Discussion of stacked courses: definition, expectations and consistency

B. **[Research and Creative Activity Committee](#)** – (5:01) Please see the linked report.

- C. Sustainability Committee** (first meeting September 26th)
1. They are discussing their [website](#), mandate, and a sustainability certification.
 2. Composting is a top priority (for the student club too).
 3. Bike repair clinic with Ken Hill Oct 22 at 5:00 pm
 4. A screening of the film [Shitthropocene](#) Oct 29 5:00 pm in GVR
- D. CELT report** Please see the linked report.
- E.** Please review and submit needed updates to [the working list of Program Coordinators \(Tab 1\) and committees with faculty representatives \(Tab 2\)](#).

- II. Adjournment.** No later than 5 PM. – *M. Boyer moved to adjourn the meeting.* L. Twitchell raised concerns about potential discrimination and censorship related to using the terms decolonization, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and hopes to discuss this further at a future meeting. *The meeting adjourned with unanimous consent shortly after 5:00.*

Next Meetings: November 1, December 6, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2