

Faculty Senate Notes

December 6, 2024, 3-5 PM

Location: Egan Library 211

And via Zoom

Brian Blitz, President	X	Charmaine Lewis, Natural Sciences	X
Glenn Wright, Past President*		*Glenn Wright, Social Sciences	X
Ali Ziegler, President-Elect**		Jennifer Ward, Library	X
Mike Boyer, Business & Public Admin.	X	X'unei Lance Twitchell, Juneau	X
Robin Gilcrist, Career Ed	X	Lauren Wild for J. Markis, Sitka	
Kevin Spink, Education	X	**Ali Ziegler for K. Polanska, Ketchikan	X
Andrea Dewees, Humanities	X	Carin Silkaitis, Interim Provost	X

Guests: P. Schirmer

- I. **Call to order** – (Zoom recording count 6:06) President Blitz called the meeting to order shortly after 3:00.
- II. **Roll call**
- III. **Approval of agenda** – (7:25) A. Dewees requested that the process for interim appointments be discussed. It was added to the agenda as item D under New Business on today's agenda. *G. Wright moved to approve the agenda. J. Ward seconded. The motion passed without objection.*
- IV. **Approval of November minutes**. – (7:50) *R. Gilcrist moved to approve the prior meeting minutes. M. Boyer seconded. The motion passed without objection.*
- V. **Announcements/Questions** – (8:33) None.
- VI. **Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UGCC) Report:**
 - A. **Initial Approval**
 1. **Integrative Behavioral Health BA and BS** – (9:17) *G. Wright moved to approve the two proposals for initial Faculty Senate (FS) review. R. Gilcrist seconded. The motion passed without objection.*
 2. **Special Education BA** – (10:01) Senators discussed the removal of the Praxis II requirement. K. Spink will gather information about whether UAA and UAF require it or not. *A. Dewees moved to approve the proposal for initial FS review. J. Ward seconded. The motion passed without objection.*
 3. **EDIL 621, EDIL 624, EDIL 626, EDIL 630, EDIL 691, EDIL 694** – (18:45) L. Twitchell provided background information on the courses and planned program and how it will support language teachers throughout the state. *G. Wright moved to approve the six courses for first FS review. M. Boyer seconded. The motion passed without objection.*

B. Final Approval

1. **Outer Coast (OC) courses** – (23:25) B. Blitz noted that these courses were previously approved but are now being reviewed as GERS. *After discussion, it was agreed to approve all the OC GERS together when they have made it through the UGCC review process. Additionally, C. Silkaitis will work with M. Spellberg of OC and others to put together an addendum to the OC MOA that addresses the assessment plan of the OC GERS.*

VII. Old Business

- A. **Curriculum Proposal Process for Career Ed (and more!)** – (30:25) Senators reviewed the proposal from Wright, Markis, and Gilcrist and discussed the practicalities of enacting it. P. Schirmer requested that any UGCC proposals submitted by non-Faculty Assembly members have documentation included about how the faculty member was approved. *Senators will take the proposal back to their units and plan to vote on it at a future meeting.*
- B. **Faculty Evaluating Deans/Directors (No Qualtrics)** – (48:02) J. Ward informed FS that the cost has increased substantially since last spring, so a Google form will be designed to go to the appropriate faculty with the results going only to the interim provost. The goal will be to have the survey out in early spring.
- C. **Course substitution form (got vetoed)** – (52:02) Senators discussed the ongoing problems with the form as it is. C. Silkaitis explained that the chancellor liked some of the proposed changes but had to either fully approve it or veto it.

How to correctly identify the academic leaders for the final approval line was discussed further. *B. Blitz suggested that a new proposal be brought forward to vote on at a future meeting.*

VIII. New Business

- A. **Decolonization, diversity, equity, inclusion, and word policing by the BOR** – (1:04:30) L. Twitchell described some of the discouraging messages that he has received privately. He is searching for ways to demonstrate support for using those terms as they are central to his work. A memorandum, policy statement, or addition to the faculty handbook were discussed as options. A [recent statement from AAUP was](#) referenced as a source document. Concern for vulnerable faculty members was expressed, as was recognition that the field of education, especially public education, is facing these challenges.
- B. **Expedited tenure/promotion policy (subcommittee needed?)** – (1:25:38) B. Blitz opened discussion on the topic of adding a section to the faculty handbook outlining a process for hiring faculty at the associate or full professor rank with tenure, provided they have attained that rank at a prior institution. C. Silkaitis shared that the proposed policy was developed in conjunction with faculty several years ago and has been utilized, without ever formally being reviewed and adopted by FS. After discussion, the handbook committee was recommended as the group to review and formally propose adding such policy language to the handbook. This will come back to FS for review as part of the handbook update process.

C. [FOCUS Section Session Code Updates](#) – (1:34:34) Senators discussed recent changes to the coding of course delivery methods, and the ensuing difficulty in searching for some types of online classes. *Senate leadership will discuss this with the Interim Provost and Chancellor at their next meeting.*

D. **Interim appointment process.** (1:44:39) A lack of clarity regarding the process for appointing interim administrators was discussed. This item was brought forward in response to the recent naming of an interim dean for Career Education (CE). Concerns were also raised about the possible merger of the school of CE and the department of Business and Public Administration (BPA). In particular, faculty and staff in CE in Juneau were not aware of the discussions until they were well underway, while BPA faculty and CE faculty in Sitka had been part of ongoing discussions.

Interim Provost Silkaitis noted the need for more conversation with everyone involved before moving forward. *A meeting at Spring Startup was suggested as a next step.*

IX. **FS President's Report** – (1:56:25) B. Blitz highlighted the following:

A. **Faculty Initiative Fund:** \$700,000 was requested but there is only \$360,000 to give. Notification will occur by December 22.

B. **Faculty Time Off (FTO):** Save your department's budget by taking all of your FTO. Cash out some if you want ([FTO Cash-in form](#), [Faculty Time Off FAQs](#)). The point being if you have any FTO left on May 10th, then Statewide gets the money. Make sure you use it by the end of the year.

C. **UAF is trying to move the W deadline to the 13th week (now it's the 10th week).**

D. **Office of Information Technology:** [OIT security operations, Move to passphrases](#) – Stay on top of security so that you do not have issues with delivering your classes. Passphrases will be phased in and eventually required.

X. [Interim Provost's Report](#) – (1:59:45) C. Silkaitis invited questions on the written report. They encouraged faculty to develop a UAS template for the Annual Faculty Activity Report.

XI. **Committee Reports** – (2:00:55)

A. [CELT report and Simple Syllabus Data Privacy Policy](#) – R. Gilcrist noted that there is not funding at this time nor is there an ability to have a small group pilot project. C. Silkaitis elaborated that the previously identified funding would have to be approved by the chancellor, and the high cost to adopt and continue using the product needs to be carefully evaluated. Faculty discussed other options for ensuring that faculty post syllabi that are compliant and accessible. The [CELT syllabus page](#) was identified as a good resource for templates.

B. [Graduate Committee Report](#)

C. **Research and Creative Activity:**

1. **URECA awards to be announced soon.**
2. **The new chair is Elaine Alvey, starting Fall 2025 semester.**
3. **Ketchikan campus faculty Barbara Morgan and Charmaine Lewis submitted a proposal titled "*Climate Adaptation Through Community Action: Educational Outreach on Invasive European***

Green Crabs in SE AK" to the AK Climate Adaptation Science Center Ambassadors Program (AK CASC) and were successfully awarded.

D. [Sustainability Committee Report](#)

XII. Adjournment. No later than 5PM. – (2:07:30) *R. Gilcrist moved to adjourn the meeting. G. Wright seconded. The motion passed with no objection.*

Next Meetings: February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2