

## Faculty Senate Notes

February 7, 2025, 3-5 PM

Location: Egan Library 211

And via Zoom

Brian Blitz, President	x	Charmaine Lewis, Natural Sciences	x
*Glenn Wright, Past President	(see SS)	*Glenn Wright, Social Sciences	x
Ali Ziegler, President-Elect	x	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	

Guests: T. Bell, A. Palmer, P. Schirmer

**I. Call to order** – (3:05) President Blitz called the meeting to order.

**II. Roll call** – (3:06)

**III. Approval of agenda** – (3:07) A. Dewees asked that an item be added to the agenda regarding General Education Requirements (GERs) for Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees. R. Gilcrist requested that the Course Substitution Form discussed in an earlier meeting be added to the agenda. J. Markis asked that the online bookstore also be discussed today. *J. Markis moved to approve the agenda with the addition of the three suggested items. G. Wright seconded. The motion passed without objection.*

**IV. Approval of December 6, 2024 minutes** – (3:09) *G. Wright moved to approve the previous meeting minutes. K. Spink seconded. The motion passed without objection.*

**V. Announcements/Questions/Guests: Chancellor Aparna Palmer (out of state tuition)**

– (3:09) Chancellor Palmer shared information related to a proposed pilot project at UAS that would eliminate the higher rate of tuition for out of state undergraduate students. She noted that the Board of Regents (BOR) is paying close attention to enrollment data and a consultant, EAB, recommended removing the tuition differential as a potential strategy. UAS could do this on a trial basis due to our small size and history of managing our finances well. The project would involve adding two recruiters and developing a marketing plan and materials. The UA system would help offset the risk if the investment did not yield additional tuition revenue. The intent is to develop the infrastructure during the next year with implementation occurring the following year. The chancellor responded to senators' questions about the proposed plan, enrollments, and tuition revenue.

**VI. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UGCC) Reports from Jan. 17 and Jan. 31:**

(3:35) – P. Schirmer noted that there has been one extra meeting this year and another is planned in February due to the high volume of proposals. Over 160 proposals were received by the October

deadline, including some from Outer Coast (OC). B. Blitz referenced the note in the January 31 report that led to the additional agenda item about two GER writing classes in AAS degrees.

**A. Initial Approval**

- 1. Environmental Studies BA** – (3:37) *L. Twitchell moved to approve the proposal. G. Wright seconded. The proposal was approved for initial senate approval without objection.*

**B. Final Approval**

- 1. ANS 100, ANS S321, ANTH S303, PSY S304, PSY S314, PSY S400** – (3:38) *G. Wright moved to approve the six proposals for final senate review. L. Twitchell seconded. The six proposals passed final senate approval without objection.*
- 2. PHYS 124, PHYS 212** – (3:39) *A. Dewees moved to approve the two proposals for final senate review. J. Markis seconded. The two proposals passed final senate approval without objection.*
- 3. Intro to Mining Sciences OE** – (3:39) *L. Twitchell moved to approve the proposal for final senate review. M. Boyer seconded. The proposal passed final senate approval without objection.*
- 4. Accounting Minor** – (3:40) *M. Boyer moved to approve the proposal for final senate review. L. Twitchell seconded. The proposal passed final senate approval without objection.*
- 5. Outer Coast courses? (will probably wait for March)** – (3:42) President Blitz noted that a few additional courses are still in process, and that they will all be voted on at the next meeting.

- C. Additional agenda item: GERs and AAS degrees** – (3:42) The Humanities department proposes articulating minimum GERs for Associate of Applied Science degrees at UAS. UAA and UAF currently do so. In practice, UAS has a common set of GERs for the current AAS degrees in the catalog, but it is not stated in policy either in the catalog or faculty handbook.

This became known due to a curriculum proposal. The Associates of Applied Science Health Information Management Program (AAS-HIM) is participating in a demonstration project for new program curriculum changes in AY 2026. T. Bell submitted a UGCC proposal to add two courses to the degree and to remove one writing course. The changes are due to industry and program accreditation requirements with a specialized accrediting body (the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management (CAHIIM)). Students in accredited AAS-HIM programs are not required to have two writing courses. Many programs have eliminated a second writing class to keep the number of credits down, thereby keeping the degree more affordable for students and having room for future industry and accreditation changes. T. Bell noted that the program will require 68 credits if it includes the second writing course. After reviewing existing requirements at UAS, she noted that the second writing class is not required per current policy and submitted a proposal to remove it to align with trends in the HIM field.

Senators discussed the differences between Associate of Arts and Associate of Applied

Science degrees as well as the AAS GER requirement proposal from Humanities. A subcommittee or Google Doc on GERs was suggested. *A. Dewees and L. Twitchell will prepare a written proposal to articulate the proposed UAS AAS minimum GER requirements that will include two writing classes and will circulate it via email.* Senators will vote to have those minimums added to the catalog and handbook at an upcoming meeting. Senators were asked to discuss this with their units in preparation for a vote. **VII. Old Business**

- A. Curriculum Proposal Process for Career Ed (and more!) – (4:33)** B. Blitz noted that the proposal on the shared drive addresses the current problem of not having enough tenure track or long-standing term faculty in Career Education for moving curriculum proposals forward. *J. Ward moved to approve the proposal. R. Gilcrist seconded. C. Lewis shared concerns from Natural Sciences faculty. They are supportive but concerned that it sounds like adjuncts might be able to propose curriculum. It was noted that this proposal will automatically sunset in May 2027. After discussion, the motion passed on a Zoom chat vote.* B. Blitz will bring this forward to the chancellor.
- B. Decolonization, diversity, equity, inclusion, and word policing: Resolution – (4:10)** L. Twitchell referred to the proposed resolution on the shared drive. He asked UAS Student Government and Staff Council to pass similar resolutions. He shared some of his negative experiences when using words such as sovereignty, decolonization, diversity, equity, and inclusion, which are central to his work. Concerns about infringement of free speech and academic freedom were discussed, along with potential impacts on curriculum development and hiring practices. G. Wright and K. Spink suggested amendments to the resolution that were welcomed and accepted. *G. Wright moved to pass the resolution with the two amendments, and to forward it to UAS Student Government, UAS Staff Council, and associated faculty groups M. Boyer seconded the motion. The motion passed on a Zoom chat vote.*
- C. Faculty Evaluating Deans/Directors – (4:40)** J. Ward announced that the surveys to gather faculty feedback as part of the annual evaluation of deans and directors is moving forward as planned. Surveys will be sent to faculty in Juneau Arts & Sciences, Ketchikan, the School of Education, and the Egan Library. Each survey will only solicit feedback about the dean/director of the appropriate unit. You should expect to receive a survey about your dean or director soon if you are in one of those four units. The plan is to gather the data before spring break. The anonymous feedback will only be available to C. Silkaitis, who prepares the annual performance evaluations.
- D. FOCUS Section\_Session Code (This is a UA policy, so we may not be able to do anything about it, but I am currently investigating with UAA and UAF) – (4:42)** B. Blitz reported that senate leadership has discussed these code changes with the interim provost, and it sounds like we are unable to do anything besides be aware of the change.

## **VIII. New Business**

- A. Handbook edits (part 1) and list of changes. Strikethrough for deletions, red text for additions. (vote on this at March meeting) – (4:43)** B. Blitz stated that it is best to review the linked document using Adobe. It includes the first round of handbook edits. *Senators were asked to review the proposed changes and be ready to vote on them at the March meeting.* Questions can be directed to President Blitz. There

will be additional edits forthcoming, including the action taken today on the curriculum process, so expect another round of changes.

- B. Revisiting the Course Substitution Form** – (4:45) R. Gilcrist referred to the chancellor's veto of actions taken at the November meeting regarding three changes to the Academic Course Substitution form. The veto was specifically about the removal of the third signature line on the form. R. Gilcrist would like to move ahead with the form changes but have the final signature line revised to read "Dean/Director." After discussion, *R. Gilcrist moved to revise the final signature line on the form to read "dean/director."* K. Polanska seconded. *The motion passed on a Zoom chat vote.* C.

**Online bookstore** – (4:55) J. Markis and others brought forth problems that faculty have experienced with the new bookstore vendor's process. These include delays if the initial order is not adequate for the class enrollments, delays processing access codes, high shipping costs, and a lack of customer support for students. It was noted that there were many issues with the set up due to a glitch, and faculty teaching different courses than they did last fall are dealing with significant problems and numerous auto generated emails with little communication about the process. Financial aid regulations require the use of the vendor so that other textbook source options are not supposed to be used. B. *Blitz asked that faculty concerns be shared with him.*

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

- A. Integrative Behavioral Health BA/BS passed final Faculty Senate approval by a 9-0 email vote.** – (5:02) This item has been completed, and the proposal is heading to the BOR.

**B. Faculty Initiative Fund: need reviewers for Fall 2025.** – (5:02) Faculty Alliance (FA) has moved the timeline up so that the commitment can be put on workloads. *Faculty should email B. Blitz if they are interested in serving as a reviewer.*

**C. 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 that if you have any FTO left on May 10th, then Statewide gets the money.

**D. Talking to the press? Feel free to contact Elizabeth Cornejo. Pro-tip: write your response rather than talk with reporters.**

**X. Faculty Alliance Report** – (5:03) The report has a lot of important information including the EAB report that the chancellor referenced in her remarks. FA is continuing to advocate for a faculty regent.

**XI. Interim Provost's Report** – (5:03) Please see the brief written report. Six programs still require Program Learning Outcomes.

#### **XII. Committee Reports**

##### **A. CELT report**

- 1. Efforts are ongoing to improve the syllabus upload process. Faculty awareness of the UAS Online tool for uploading syllabi has increased, and CELT support will continue.**
- 2. The team is actively monitoring accessibility issues related to course materials and resources in light of faculty and student**

needs, as well as recent Title II changes.

3. Be on the lookout for a survey to help us evaluate technology usage. Faculty input is essential to inform potential cost-saving measures.
4. Efforts to streamline CELT communication and resource access are underway. We are working to improve email communication and increase CELT's visibility on the new UAS employee hub site.
5. If you are receiving email bounce-backs when messaging students using Blackboard, consider advising these students to contact the IT Helpdesk to correct their email forwarding. You can reach students using EAB – CELT is also available to assist.
6. Reminder: Ultra Full Launch (Summer & Fall 2025): Ultra will become the default for all UAS courses, with faculty able to request to go back to Original (the older interface). If you want to go back to Original during that time, you will need to notify your supervisor; faculty supervisors will need to provide CELT with a list of faculty names, course names, and sections to be reverted for Summer or Fall 2025 by May 2, 2025. – (5:04) It is very important that faculty are tracking this change.

**B. Graduate Committee** – No report.

**C. Research and Creative Activity** – No report.

**D. Sustainability Committee:**

1. Discussed recommending environmental and resource sustainability be included in the University's strategic plan.
2. Explored strategies for ensuring long-term sustainability of campus composting and the Sustainability Club initiatives.
3. Reviewed the Juneau Empire quarterly submission schedule; identified next steps for contributors to upcoming publications.
4. Brainstormed "Earth Day Every Day" initiatives, including activities such as forest bathing, beach cleanup, gear swaps, and community collaboration.
5. Evaluated the Arctic Canaries Project collaboration, addressing flexible commitment, funding, and research opportunities.
6. Initiated plans to revamp the Sustainability Committee webpage for better visibility and resources.

**XIII. Adjournment. No later than 5 PM** – (5:04) J. Markis emphasized that with C. Silkaitis withdrawing from the search, it is very important to participate in opportunities to evaluate the remaining candidates and provide feedback for the provost's search. The schedules for the three candidates and links to the sessions are posted on the website. *J. Markis moved to adjourn the meeting. M. Boyer seconded. The motion passed without objection.*

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