

Faculty Senate Notes

April 4, 2025, 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 Administration	x	X'unei Lance Twitchell, Juneau	x
Robin Gilcrist, Career Education	x	Joel Markis, Sitka	x
Kevin Spink, Education	x	Ali Ziegler for Kasia Polanska, Ketchikan	x**
Jay Szczepanski for Andrea Dewees, Humanities	x	Carin Silkaitis, Interim Provost	

Guests: J. Lamb, P. Schirmer

- I. **Call to order**
- II. **Roll call** (3:01)
- III. **Approval of agenda** (3:02) – President Blitz noted recent additions to the curriculum portion of the agenda since it was sent out last Friday. *J. Ward moved to approve the agenda. G. Wright seconded. The motion passed without objection.*
- IV. **Approval of [March minutes](#)** (3:03) – *K. Spink moved to approve the prior meeting minutes. G Wright seconded. The motion passed without objection.*
- V. **Announcements/Questions/Guests:**
 - A. **Jonas Lamb – Low Textbook Cost [discussion](#) and [guidance](#)** (3:04) – J. Lamb provided background information about efforts to make textbooks more affordable. The low-cost designation is meant to be similar to the zero textbook cost course marking option that students can see when signing up for courses. There is a law going into effect next July about textbook affordability that will require low-cost course designations among other things. UAA and UAF are using \$40 as the threshold for low cost sections. J. Lamb shared data about UAS zero and low cost course section data, noting the different sources of information and a proposed system for monitoring data quality. Draft procedures for implementing this change are in the guidance document and J. Lamb will keep senate informed and seek feedback before changes are implemented.
 - B. **Brenna Heinz Director of Admissions is asking for faculty help with admissions. For example, meet with prospective students, email from degree programs, etc.** (3:03) – B. Blitz noted this request from Admissions for

help with things such as having a standard email about your program that can be sent to prospective students.

VI. Curriculum Committee Report:

A. Initial Approval (3:19) –

- 1. Education Non-Certification B.A. –** B. Blitz noted that it is not clear if this or any of the other degree programs reviewed today are going to be presented to the Board of Regents (BOR) for approval at the May meeting. K. Spink provided background information for this new program. It removes the Praxis exam requirement and allows students to be awarded the degree for educational attainment even if they do not intend to teach in public schools. *G. Wright moved to approve the proposal for first Faculty Senate (FS) review. J. Markis seconded. The proposal passed initial FS review.*
- 2. Higher Education Policy and Administration, Graduate Certificate –** *G. Wright moved to approve the proposal for first FS review. M. Boyer seconded. The proposal passed initial FS review.*
- 3. BHS 333 –** The course is an elective for the Behavioral Health program. *J. Ward moved to approve the proposal for first FS review. M. Boyer seconded. The proposal passed initial FS review.*
- 4. Indigenous Language M.A.T. –** L. Twitchell provided background information about the proposal which is from both Arts and Sciences and Education. *G. Wright moved to approve the proposal for first FS review. M. Boyer seconded. The proposal passed initial FS review.*

B. Final Approval (3:35) –

- 1. Outer Coast (OC) courses (see Interim Provost's Report) –** New information is in the shared drive about assessment and GERs. *J. Markis moved to table the proposal. Sitka faculty still have questions about how limited resources such as student housing will be managed between UAS and OC. J. Ward and C. Lewis seconded. The motion passed.*

VII. Old Business

- A. [Humanities proposal concerning A.A.S. degree requirements.](#) (Andrea)** (3:51) – J. Szczepanski requested that this item be tabled until further conversations with T. Bell occur. *The item was tabled with no objections.*
- B. [BOR motion](#) (3:52) –** Senators discussed the ramifications of the recent board action prohibiting using the words diversity, equity, and inclusion. G. Wright reported that a committee formed to review potential website changes has met once and a second meeting is scheduled for next week. An inventory of 40 pages with those words has been compiled. A process to determine which pages are protected by academic freedom or freedom of expression has been established. The committee includes faculty, staff, and students. K. Henrickson will join that committee. The committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is going to change

its name. The resolution passed by FS about the motion has been sent to the BOR although it is unclear when we will get a response.

- C. **Course Substitution Form from March 7 (Robin)** (4:10) – Senators discussed this change to allow campus directors to sign on the third line. *R. Gilcrist moved to vote on the form. J. Markis seconded. The motion passed with no objections.*
- D. **Open Enrollment dates (this is being talked about at Joint Health Care Committee) and Student Ratings dates (no update)** (4:21) – B. Blitz shared that the concern about Open Enrollment occurring during one of the busiest times of the academic year is being discussed at the Joint Healthcare Committee and will be considered for next year.

J. Markis believes that changing the default student rating dates would not be technically difficult with regards to IT. Senators discussed what would make the dates work better. After discussion, it was generally agreed that the only change needed was to extend the date at which the ratings close. *L. Twitchell moved to change the closing date to one week after grades are due. G. Wright seconded. The motion passed.* B. Blitz will bring this item to the chancellor and provost.

VIII. New Business

- A. **Senators for next year** (4:32) – 1:41.05
- **Business and Public Administration** will be represented by M. Boyer again.
 - **Career Education** will be represented by L. Gibes.
 - **Education** will be represented by K. Spink again.
 - **Humanities** will be represented by X. Song.
 - It is likely that B. Blitz will serve as both Past President and **Natural Sciences** senator next year if no one else is willing.
 - **Social Sciences** will be represented by M. Dolese.
 - **Library** will be represented by K. Henrickson.
 - An election will be held for the **Juneau representative**.
 - **Sitka** has not yet named their representative.
 - **Ketchikan** will be represented by C. Ianuzzi.

IX. FS President's Report:

- A. **Faculty Senate President Elect (any nominations for next year?)** (4:35) – There have been no nominations so far. K. Polanska and M. Trafton were suggested as excellent choices for incoming president.
- B. **UAS Budget Advisory Committee: need faculty senate representation** (4:37) – This committee, formerly known as SPBAC, has not met since the Covid pandemic. J. Lasinski is planning to revive it, and needs a faculty member recommended by FS. Please check with your units to see if anyone is willing to take this on. If no one else steps forward, B. Blitz will likely serve on this committee.

- C. **Faculty Initiative Fund 2025 reviewers: Charmaine, Kasia, Andrea (4:38)** – Let B. Blitz know if anyone else wants to serve.
 - D. **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.
- X. **Faculty Alliance Report: Wrote a letter endorsing a Faculty Regent. Thanks Andrea for testifying on March 26! – (4:39)**
- XI. **[Interim Provost's Report](#) (4:39)** – The report contains further information about the relationship with Outer Coast and also informs senate that A. Parrish will no longer be available to take notes at FS or UGCC beginning next academic year. Senators discussed various ideas for notetaking.
- XII. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **[CELT report](#): (4:46)** – The written report provides information about what underutilized tools and subscriptions may be going away.
 - B. **Graduate Committee – (4:46)** **They are currently trying to establish criteria/guidelines for differentiating between undergraduate/graduate stacked courses. In addition, the following Category B proposals were approved:**
 - 1. **Secondary Education Graduate Certificate**
 - 2. **Secondary Education M.A.T.**
 - 3. **Special Education M.A.T.**
 - 4. **Special Education M.Ed.**
 - C. **Research and Creative Activity: URECA symposium Friday, April 11 from 2:00-5:00 (and Zoom) (4:47)** – C. Lewis noted that it will be held in Egan 108. J. Ward noted that the Author's Reception will be held in the library starting at 5:00 on 4/11 as well.
 - D. **Sustainability Committee: [Earth Day 2025 Events](#) and making good progress on composting initiative. (4:48)**
 - L. Twitchell announced that there will be an Easter egg hunt and a *Molly of Denali* screening on Saturday the 19th.
- XIII. **Adjournment. No later than 5PM. (4:49)** – *L. Twitchell moved to adjourn. J. Szczepanski seconded. The meeting adjourned without objection.*

Next Meeting: May 2