

Faculty Senate Notes

May 2, 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	x	Jennifer Ward, Library	x
Mike Boyer, Business & Public Admin.	x	X'unei Lance Twitchell, Juneau	x
Robin Gilcrist, Career Education	x	Joel Markis, Sitka	x
Kevin Spink, Education	x	Kasia Polanska, Ketchikan	x
Andrea Dewees, Humanities	x	Carin Silkaitis, Interim Provost	x

Guests: J. Cook, L. Gibes, K. Henrickson, T. Lee, A. Palmer, J. Rupp, J. Schram, P. Sommers, J. Szczepanski

- I. **Call to order 3 PM**
- II. **Roll call** – (3:01) –
- III. **Approval of agenda** – (3:02) – *J. Ward moved to approve the agenda. C. Lewis seconded. The motion passed.*
- IV. **Approval of [April minutes](#)** – (3:03) – *R. Gilcrist moved to approve the prior meeting minutes. C. Lewis seconded. The motion passed.*
- V. **Announcements/Questions/Guests: Aparna Palmer, Scott Billingsley (Provost starts July 1), Jeremy Rupp, Peter Sommers** – (3:03) – S. Billingsley will become provost on July 1. He is unable to attend today's meeting unfortunately.
- VI. **Course Program of Study (CPOS)** – (3:04) – P. Sommers led a presentation about the importance of compliance with the federal financial aid programs that limit support to courses that lead to recognized degrees. There are eligible UAS courses that are currently presented in ways that may initially be rejected as eligible for aid since they are not clearly tied to degree programs. UAS and institutions around the country are working to clarify degree requirements that may not be readily apparent such as hidden prerequisites and unspecified but allowable electives.

For financial aid to be disbursed smoothly and on time, it will be important to have all necessary information into Banner/Degree works as early as possible. Ideally students will register for courses and submit needed paperwork such as substitutions early.

The team will be meeting with academic units to identify and remove barriers through curricular and administrative processes in the upcoming year to help make a more streamlined experience for students.

VII. Curriculum Committee Report:

A. Initial Approval

1. **Release of Information OE** – (4:00) – G. Wright moved to approve the proposal for initial Faculty Senate (FS) review. L. Twitchell seconded. The motion passed.

B. Final Approval

1. **Outer Coast (OC) courses** ([spreadsheet with all the courses, new current MOA](#)) – (3:37) – L. Twitchell and J. Markis moved to approve the proposal for final FS review. K. Spink seconded. C. Silkaitis noted that an articulated table of GERs will be added, as noted in the signed addendum to the MOA. Chancellor Palmer, J. Markis, J. Rupp, and L. Twitchell shared their thoughts on the process and history of the agreement and the remaining sticking points. After discussion, *the motion passed.*
2. **Higher Education Policy and Administration, Grad Certificate, and Public Administration MPA** – (4:01) – L. Twitchell moved to approve the two proposals for final FS review. G. Wright seconded. The motion passed.
3. **BHS S333** – (4:02) – G. Wright moved to approve the proposal for final FS review. L. Twitchell seconded. The motion passed.
4. **Designated Emphasis, BLA** – (4:02) – L. Twitchell moved to approve the proposal for final FS review. G. Wright seconded. The motion passed.
5. **WELD S275** – (4:03) – R. Gilcrist moved to approve the proposal for final FS review. J. Markis seconded. The motion passed.

VIII. Old Business

- A. [Humanities proposal concerning A.A.S. degree requirements.](#) (Andrea) – (4:04) – This was tabled at a previous meeting. A. Dewees noted that there are still discussions that need to happen and requested that no action be taken today.
- B. [Board of Regents \(BOR\) motion](#) (3:05:30 is the time on the video when the DEI motion occurs) – (4:05) (Video link only.)
- C. [BOR response to our resolution](#) – (4:05) – B. Blitz clarified that the BOR response was to our resolution in support of UAF's resolution and was received late yesterday afternoon.

L. Twitchell has drafted a potential response/protest letter. Dear Colleague letter – content and process. Ask to rescind/ask to resign otherwise.

A. Dewees moved to adopt and send the letter. G. Wright seconded. K Spink suggested additional language. Concerns were raised that there was not adequate time for senators to review this with the faculty they represent before voting. The suggestion was made to gather feedback with intent to vote by email next Friday. L. Twitchell moved to amend the motion to allow an email vote by next Friday. G. Wright seconded. There were no objections. B. Blitz will follow up with an email to faculty about the vote.

(Subsequent note: The May 9 email vote to send the letter failed.)

- D. **Open Enrollment dates (last day May 2)** – (4:19) – The Open Enrollment period closes at 5:00 today.

IX. New Business

- A. **Welcome Senators for next year.** – (4:19) – President Blitz welcomed incoming senators L. Gibes, K. Henrickson, and J. Szczepanski.
 - B. **[UAF motion about W dates](#)** – (4:20) – UAF is proposing to move the withdrawal date from the ninth to the thirteenth week of class. Please bring the linked document to your constituents and be prepared to vote on it in the fall.
 - C. **Shared Governance Committee (see [CAIE Memo 2025-05-01 in meeting folder](#))** – (4:21) – G. Wright reported that the Committee on Academic Integrity and Excellence has completed the website inventory of instances of the recently banned words (diversity, equity, inclusion). Many of the instances fell under the protected categories of academic freedom or freedom of expression. Information regarding needed changes has been conveyed to the staff responsible for updating web content. Whether or not the deadline for making changes is before the next BOR meeting is unclear.
- X. **Interim Provost's Report: No written report.** – (4:25) – C. Silkaitis expressed her appreciation to the senate and senate leadership for a productive working relationship this year.
- XI. **FS President's Report:**
- A. **Aparna approved the course substitution form and the Student Ratings dates.** – (4:26) – B. Blitz reported that both the interim provost and chancellor supported the request to adjust the student ratings dates. Hopefully that update will be made in the fall semester.
 - B. **Faculty Senate President Elect (any nominations for next year?)** – (4:26)
Nothing yet to report.
 - C. **[Classroom and Meeting Space technology update prioritization.](#) (for JNU)** – (4:27) – S. Gilreath working on this with the Juneau based academic units, and welcomed any comments.
 - 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 is that if you have any FTO left on May 10th, then Statewide gets the money.
- XII. **Faculty Alliance Report:**
- A. **[Resolution from UAA about signing AAC&U document](#)** – (4:32) – L. Twitchell moved to support the UAA resolution. J. Markis seconded. The motion passed with no objections.
 - B. **[Resolution from UAF about supporting international students](#)** – (4:34) – L. Twitchell moved to support the UAF resolution. J. Markis seconded. The motion passed with no objections.
- XIII. **Committee Reports**
- A. **[CELT report](#)** – (4:35) – Link to Degree Works.
 - B. **[Graduate Committee](#)** – (4:37) – A few classes have been passed.
 - C. **Research and Creative Activity:** – (4:37) –
 1. The 13th annual URECA symposium on April 11th was a success!
 2. Starting next year, Elaine Alvey (Education) will be the new RCAC chair.

3. **Encourage your students to present at next year's symposium, they do not need to be funded by URECA awards in order to present.**

B. Blitz suggested that faculty remind students that they do not have to have URECA funding to present at the annual symposium.

- D. **Sustainability Committee: In lieu of a formal meeting this month, committee members either met with Facilities, Dining Services, and the Dean of Students to discuss the feasibility of composting or helping facilitate Earth Week events.**

(4:38) J. Markis noted that the May FS meeting is a real challenge because Sitka Commencement occurs the same date, on 7:00 pm. Finding an alternate date – moving it by a day or a week – could be explored. It will be helpful for administrators as well as Sitka faculty.

- XIV. **Adjournment. No later than 5PM.** – (4:41) – *G. Wright moved to adjourn the meeting. L. Twitchell seconded. The meeting adjourned with no objections.*

- XV. **Next Meeting: August**