

MINUTES
UAF FACULTY SENATE MEETING #158
Monday, April 6, 2009
1:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.
Wood Center Carol Brown Ballroom

I Call to Order – Marsha Sousa

Faculty Senate President Marsha Sousa called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Members Present:

Abramowicz, Ken
Allen, Jane (online)
Baker, Carrie
Barrick, Ken
Barry, Ron
Bret-Harte, Marion
Cahill, Cathy
Christie, Anne
Davis, Mike (online)
Dehn, Jonathan
Fowell, Sarah
Hazirbaba, Kenan
Heaton, John
Hogan, Maureen
Huettmann, Falk
Illingworth, Marjorie

Members Absent:

Barboza, Perry
Bogosyan, Seta
Jin, Meibing
Little, Joe
RaLonde, Ray
Zhang, Jing

Others Present:

Larry Duffy
Doug Goering
Linda Hapsmith
Martin Klein

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Staff Appreciation Day is Monday, May 11, and a call was made to have more faculty involved. Faculty volunteers are invited to help serve lunch that day in a show of support for staff, which will help lower costs of the event.

B. ASUAF – Brandon Meston

Brandon was not present. Marsha announced that Ashton Compton of Fairbanks was appointed as the new Student Regent.

C. UAFT/UNAC

No comments were made. Discussion will occur later in this meeting.

VII Guest Speaker

A. Kris Racina, Director, UAF HR

Kris spoke to several issues she was asked to comment on. The first was about creating quicker processes for turnaround on hires for student research and teaching assistants. She asked for more direct input and information about what revisions are desired, and invited faculty to call her, especially those directly affected by this issue.

Second, she spoke about clarification of the generalist model vs. the expert model. She is looking at a switch to the generalist model, where a consultant (who advises on HR and employee relations issues) is paired with a personnel technician and a payroll technician (who enter data into the system). She would then pair these groups as points of contact with departments and units. Departments would have a team in place and only have to call one of two people for their needs. The end of the fiscal year is a loose timeframe goal on implementing this change.

Third, she spoke to creating a central source of information for end-users, to help them understand and follow the processes for various types of hires. She wants feedback from individuals to help her understand what the challenges are that are being faced so she can make effective changes. For example, if a hiring committee needs training, she could provide a trainer to come and speak to them about a particular process. Otherwise, the department PPA's are great resources, and she's planning to involve them more in figuring out how to improve current processes.

Last, she was asked to share her vision for interfacing with statewide HR. Having come from statewide, she knows that they've been focusing on centralization. But, with the campuses, the pendulum is swinging the other way, where they're asking for decentralization and a little more autonomy. She wants to see some sensible decentralization in areas where it is possible, to allow for decision-making at the department level where appropriate.

Ken B. commented that faculty do not often get to participate in hiring very often. Kris invited emails and questions to help her gather information.

Cathy C. made the comment that the UAKJobs program is a very real hurdle because it's used infrequently and faculty are untrained on it, but required in the process of a hire. There is not always clear communication with a department PPA on the

BREAK was taken at 1:55 p.m.

VIII Discussion Items

A. Distance Education Issues – John Monahan

He's chairing a SAC-appointed committee with two representatives from each MAU. They're examining about ten years' worth of data distance education and want to identify their goals. Here is the list the desired end results of where the UA system is going (excerpt from referenced meeting minutes):

1. An integrated system of Distance Education course offerings available at the University of Alaska
 - Objective A: Standardization to the extent possible.
 - Objective B: Accessible to all Alaskan students
 - Objective C: Incorporation of accreditation requirements where such are pertinent
2. The roles and responsibilities of respective participants, forums, committees (stakeholders) involved in distance education, should be further identified.
3. That an accounting mechanism or formula, addressing fiscal implications for MAUs, should be refined. More specifically, that

education that brings together

another healthcare plan, the university was looking at providing some coverage such as COBRA and they sent out an enquiry about it. They've taken no action so far, but it would be a program similar to a 401K specifically for health care.

Cathy C. mentioned the memo from UNAC. Questions she's been hearing include: When do faculty join? What are the implications of joining now or later? Is this a preliminary claim? What steps do we need to take? Jane W. reiterated that faculty don't need to do anything right now. They're all a part of the lawsuit by default. (UNAC) class action suit.

Marji asked about faculty who retire in the meantime? Are they still part of it if they retire? Jane W. hasn't heard back from UAFT or UNAC on some of these types of questions.

Abel said all ORP members are included whether retired or not. UA is not giving them the records they need.

Carrie B. asked about the date of hire issue -- of ORP I or II. Some faculty are both, said Jane W. All ORP I faculty are in the class action lawsuit, regardless of union.

Ken A. asked about the class action lawsuit and if you want to opt out. Abel said it sounds like that would be a normal option, to be able to opt out.

IX New Business

(Note that the referenced attachments may always be found with the corresponding meeting **agenda**, rather than within these minutes. Please use the "Meetings" link at <http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov> to access these materials online. Complete copies of new proposals are kept on file at the UAF Governance Office at 314 Signers' Hall.)

- A. Motion to Reaffirm the Marine Advisory Program Unit Criteria, submitted by the Unit Criteria Committee (Attachment 158/1)

Rainer so moved and Cathy seconded it. Abel mentioned the CBA general requirements, and that numbers of publications and proposals can't be required unless it agrees with a workload distribution.

Brenda K. said no numbers are mentioned in this UC. A vote was taken. The ayes voted unanimously to reaffirm the MAP unit criteria.

- B. Motion to Reaffirm the SNRAS/AFES Unit Criteria, submitted by the Unit Criteria Committee (Attachment 158/2)

Motion **withdrawn** on 4-3-2009.)

- C. Motion to Reaffirm the Communication Department Unit Criteria, submitted by the Unit Criteria Committee (Attachment 158/3)

Brenda brought the motion to the floor. No publication or proposal numbers mentioned there either. Motion was made to approve and seconded. The votes were unanimous to reaffirm the unit criteria for the Communication Department.

- D. Motion of Confirmation for Outstanding Senator of the Year Award (Attachment 158/4)

Jane W. mentioned that the OSYA committee considered the nominations of Rainer Newberry and Larry Roberts, in addition to the recipient's nomination. Both Rainer and Larry had received the award before, both very worthy repeat recipients. The OSYA committee chose Amber Flora Thomas. Ayes confirmed the nomination of Amber for the 2008-09 award.

- E. Resolution to Ratify Election of Faculty Senate President-Elect (Attachment 158/5)

Cathy mentioned that next year she hopes there are more candidates. Ayes confirmed the ratification of Cathy Cahill as president-elect for the 2009-10 term.

- F. Motion to Approve a Certificate in Ethnobotany, submitted by Curricular Affairs (Attachment 158/6)

Falk brought the motion to the floor. Julie Maier, division chair for Natural Sciences at CRCDD, was present to speak about the program, and she gave a brief overview of the certificate to the group. The program is from Kuskokwim Campus and is part of the effort to get Alaska Natives into science programs. Ethnobotany is an interest at Kuskokwim Campus, and has been an interest of the people there for generations. They'd like to see this certificate, and later on even add an A.A.S., a baccalaureate degree. and higher. This certificate has an interdisciplinary flavor, with courses in botany, biology, chemistry and some anthropology. She mentioned the many supporters of the program, including Larry Duffy and Terry Chapin. Rose Meier, an author of the program, is unavailable due to a death in the family.

Ben P. asked who the faculty are that are teaching the courses: Terry Chapin, Craig Gerlach, and Kevin Jurnigan (who just got his Ph.D. in ethnobotany last summer). Ben said that no one has spoken to the Anthropology Department. Rose mentioned a letter of support by Craig Gerlach in the proposal.

Donie B. noted the lack of botany courses. Julie mentioned they are not required for a certificate, but would be required if an Associates level degree is developed. Julie mentioned the content of the courses which cover the basics of botany. They're trying to give a more local flavor to the certificate courses.

Hand held vote taken: The ayes numbered 15, including three votes by audio. None were opposed. There were five abstentions. The motion carried by majority vote.

G. Motion to Approve an integrated BS/MS Degree Program for Mechanical Engineering, submitted by Curricular Affairs (Attachment 158/7)

Falk gave a brief description of the program. It is an experimental program to attract students from outside. UAF would lose one year of tuition because it's a short program. Rainer mentioned this is done at other schools, getting bright and motivated students through a bachelor's and a non-thesis master's in five years. Some coursework is cut out, but they're not required courses. There are numerous efforts built into the program to assess how well the students are doing, and to compare them with the traditional graduates. Falk mentioned that students would be nominated by departments. Rainer mentioned it would be like other programs that use committees to bring students forward for masters programs.

The motion passed unanimously.

X Committee Reports

A. Curricular Affairs – Amber Thomas / Falk Huettmann
Falk mentioned minutes are available at the back table as handouts.

B. Faculty Affairs – Cathy Cahill
(Attachment 158/8)

The committee will be collecting department data about “term, contingent and adjunct” faculty. They want to work with the Chancellor's Office about ways fo

G. Faculty Appeals & Oversight – James Bicigo
No minutes were available.

H Faculty Development, Assessment & Improvement – Dana Greci /
Julie Lurman Joly (Attachment 158/11)

Dana reminded everyone about the Faculty Forum being held this Wednesday, with four presenters that were mentioned. It will be at Copper Lane House from noon to 2 p.m., and it will be audio-conferenced.

I. Graduate Academic & Advisory Committee – Ron Barry'
Ben P. gave a brief report of their last meeting.

J. Student Academic Development & Achievement – Marji Illingworth / Jane
Allen (Attachment 158/12)

Marji said a motion will be brought forward for the next meeting, in collaboration with the library, for a Student Learning Commons.

XI Members' Comments/Questions

Amber mentioned how much she's enjoyed the past two years on the Senate, and she's looking forward to two more years on the Senate.

XII Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at just shortly after 3:00 p.m.