

Minutes for Faculty Senate Meeting #220
Monday, February 06, 2017
1:00 - 3:00 PM - Wood Center Carol Brown Ballroom

- I Call to Order - Orion Lawlor
 - A. Roll Call

B. Approval of [Minutes for Meeting #219](#) (linked)

Minutes for December 5, 2016, were approved as submitted.

C. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as submitted.

II Status of Chancellor's Office Actions

Motions approved:

A. [Motion to approve a new Minor in Tribal Management](#) - Passed

B. [Motion to amend the academic program review process](#) - Passed, as amended

Motions pending: None

III A. President's Remarks - Orion Lawlor

President Lawlor shared brief remarks about the importance of today's meeting. He also shared about the Faculty Alliance retreat and dinner with the Board of Regents that took place in late January. He noted that members of the Board deeply care about the university and communicating with them regularly is needed. The challenge of addressing mutual problems is getting everyone to work together instead of working at cross-purposes to one another.

B. President-Elect's Remarks - Chris Fallen

President-elect Fallen encouraged members to think about making nominations for the office of president-elect. The election will occur at the April meeting, and it's not too early to start considering those nominations. He shared his thoughtful reflections on the serious business of the two resolutions to be voted upon at today's meeting. He announced the scientific activity

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The Chancellor has released budget targets for the university by means of public announcement which are largely based on the Governor's flat budget proposed for the university. Of course,

Dr. Bult-Ito noted that the whole plan cannot be covered in the short presentation time today; but, he's working on setting up a longer public forum where he'll be able to present it in more depth.

Anna L. noted with regard to the ideas of increasing research and hiring more researchers, it is assumed that the current research faculty remain. Currently, the job of research faculty is not a sustainable position for a long-term career. Some of that reinvestment would be well invested in making sure these people remain. Dr. Bult-Ito noted his plan includes bridging funds for researchers who are between grants. He agreed it is a structural problem and shared some numbers from his plans. He is happy to take suggestions for changes, as well.

Orion commented about the interesting detail in the plans, and about the use of a million dollars to fund 150 tuition scholarships, which could basically populate two or three departments with which does no add 7((8.9(new)13.5(c)-2(our)5.9(s)-2(es)]TJ -0.006 Tc 0.011 Tw 1ob337 0 Td [(0M).56()11.3(

CAEP accreditation and processes are in place for those self-studies to be written. No one knows what the outcomes of the move will mean for these programs. Sean Topkok also commented about the flawed process used to make the decision about the move. Stakeholders had no chance to participate in it. He also noted that the UAF teacher education program was recognized nationally for its excellence. The ramifications of the change have not been considered for each of the programs.

Carol Barnhardt of the Elementary Education program spoke, mentioning the 195 declared majors both locally and from distance sites, in their program. She noted the Alaska Dispatch article that mentioned the strong partnership with the largest rural school district in the state, the lower Kuskokwim, where they have over 60 students working on their degrees with the Uohe6n42(hi)2.6(p w)1t

Maureen Hogan commented about the fact that the graduate and doctoral programs in the SOE need to be located at a doctoral granting institution. They work closely with other programs, such as the Indigenous Studies program. A lot of work has gone into building strong programs.

frustration. He's deeply concerned about the impact of this process on our institution, and, as best he can tell, this process is our president. He has no confidence in his leadership, personally, and this sentiment is shared by many faculty paying close attention to this process. They understand that it's not a view that is universally shared. It's his hope that this resolution is passed today for the integrity of the institution.

Whether to add the Board of Regents to the resolution or keep it focused only on the President was discussed. A proposed amendment to add the Board of Regents to the resolution was not passed by majority vote.

A question was asked about the Faculty Alliance response to the issues at hand. Orion recapped some of the discussions which have occurred at the Alliance level, particularly regarding the decision about the School of Education. Chris also noted that the FA president, Tara Smith, meets regularly with President Johnsen. A number of memos have been sent to the President from the Alliance, with few responses. There has been a recent

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recommendation to the Board of Regents. I consider it a sign of their deep commitment to this institution that they did not resign on the spot. I recognize that this is symbolic action and that our vote of no confidence today has no legal weight and does not bind the Board of Regents to any particular action. But, symbols matter. They can be a mechanism for initiating change. I have written members of the Board of Regents about my concerns

5. Committee on the Status of Women - Ellen Lopez, Diana DiStefano (Minutes for [11/17/2016](#) and [12/08/2016](#) and [01/20/2017](#) linked)
6. Core Review Committee - Andy Seitz (Minutes for [11/09/2016](#) and [12/07/2016](#) linked)
7. Curriculum Review Committee - Rainer Newberry
8. Faculty Development, Assessment and Improvement Committee - Franz Meyer
9. Graduate Academic and Advisory Committee - Donie Bret-Harte, Sean Topkok (Minutes for [11/11/2016](#) linked)
10. Information Technology Committee -

UAF's

Ethnobotany Minor

The Minor in Ethnobotany will provide students who have completed the Ethnobotany Certificate program with the opportunity to continue their studies and earn a baccalaureate degree focused on the relationship of plants and humans, an area of emphasis that is not currently available in

RESOLUTION on the School of Education Decision

Whereas the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska (hereafter referred to as “the Board”) has constitutional authority and responsibility to govern the University of Alaska per the Constitution of the State of Alaska, Article VII Section 3; and the board appointed the president of the university, Dr. Jim Johnsen, by a majority vote on July 28, 2015; and

Whereas during the public regular board meeting on November 10, 2016 (hereafter referred to as “November Board meeting”), President Johnsen cited “national best practices in the field” to recommend that the three colleges of education at the University of Alaska be consolidated to the research university, the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), in order to improve academic outcomes; and

Whereas President Johnsen stated during the public special board meeting on December 14, 2016 (hereafter referred to as “December Special Board meeting”) that he had received significant feedback from individual faculty at all three universities, people in the community, alumni, and community leaders (timestamp 17:43 in [the audio recording](#)) and that opposition to locating the administration of the single college of education at UAF was "overwhelmingly greater" than those in favor of locating the administration at the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) (timestamp 17:58 in the audio recording); and

Whereas two Regents, UAS Chancellor Caulfield, and President Johnsen acknowledged during the December Special Board meeting that the majority of feedback the Board had received was from the Southeast, including the Southeast legislative delegation, local mayors, and the Juneau Assembly (Johnsen 18:16; Anderson 26:56; Davies 37:05; and Caulfield 58:09); and

Whereas President Johnsen emphasized during the December Special Board meeting that the feedback he received was not about any inadequacies at UAF but about how teacher education was a “halo program” at UAS (timestamp 17:58 in the audio recording); and

Whereas President Johnsen noted during the December Special Board meeting that there were "very strong concerns" about the economic impact of moving teacher education leadership out of Juneau (timestamp 18:14 in the audio recording); and

Whereas the City and Borough of Juneau offered to endow UAS with a \$1 million contribution if the new College of Education was chosen to be located at UAS (timestamp 21:09 in the audio recording); and

Whereas after approximately 31 minutes of discussion that was open for the public to listen to (timestamp 22:34 to 53:08 in the audio recording), during which no opposition to the amended motion to locate the College of Education at UAS was expressed by the Regents, the Board voted unanimously in favor of a motion to locate the administration of the UA College of Education at the University of Alaska Southeast; and

Whereas the ability of university faculty to participate in making the decision to locate the new

RESOLUTION of No Confidence in the leadership of President Johnsen

Whereas University of Alaska President James Johnsen has strongly promoted Strategic Pathways as a mechanism to transform the University of Alaska; and

Whereas under Strategic Pathways, substantive and long-lasting decisions about major changes to academic programs have been announced without providing a careful analysis of the impact of those changes, and without coordinating with the affected faculty; and

Whereas some of the President's decisions on Strategic Pathways have blindsided affected faculty and administrative leadership at our campuses, the very people who should be the most involved in the decision-making process; and

Whereas under Strategic Pathways, the holistic needs of the university have been repeatedly drowned out by the demands of narrow interest groups and short-term political considerations; and

Whereas centralized "one size fits all" statewide solutions are often more expensive and less effective than local solutions that are tailored to the specific communities they serve; and

Whereas the uncertainty and disruption caused by these major reorganizations distract faculty from serving the educational mission of the university, and have caused both promising junior faculty and experienced senior faculty to leave the university; and

Whereas President Johnsen's failure to use established decision-making processes embracing shared governance could violate accreditation standards and undermine UAF's existing accreditations; and

Whereas the President's public and internal statements on Strategic Pathways have radically changed direction with little warning, specifically:

UA Athletics:

Will pursue an NCAA waiver, or consortium model (presented by Johnsen at [September 15 BOR meeting](#))

Will cut six teams, including track and skiing (announced by Johnsen at [October 27 press conference](#))

Will cut no teams, and pursue neither waiver nor consortium model (presented by Johnsen at [November 10 BOR meeting](#))

UA School of Education:

Will phase out Bachelor of Ed degree (presented by Johnsen at [September 15 BOR meeting](#))

Will create a statewide administrative headquarters at UAF (presented by Johnsen via [November 4 press release](#))

Will create a statewide administrative headquarters at UAS (presented by Johnsen at [December 14 BOR meeting](#))

Whereas in the spring 2016 search for a permanent chancellor, after hiring an external consultant, flying the entire search committee and candidates to Seattle for airport interviews, and arranging community and faculty meetings with the four finalists attended by hundreds, in May 2016 President Johnsen cancelled the search [due to a since-abandoned plan to pursue single accreditation](#) and appointed UAF's second interim chancellor, a position which still requires a permanent leader; and

Whereas while the UAF Faculty Senate recognizes the financial problems facing the university, the actions of President Johnsen have actively harmed UAF, and have caused long-term damage to the integrity, reputation, and viability of UAF;

Therefore be it resolved that the University of Alaska Fairbanks Faculty Senate has no confidence in the leadership of University of Alaska President James Johnsen.

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