

## Approved Minutes

### United Academics Representative Assembly Friday 13 September 2019

Special Meeting by Zoom (<https://alaska.zoom.us/j/238098608>)

**3:41 pm Meeting Was Called to Order.**

**3:42 pm Roll Was Called.**

Members present: Armin Abdihodzic, Mara Bacsujlaky, Charla Brown, Abel Bult-Ito, Erik Carlson, Sharon Chamard, Chris Coffman, Andrea Dewees, Jody Drew, Nelta Edwards, Lisa Hoferkamp, Max Kullberg, Rick McDonald, Arthur Nash Jr., Terry Nelson, Soren Orley, Pete Praetorius, Kate Quick, Anthony Rickard, Sharyl Toscano, Gordon Williams

Members absent: Peter Bieniek, Haiwei Chen, Robert Coker, Tim Hinterberger, John Radzilowski,

Guests: Leslie McCartney, Taten Sheridan

**3:45 pm Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved with amendments.

**3:47 pm Approval of Minutes of 23 August 2019 Special RA Meeting.** The minutes were approved as presented.

**3:48 pm Feedback on Academic Planning Workshops from RA Members Who Attended Them.**

The RA members who participated in the Academic Planning Workshops provided their feedback on the process. They participated on the eLearning, Business, and Arts, Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities workgroups. They generally agreed that the workshops followed an odd process which was more like a focus group, not much was accomplish, the selection process of who got asked to participate was unclear with many handpicked by administration, there appeared to be preconceived outcomes, and there was not enough time for questions and comments. One positive note: The Arts, Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities workgroup developed a consensus document outside of the process, which was signed by almost 300 faculty members and was presented to the BOR.

During this discussion the survey sent out to the UA and broader communities by the Statewide administration came up. It appeared that people were able to take it multiple times and several RA members stated that it was not a very well designed survey. The survey was presented at

the BOR meeting and the results presented appeared to be selective in favor of the administrations push for one accredited university.

4:20 pm

**12-13 September 2019 BOR meeting issues for discussion.**

The topics included that most activities follow a predetermined process at the BOR, and regents did not seem to care about costs and benefits. This also was reflected by comments by President Johnsen at the last UAF Faculty Senate meeting. We agree that all options should be explored as the BOR unanimously approved during their 12-13 September 2009 meeting.

- *Strategies for faculty involvement that is not driven by administration (MB).* One potential strategy is to have the Faculty Senates and faculty Alliance work proactively to develop curricular models for a three-accredited universities consortium model and a single accredited university model, which puts students success as the main driving force. Presenting such an analysis to the BOR in November would put faculty in the driver's seat, instead of reacting to BOR actions.

The RA agreed that appropriate shared governance policies and procedures should be followed at all times, which highlighted the importance of the work of the Faculty Senates and Faculty Alliance.

- *Role of faculty in the decision making process that may lead to faculty terminations (JR).* The consensus was that faculty need to be involved, but it should follow established shared governance policies and procedures, without administration handpicking the participants.
- *Assistance from AFT National (Jason Wedemeyer), AAUP (Jim Bakken), and AFL-CIO.* We are working with Jim and Jason to organize shared governance workshops in Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks with live streaming some time in October 2019. We will invite BOR members, administration, faculty, students, and staff to attend. The focus will be on faculty governance, but connections to staff and student governance will be made. Faculty Senate leadership at the three universities are involved in the planning process.

Our JDO attorney Sarah Josephson is working with AFT legal, AFL-CIO and other Alaska public unions to strategize on the memo from the State Attorney General, which the governor may implement soon, regarding JANUS, union membership, and union dues collection.

- The RA approved the following motions with distribution to President Johnsen, the BOR, Chancellors, Provosts, and Faculty Senate Leadership:

Motion1 : The University of Alaska will pay each faculty member serving on an Academic Review Team or other restructuring committee at least one workload unit overload at base pay for the 2019-2020 academic year, paid by funds from the Statewide Administration budget.

Motion 2: All faculty members who serve on Academic Review Teams or other restructuring committees should be appointed by the appropriate Faculty Senates. In addition, the majority of the Academic Review Team or other restructuring committee membership should be faculty members.

Motion 3: For an academic program to be recommended to be discontinued or reduced, it must have been reviewed according to the established Faculty Senate program review policy at the applicable campus—UAS, UAA, or UAF—in order to maintain the integrity of shared governance and due process.

**4:58 pm**      **Membership committee.** The RA supported the Membership Committee to move forward with an issues based organizing campaign.

**5:02 pm**      **Good of the Membership.** None.

**5:03 pm**      **Next RA Meeting.**  
The next regularly scheduled RA meeting will be in person on Saturday 12 October 2019 from 10am-4pm in Anchorage.

**5:05 pm**      **Meeting Was Adjourned.**