

APPROVED 10/13  
Emergency Board Meeting  
September 3, 2021  
1:00pm AKT  
Via Zoom

Attendees:

- Abel Bult-Ito, President
- Nelta Edwards, Treasurer
- Charla Brown, Secretary
- Tara Palmer, UAA Organizational VP
- Mara Bajsujlaky, UAF Organizational VP
- Melanie Arthur, Contract Manager
- Kate Quick, Assistant Contract Manager
- Ryan Stuart, JDO

DISCUSSION RE: AKOSHA COMPLAINT

Nelta suggests a media plan:

- Attempted to work with UA
- Protect working conditions of our members
- Respond to community health concerns
- Hospitals being overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients

Revisited Melanie's 8/26 email to Pat Pitney as follow up to our Step 4 complaint re: COVID-19.

Professors' needs have not been sufficiently addressed at this point.

Need screening.

Need testing.

What has been addressed is appreciated, what remains needs to be resolved.

ISSUES

1. Students/teachers still in planetarium - UAA member
2. Forced to teach fact-to-face with concerns - UAA member
3. older faculty feeling forced to be teaching in person

Ventilation statement from UAF.

No ventilation information from UAA and UAS.

Some faculty are in worse situations than others

They are not sharing their information with us that they are using to make decisions.

What does movement for us look like?

- Address outstanding concerns
- Follow CDC guidelines

- Include UNAC at the table for discussion
- All members need to have access to equitable access to safe working conditions.
- Almost every communication says something different.
- No testing program (as recommended by CDC).
- We are receiving reports that students are not following the masking mandate.
- UA's "layering strategy" = masking (if they wear it).
- CDC is not saying a vaccine mandate but many stakeholder groups are calling for it.
- Abel shared an example of a crowded classroom not using social distancing guidance.
- UA is not listening to UNAC; we have told them over and over.
- Patchwork approach to policy and putting the responsibility on faculty to police.
- Some approved to move from F2F to online; others have been denied that opportunity.
- We have told them we will not wait 30 days.
- UNAC sent a resolution to UA on 9/1.
- UNAC has been communicating and making specific demands; yet, only one faculty has been allowed to move online.
- Ellen Lopez was reprimanded for allowing classes to move online (not in writing).
- Phases are not matching reality.
- UA continues to direct deal with our faculty.
- Discussion about timing for when to file.
- We need some message discipline - needs clear definitions for clarity.
- Major PR situation especially with the strain on Alaska's healthcare system.

All participants in the aforementioned meeting should come prepared to address the rapidly unfolding and dangerous COVID-19 situation and to mutually agree upon remedies.

Given the skyrocketing cases statewide, the desperation being expressed by medical professionals and the unsustainable strain on Alaska's healthcare systems, we demand that the administration allow faculty who are teaching face-to-face be allowed to switch to online to curtail the spread of the Delta variant. Faculty should be notified of this on

We cannot overstress the importance of bringing all minds to the table to clarify what is intended, for example, when using social distancing and the CDC's recommended layered approaches to Covid mitigation. We foresee that a joint statement may be drafted by the parties during this meeting to allow faculty to shift teaching modality if they choose to do so considering the current community transmission of COVID-19 and the record breaking COVID patient hospital admissions and hospitals being close to failing.

Alaska has recently been ranked 10th among U.S. states and territories for average daily cases per capita. Please refer to dire warnings from healthcare professionals in Alaska:

- "We are not doing well at all." Dr. Robert Onders, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- "We are in disaster mode here." Dave Wallace, CEO of Mat-Su Regional Medical Center
- "We are being tested like never before," Preston Simmons, CEO of Providence Alaska
- "The situation is dire." Dr. Ellen Hodges, Chief of Staff at Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp.

With regard to UA's layered approach, UNAC needs to specifically know what is and what is not being done.

PR issue.

Message discipline.

Direct dealing - all not being treated the same.

#### UNAC ASKS

#1 - Invite UNAC to a Tuesday meeting to discuss these issues.

#2 - Send an announcement no later than Tuesday at 2p to all UNAC members notifying them that they are allowed to move their classes online starting immediately and until community transmission levels return to low risk as defined by the CDC. OR Notify all UNAC members that they CAN move to online (given the skyrocketing case #s, etc).

#3 - Send notification to all UNAC members of the additional safety measures tha UA administration will provide for their F2F classes if they wish to continue teaching in person, including but not limited to HEPA filters, larger teaching spaces for physical distancing, student assistants for enforcement of masking and distancing policies, specialized masks and amplification for instructors, etc.