



UNAC CONNECTION

October 8, 2019

ADVOCACY UPDATE

- The United Academics Executive Board met on Friday 4 October 2019 from noon-1:20pm by telephone. We discussed officer reports, BOR actions, Statewide directed program reviews, bylaws revisions, shared governance, organizing, etc. We also reviewed the draft agenda for the in-person Representative Assembly meeting on Saturday 12 October 2019 from 10am-4pm in Anchorage (please see attached draft agenda).
- UNAC is organizing shared governance workshops with AAUP and the Faculty Senates to be held on 4 November 2019 in Juneau, on 5 November in Anchorage, and on 6 November 2019 in Fairbanks. Workshops will start at 5:30pm and further details will be distributed shortly. The workshops will be available remotely as well.
- On Monday 7 October, the University of Alaska Board of Regents passed the following motions (my not be exact wording):
 - The Board will cease consideration of a single accreditation until such time as UAF secures its NWCCU accreditation in 2021. If the board chooses to actively consider single accreditation it will direct the President by formal action to conduct an independent cost benefit analysis and clearly examine accreditation issues.
 - Suspend expedited Statewide academic program reviews until the Board has had a chance to consult with the Chancellors and the President on a way forward.
 - The Board meet again at the end of October to review coordinated responses to the NWCCU. The Board Chair commented that the chancellors' responses would not be edited by the Board or the President.

SPECIAL AND EXPEDITED PROGRAM REVIEWS

- We sent an email to UAF Provost Anupma Prakash on 30 September 2019 regarding special and expedited program reviews. It was also forwarded to UAS

Provost Karen Carey and UAA Provost John Stalvey, and cc-ed to chancellors and Faculty Senate leadership. We asked that faculty be appropriately compensated for the extra work, that timelines be extended and already available information for program reviews be used to minimize impacts on already assigned work (please see attached screenshot).

- We are happy to report that Provost Prakash responded as follows:

Dear Abel,

Thank you for your email and highlighting potential faculty concerns. You make good suggestions that I have considered and implemented either completely or in part. The following is a summary of the changes:

- 1. We will appropriately compensate faculty members who serve on the expedited review committee, either through a workload adjustment or an overload.*
- 2. We have now extended the timeline. Instead of completing the process in Fall 2019, we have extended it to the BoR meeting in late February, 2020.*
- 3. We will include and use the latest program review report and our PAIR office will generate updated information for the review process. We will provide departments the option to provide a 2 to 4 page input to the review process and do not plan to ask for other additional work.*

Best regards

Anupma

- UAS Provost Carey wrote a thank you email, while UAA Provost Stalvey wrote the following:

Dear Dr. Bult-Ito,

Thank you for copying me on your e-mail to Provost Prakash. I will take your suggestions in to consideration as we move forward with expedited reviews. I will be in conversation with the UAA Faculty Senate E-Board tomorrow and I anticipate some of this will come up in that discussion.

*Regards,
John*

TIME SENSITIVE: MEMBER ACTION

- If you have been asked to participate in **special or expedited program reviews**, please let us know whether the commitments made by UAF Provost Prakash are being followed. If not, we need to know about it ASAP. We would like to see

similar commitments being realized at UAS and UAA, so please keep us informed about the implementation of program reviews at UAS and UAA.

- We will be reaching out to you in the next few weeks to ask you to complete a card to encourage everyone to be more involved in our union.

*This message is intended for represented faculty of UNAC.
If you have received this message in error, please contact cyndeewest@gmail.com.*