

Lisa Hoferkamp to the
Faculty Alliance
Report
May 21, 2017 – August 19, 2017

At the **June 2017 BoR** meeting, upon receiving news of the activities of the GER Coordinating n

The **Statewide IT Council** has met three times and the focus of most of those meetings have been statewide actions that would lower IT expenditures across the three universities. The list of potential actions has been shared with the FA and the resulting comments and concerns communicated to the IT Council. At the June meeting it was decided that further analysis was needed to ensure implementation will not detrimentally reduce existing functionality and/or result in higher costs in related areas and the FA expressed their support for such action. At the July meeting a shortlist of initiatives was generated (see shared drive itcostsavingsinitiatives shortlist.pdf). In a July 17, 2017 phone conversation, Karl Kowalski stated that any changes to course management systems and office software would be thoroughly vetted with faculty prior to any significant action. At this point it is unclear how faculty will be consistently represented on the recently revised System-wide IT Council although it appears K. Kowalski expects the FA Chair to continue to represent faculty at these meetings.

The **Student Services Council** met three times over the summer and in the absence of an appointed FA representative, I attended those meetings. An issue that seemed especially relevant to faculty was the SSC's charge to revise policy regarding student medical leave. A working group was formed and has been meeting over the summer to formulate the revisions. That group consists of Ben Morton, UAA Dean of Students, Lora Volden, UAA Interim AVC, Lael Oldmixon from SW, Margie Thompson, UAS Disability and Counseling Services and (presumably) a representative from UAA. Both the chair of the SSC (Saichi Oba) and I noted the need for faculty representation on this working group. I solicited FA members for a volunteer to serve but received no positive response. Debu Misra had served on the SSC for AY 17 and had expressed a desire to continue in that position barring interest from another Alliance member thus I extended to him the invitation and he graciously accepted. Debu Misra will represent faculty on the working group whose charge is to revise student medical leave policy.

The **Expanded Summit Team** met on Wednesday August 16, 2017. As FA Chair, I serve on that committee and with the three provosts, represent faculty interests. The morning included a discussion on efforts to improve enrollment and a presentation of a UA Revenue and Expenditure Model by NCHEMS. During that discussion I suggested a mutually agreed upon set of definitions when discussing the University of Alaska system and its constituent universities, satellite campuses and community colleges. The afternoon was the first official meeting with the following agenda items: Title IX, AY19 and AY20 tuition recommendations to the BoR, FY19 Budget, 6/17 UA Leadership Summit and the introduction of Jennifer Poulakidas, APLU Vice President for Congressional and Governmental Affairs. Ms. Poulakidas will support Miles Davis with DC-based networking efforts. The issue of tuition rates (see shared drive: draft sept 2017 BoR proposed tuition rates for AY 19 20.pdf) will be revisited at the 9/21/17 Summit Team meeting and I believe the FA should solicit input from all faculty, document and present to the Summit Team prior to that date.

In the monthly **shared governance meeting with President Johnsen** (August 17, 2017) the following was discussed:

Rationalization for the decision regarding non-teaching days

The Summit Team was concerned with public and especially legislative perception of non-performing days in addition to existing vacation days

Information regarding salary increase limitations for all other UA employees analogous to those imposed agreed upon UnAc faculty

In light of current budget climate, e.g. retention/enrollment, morale, increased workloads, President Johnsen would like all UA employees to know that he fully understands the importance of adequate compensation. He has initiated a faculty/staff salary survey in order to provide data base for nation-wide comparisons and asserts that executive and faculty salaries at UA are very close to national average while at the same time noting that faculty salary disparities will be investigated. Furthermore, he is very aware of political sensitivity and wants to address compensation without legislative retribution. BoR understands importance of compensation as well. PJ indicates “courage” will driving factor.

Letters, Memos and Resolutions:

A letter requesting clarification on the Summit Team decision to implement one non-teaching day per semester as opposed to the two non-teaching days recommended by FA.

President Johnsen's response was prompt but provided limited information in support of the Summit Team's decision.

A letter of thanks has been sent to the United Academics Negotiating team for their efforts towards securing an equitable and fair collective bargaining agreement for all UA faculty.

At Regent John Davies' request, the FA summarized faculty and student concerns regarding the Strategic Pathways Phase I decision to consolidate three schools of education into one statewide college of education. That summary was provided to Regent Davies in the form of a letter.

No response has been received.

The FA submitted a letter to President Johnsen requesting that efforts to fill the VPASA position left vacant by Dan White be delayed for one year and that in that time, UA Provosts co-chair the SAC committee.

President Johnsen's response was prompt and indicated that he felt the VPASA position was essential and would be filled as soon as possible.

Issues for AY 18

President Johnsen's desire to redefine developmental on