

## Fall Semester 2012 Highlights from UAF Faculty Senate

This is a summary of selected Faculty Senate actions and discussions that are relevant to most UAF faculty. For details, click the hot links to information on the Faculty Senate web site.

### ACTIONS

- Motions agreeing to discontinuation of programs (September 10, 2012 and November 5, 2012):  
[M.A.T. in Biology](#), [M.A.T. in Physics](#), [M.A.T. in Mathematics](#)  
[M.S in General Science](#)  
Motion to discontinue Ph.D. in Mathematics has been tabled until March 4, 2013.
- New minors approved:  
[Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies](#)  
[Minor in Emergency Management \(SOM\)](#)
- Academic policy for undergraduate probation (October 8, 2012):  
Amended to clarify that summer session counts as a "semester" for this purpose. Students whose semester and (or) cumulative GPA falls below 2.0 after any semester *including the summer session* will be placed on probation.
- Academic policy on attendance (December 3, 2012):  
Rewritten to clarify. The policy outlines the process and responsibilities for dealing with absences, and contains sections on General Absences (e.g., illness) and UAF Sanctioned Absences (e.g., travel to scheduled athletic events). Faculty are encouraged, but not required, to accommodate students absent for official UAF-sanctioned activities. Absences related to military activities will be addressed separately in a future policy proposal.
- Academic policy on transfer of credit for completed General Education Requirements (December 3, 2012):  
UAF will now accept completed General Education Requirements *from all accredited (U.S.) 4-year institutions* to fulfill the UAF Baccalaureate Core Requirements, except for the oral intensive and written intensive requirements. This extends the current policy of accepting completed General Education Requirements from UAA and UAS.

### ONGOING TOPICS

- Faculty survey on revision of UAF General Education Requirements (Core Curriculum):  
General Education Requirements (Core Curriculum) are being revised/updated after 20 years. In October the committee surveyed all UAF faculty to gather input on the current Core and on desired structure and content of revised requirements. Results from 250 responses are available at  
[http://www.uaf.edu/files/uafgov/GERC-SurveySummary\\_11122012.pdf](http://www.uaf.edu/files/uafgov/GERC-SurveySummary_11122012.pdf)

- Examining alternatives to Blackboard:  
The UAF Faculty Senate is collaborating with UAF e-Learning & Distance Education to evaluate the course management systems *Moodle*, *Desire2Learn* and *Canvas* as possible alternatives to *Blackboard*. UAF e-Learning is running trials during spring semester 2013.
- Examining options for electronic student course evaluations:  
The Faculty Development, Assessment & Improvement Committee, with assistance from the Provost's Office, is considering options to replace hand-written course evaluations with an electronic system. [A dozen software packages](#) are under consideration. The committee might choose several, one or none.
- Discussing a central online repository for syllabi or expanded course descriptions:  
The purpose is to improve student advising and course selection by providing more information on individual courses. This discussion began in November. In February the Faculty Senate requested input from all UAF faculty through an [online survey](#).
- Issues with interdisciplinary teaching, student advising, and research:  
The Faculty Senate has formed an *ad hoc* [Interdisciplinary Issues Faculty Committee](#) to identify practical problems that faculty have with interdisciplinary work at UAF, as the first step toward addressing those problems.