

MINUTES
UAF GOVERNANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE #44
November 6, 1998
10:00 a.m.
Chancellor's Conference Room

I Jean Richardson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Christensen, S.
Gatterdam, R.
Richardson, J.
Schatz, M.
Shields, M.
Wilken, S.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Combellick, M.
Frey, B.
Martin, W.

OTHER PRESENT:

Mosca, K.

B. The minutes to meeting #43 (October 23, 1998) were approved as distributed via e-mail.

C. The agenda was adopted as distributed via e-mail.

II COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Health Issues - M. Combellick

Michelle Combellick was out of town but submitted the following report.

The Committee met on October 13 to discuss the request by staff to extend UAF LIFE hours to include weekends. As this request was made by the Staff Council, the Health Issues Committee (HIC) voted in favor of formally putting this request to Randy Pitney, Interim Director of Athletics and Recreation. An e-mail was sent to Randy Pitney and a response from Athletics and Recreation Department was received. The department responded that it cannot commit to this request due to financial constraints at this time. It became clear that future requests must include how the department and the SRC will benefit from the request in terms of firm dollars and participant numbers.

The committee is working on several ideas that will hopefully provide incentives to UAF employees who have an SRC pass, or currently have a UAF LIFE pass. A short list for review follows--please keep in mind that these are "works in progress."

1. Individual (participant) tracking system of workouts for those using the facility to include all faculty and staff. It will be the exerciser's responsibility to track their individual workouts. A pre-established point system will be set up prior to the new semester. If, at the end of the semester, the goals of established points are met, the participant will receive a T-shirt. For those who did not meet the goal, but gave an honest effort, perhaps something like a "certificate of effort" could be presented. These details will be worked out prior to implementation.

2. Long term goal is to establish incentives into our current health care plan Blue Cross of Alaska and Washington for participants involved to better their health through an exercise program. The committee feels strongly that finding positive ways to provide faculty and staff incentives to exercise is one of its primary functions and goals.

B. Grievance Council - W. Martin

Wanda Martin is out of town. No report available.

C. Intercollegiate Athletics Committee - S. Wilken

The committee met on November 5 with Dean Kirts, Randy Pitney, Interim Athletic Director to address the proposed changes to the intercollegiate athletic policies. Dean Kirts stated that the policy revisions were mainly housekeeping. The committee had questions on the policy. The committee will send forward some

recommendations shortly. The committee was also notified that the Board has revised their review process of the policies. The committee will meet again next month and a new chair will be selected.

III OTHER BUSINESS

A. Update on 1999-2000 Academic Calendar

Staff Affairs Committee had recommended approval of the calendar, but then when the item was addressed at the November meeting, a number of issues of concern were brought forward. Input from students was requests regarding Saturday finals and how would this impact staff. Would they be required to work on a Saturday? Concerns were also expressed regarding the short amount of time students have after their last final to the time they have to be out of the dorms. A recommendation was made to have the students request that the residence halls stay open an extra day. ASUAF will address the academic calendar at their next meeting.

B. Continue Discussion on Staff Council Motion Passed on the Governance Coordinating Committee Procedures

A lengthy discussion took place on the issue of retaining the Rural Affairs Committee or deleting it. Ron Gatterdam asked for some justification for retaining the committee. Shannon Christensen stated that the chairperson of the Staff Council Rural Affairs lobbied to retain the committee and expressed a concern that if the committee was deleted than the rural sites would not have as strong a voice as needed in governance. Discussion continued regarding the need for the committee and are there other existing avenues to address rural issues. Staff Council has an extremely active Rural Affairs Committee that addresses staff issues at the rural sites. Jean Richardson stated that ASUAF only covers students at the main campus and TVC, but that they are part of the Coalition of Student Leaders. Faculty issues are handled by the various committees within the Senate and there are rural Senators on these committees. Concerns were expressed over far too many committees, which can be an impediment for getting things done in a timely manner. Amendments to the procedures take a 2/3 vote.

A discussion also took place on where the Grievance Council should be located now that the faculty are covered by a collective bargaining contract, their grievances no longer go through the Grievance Council. A recommendation was made that Shannon take this issue back to Staff Council and see where they would like the Grievance Council be placed. Shannon stated that the proposed revision to the grievance policy eliminates the Grievance Council and hire an outside arbitrator. This is not acceptable to Staff Council.

ASUAF will address the procedures at one of their meetings.

C. Discussion on Technology Advisory Board

Concerns were expressed regarding the Technology Advisory Board this year. In the past the board was chaired by a student and now it is being chaired by the Chancellor. Also, the board is not doing the request for proposal (RFP) process anymore. Instead they are looking at the overall campus projects. The source of complaint isn't with changing from an RFP process but a larger view process, but the fact that the Chancellor has taken over as chair and the disempowering of the committee. Sue Wilken interjected that in the past, the board did not function as smoothly as possible and the overall picture of computing on campus was not tracked. Concerns were expressed regarding the on going costs of maintenance and staffing. These items need to be taken into consideration. A recommendation was made to have the students speak with the Chancellor regarding the rationale for changing the dynamics of the committee.

D. Committee Vacancies

The following committees have vacancies: Governance Coordinating Committee Health Issues has faculty and student vacancies and Intercollegiate Athletics has student vacancies. The Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs has one student vacancy. Jean Richardson stated that ASUAF put out a call for student representation on Curricular Affairs and she has received five replies to date.

E. Discussion on November Board of Regents Meeting

Ron Gatterdam reminded students that a revision to the grade appeals policy will be up for review at the November Board of Regents meeting. Clarification was made regarding how faculty, staff, and students will provide input at the BOR meetings. Governance groups will have the opportunity to provide input at the meetings. A revision to the grievance procedures is an item staff will be watching closely, especially since in the latest draft, the Grievance Council has been deleted and it calls for an outside arbitrator, which is not acceptable to staff. Staff Council has formed an ad hoc committee which will make recommendations for a fair procedure for all parties. Concerns were expressed regarding the 25 day time frame to have agenda items in for the Board of Regents meetings. The president has also curtailed the number of people who travel for the Board meetings.

IV GOVERNANCE REPORTS

A. ASUAF - J. Richardson

The students will have a special referendum regarding an all-sport pass. This item was defeated last year. ASUAF will ask students to consider a change in their constitution stating that an initiative cannot be brought up more than once in a 12 month or 2 year period. At the present time, an initiative can be brought up once a semester until it passes. Jean will be traveling to Anchorage for the November Board of Regents meeting. Also, Jean and three other students will be attending the Northwest Leadership Conference in Portland. Jean will be presenting a workshop.

B. Faculty Senate - M. Schatz

Madeline Schatz informed the Coordinating Committee that she will be out of town for approximately three weeks on family business. In her absence, Ron Gatterdam will be taking over the Faculty Senate in her absence. The Senate is looking at conforming the policies regarding promotion and tenure to the current union contract. Faculty and Scholarly Affairs will be addressing this issue. A discussion took place regarding duplication of courses. An ad hoc committee was appointed to look at this issue. Diploma size is another issue the Senate will be addressing. The bachelor diploma would be larger than the AA.

Shannon Christensen stated that she has been working with Wanda Martin on updating the credits that are allowed for certain professional examinations that are given nationally. Concerns were expressed regarding the proposal that came from TVC recently stating a number of restrictions. The Senate will address this at their Administrative Committee meeting.

The Faculty Alliance meeting with President Hamilton was very positive. The Alliance meeting centered around the AQEI (Alaska Quality Education Initiative) and what the University needs to do to prepare for this. President Hamilton views three groups of students coming to U of A. The first group are the students who pass the exam early, UA needs to offer college level courses which the student can take while still in high school. The second group are the students that take the exam early and fail and graduate with a certificate of completion. These students are going to need an exceptional

vocational/technical program. The third group are those students who never pass the exam. How do we serve these students? President Hamilton asked for faculty input on this issue. The Senate also passed a policy that requires few signatures on petitions.

C. Staff Council - S. Christensen

Staff Alliance met on November 5 with President Hamilton. The retreat was cut short because President Hamilton had to attend an emergency Board meeting. The President's expectation for staff is equally as high as staffs expectation for the president. The President was impressed with the fact that UAF already has an ad hoc committee to address the changes in the grievance policy. Staff Council will have a recommendation regarding the grievance policy for the Board in January. This recommendation will also go through the Staff Alliance. Staff Alliance has worked very hard to provide a united front when presenting issues to the Board and the president. Holiday closure was another item for the retreat, along with pay and personnel issues, employee attitude survey, and the HayGroup preliminary salary analysis.

Shannon Christensen brought up the concern expressed by a few staff that the AWARE program is going to be deleted. A recommendation was made to have the students contact the Health Center and see what steps have been made to retain this program. Another recommendation was made to have Jean Richardson contact Michelle Combellick chair of the Health Issues Committee regarding this matter.

V ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Next Meeting - December 2, 11:00 a.m., Chancellor's Conference Room

VI The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Tapes of this Governance Coordinating Committee meetings are available in the Governance Office, 312 Signers' Hall, if any one wishes to listen to them.

Submitted by Kathy Mosca, Governance Coordinating Committee secretary.