

MINUTES
GOVERNANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE (GCC) Meeting #74
Wednesday, 10 October 2007
Chancellor's Conference Room

1. Juella Sparks called the meeting to order at 12 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kayt Sunwood, President, UAF Staff Council
Juella Sparks, President-Elect, UAF Staff Council
Marsha Sousa, President-Elect, UAF Staff Council
Jon Genetti, UAF Faculty Senate, President
Marsha Sousa, UAF Faculty Senate, President-Elect
Jake Hamburg, President, ASUAF
Danielle Ryder, Vice-President, ASUAF
Lynette Washington, Secretary, GCC

B. Wednesday, 10 October 2007, GCC #73 Agenda was approved as submitted.

C. Tuesday, 16 April 2007, GCC #73 Minutes were approved as submitted.

2. Elect UAF Governance Coordinating Committee Chair.

After a brief discussion the GCC members agreed to select Juella Sparks as Chair; Juella accepted the position.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Chancellor's Campus Diversity Action Committee (CCDAC): Discuss who will report to the GCC and Staff Council.

The GCC members asked about the background of the CCDAC. Lynette Washington informed the group that she would research past meeting minutes to find out more about the committee's creation under Chancellor Lind. Lynette Washington reported that Earlina Bowden, Director, EEO, sent out a call for volunteers to serve on the committee during September 2007, but at last check there were no staff volunteers. Kayt Sunwood stated that she has a compact disk (CD) from past meetings that may be useful. Kayt Sunwood mentioned members of the committee that served last year. Juella Sparks suggested that the GCC members put a name forward at today's meeting. Juella Sparks called for volunteers; Juella Sparks put her name forward to represent staff on the Chancellor's Campus Diversity Action Committee (CCDAC). There were no objections from the committee. Juella Sparks agreed to accept the responsibility.

4. GOVERNANCE REPORTS

A. Jake Hamburg, President, ASUAF.

Jake Hamburg updated committee members about the current actions and issues of the ASUAF group. Jake Hamburg stated that ASUAF is planning an Innovation Fair in Fairbanks during February 22-23,

2008; the idea is to make it the Nobel Prize of Fairbanks. People will be encouraged to submit ideas, inventions, plans, and to change the world.

Jake Hamburg reported that ASUAF continues working on a needs based scholarship program and reduction of text book costs. Jake Hamburg stated that he is looking into establishing a joint committee on text book cost reduction. Jake Hamburg stated that he would like to see the Faculty Senate and Staff Council groups cooperate with ASUAF on this effort. Jake Hamburg reported that it is the number one student issue almost on a weekly basis; he stated that faculty members have reported their concerns about student crises with text book costs. He stated that the student senate is looking at book swaps, encouraging faculty to get their book orders in on time; apparently the Bookstore has a policy that doesn't get passed on to students. The GCC members discussed adding the evaluation of course text books to instructor assessment survey forms, as a possible solution to improve text books that are selected by faculty. Kayt Sunwood stated that she would look into examining this issue through the NSSE survey. The GCC group plans to invite a UAF Book Store representative to a future GCC meeting. Committee members recommended publishing links to Web sites that offer cheaper books and contacting the Rasmuson Library Director about getting one or two copies of course text books on reserve in the library. The GCC group discussed forming an ad hoc GCC text book committee. The GCC committee plans to discuss the issue further, at the next meeting scheduled meeting, Wednesday, 5 December 2007.

Jake Hamburg recommended that the GCC research the issue more and to consider adding a link to our Governance web site that students can use to follow the progress directed towards solving this issue. Juella Sparks recommended that more information be made available to students about the hidden costs of text books and to offer more information about scholarships that students may use towards text book purchases. Jake Hamburg asked for examples of position statements that may be used to justify investigating text book costs. Jon Genetti recommended that the ad hoc committee when formed offer solutions to help solve the problem.

Marsha Sousa asked Jake Hamburg for information about the proposed small business project. Jake Hamburg stated that the plan is to encourage students to use what they are learning in their four-year degree plans towards creating a small business. Jake Hamburg expressed his concerns about going to Juneau to lobby legislators to fully fund the University, but pretending like there are no philosophy, political science, and psychology majors. He stated that more focus is put on petroleum engineering and nursing programs as our work force development. Jake relayed that starting small business on campus would demonstrate to the legislators that this is good for the Alaska economy. Jake noted that the first big challenge is attracting private donors. Marsha Sousa asked if they are connecting with the Small Business Development Center. Jake replied that they are just beginning to do that and that a meeting has been arranged. Marsha Sousa recommended working with Charlie Dexter, Coordinator/Professor, Applied Business & Accounting/TVC. Danielle Ryder stated that we are also trying to help students network with other people on campus. This can benefit all students in any type of major.

B. Jon Genetti, President, Faculty Senate

Jon Genetti reported that President Hamilton created an external advisory committee to review statewide administrative operations. The committee is composed of nine members, three from each MAU, which includes the Faculty Senate presidents of all three MAUs, Ro Bailey, VCAS/UAF, representing the administration side and Buck Sharpton, VC for Research, representing the research side. Jon Genetti reported that a few concerns of the group include the recent OIT take over, the Human Resource redesign, and statewide administration taking the position of being the only group allowed present to the Board of Regents (BOR). Jon Genetti stated that, he anticipates that the report will come through with meaningful

and uncomfortable recommendations. It will be up to President Hamilton to decide how to react to them. If he just ignores them then that almost guarantees a BOR's review.

Juella Sparks asked what the current primary issues of the Faculty Senate are. Jon Genetti replied student success, baccalaureate standards/admission standards, and meeting catalog deadlines.

C. Kayt Sunwood, President, Staff Council

Kayt Sunwood informed the group about the UAF Staff Council blog and encouraged the group to check out the SkillsSoft courses. Kayt Sunwood reported that the Council is working on our goals and agenda for 2008, trying to bring it in line with the Strategic Plan. Kayt Sunwood reported that faculty and staff development is one of the big pathways that are important to us. Juella Sparks asked is there any way to track the success of Strategic Plan 2010 and is there a plan to report how we did or did not do on our goals. Kayt Sunwood stated that a report was given to Chancellor Jones, but is not sure if it is available to the public. Kayt Sunwood stated that staff training is important to us and highlighted the SkillSoft Program, and encouraged the committee to use it and forward comments to Anne Sakumoto. Juella Sparks noted that in the next couple of months a decision will be made by UAF administrators to contract or not with the SkillSoft group.

Kayt Sunwood stated that getting a staff handbook is still an issue. Jon Genetti asked what is the difference between a staff handbook and a typical employee handbook that a new employee gets. Kayt stated that there is not actually an employee handbook either, that is our problem. Kayt Sunwood stated that since Staff are unrepresented we don't have anything. Kayt Sunwood stated that mention has been made of a printed one on the web, but actually there isn't, so we are looking into that. Kayt Sunwood reported that other concerns of Staff include the process of internal recruitment, mediation, and the HR redesign, and Performance Based Budgeting (PBB). Kayt Sunwood encouraged committee members to contact Governor Palin to fully fund the university.

Juella Sparks mentioned that UAA has a political action group (pag), and that she is looking into forming a group at UAF. She relayed that UAA does not always support the UAF budget, and that we at UAF are seeking a more integrated advocacy across all MAUs; with all the staff working together across all the MAUs statewide we would have an integrative voice.

Staff Council Blog URL: <http://staffcouncil4uaf.blogspot.com>

SkillSoft Link: <http://www.alaska.edu/hr/training/e-learning/skillsoft.xml>.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Joint Committee on Student Success (JCOS): Review attached motion approved at the 16 April GCC meeting. Discuss plan of action to appoint committee.

Juella opened discussion about making appointments to the committee. Lynette Washington informed the group that the motion had been given to the Chancellor to sign and that Jeff Stepp former Staff Council President, the motion's originator had stated that the Chancellor was very much in favor the motion. Lynette reported that Jeff had planned to begin seeking volunteers to serve on the committee in August and September of 2007, after Professor Kuh's visit to UAF. Jake stated that the Chancellor had asked ASUAF for two student names. Jon Genetti stated that the rational for doing this through GCC is that

essentially faculty, staff, and students would sort of control where you want to look, what you want to do, and what you think is important. We want to determine what the direction should be, what is important, because we really want something that is led by the ones on the front lines. Juella Sparks opened discussion about staffing the committee. Recommendations were made to appoint one member of each GCC group for reporting purposes and recruiting six to nine external members from each constituency. Jon Genetti stated that Dana Thomas, Assistant Provost, of General Studies, should be included. Jon Genetti stated that we might have to do an exhaustive full committee and then break it in smaller ad hoc committees. Kayt Sunwood recommended that someone from the NESSE task force be recruited. Juella Sparks asked the group if this task calls for more research. The GCC committee members agreed to do more research regarding staffing the JCOSS, communicating ideas through e-mail, and possibly adding another GCC meeting if necessary. The committee agreed to table the discussion.

B. Motion to Amend Academic Calendar 2009.

After a brief discussion, Juella Sparks called for the motion. The GCC group agreed to amend Academic Calendar 2009 to change the first day of classes from Tuesday, 20 January 2009 to Thursday, 22 January 2009.

The UAF Governance Coordinating Committee passed the following motion at its meeting #74, Wednesday, 10 October 2007.

MOTION: (passed unanimously)
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The UAF Governance Coordinating Committee moves to amend the spring 2009 Academic Calendar for which the first day of classes would be Thursday, 22 January 2009 and not Tuesday, 20 January 2009.

The Governance Coordinating Committee further moves that future academic calendars continue the traditional Thursday first day of instruction for both spring and fall semesters.

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

RATIONALE:

Forward planning requires that we set our academic calendar well in advance of the start of a given semester. The spring 2008 first day of instruction was amended by the GCC last year to change the day from Tuesday, 22 January 2008 to Thursday, 24 January 2008; but changing the spring 2009 first day of instruction was not addressed. The effort by Statewide to have a common start date changed from Thursdays to Tuesdays for all campuses proved to be unsuccessful.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Propose and discuss focus of the GCC group fall 2007-spring 2008.

The GCC members agreed to focus on the following:

- Developmental studies external review

- ASUAF: text book issue, statewide political coordination, work with UAA and other campuses and the coalition of student leaders
- JCOSS: Jon Genetti and Jake Hamburg will compile a list of suggested members, form ad hoc committees to keep the overall committee manageable
- Union healthcare rate negotiations: Who will be impacted?
- How governance groups can help legislators get funding for the UA, compile information that is important to legislators, get students involved to tell what UAF did for them

B. Review GCC procedures (attached to E-Mail).

The GCC committee members agreed to table the GCC procedure's review and discussion.

7. COMMENTS and QUESTIONS

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

A tape of this Governance Coordinating Committee meeting is available in the Governance Office, Room 312 Signers' Hall.
