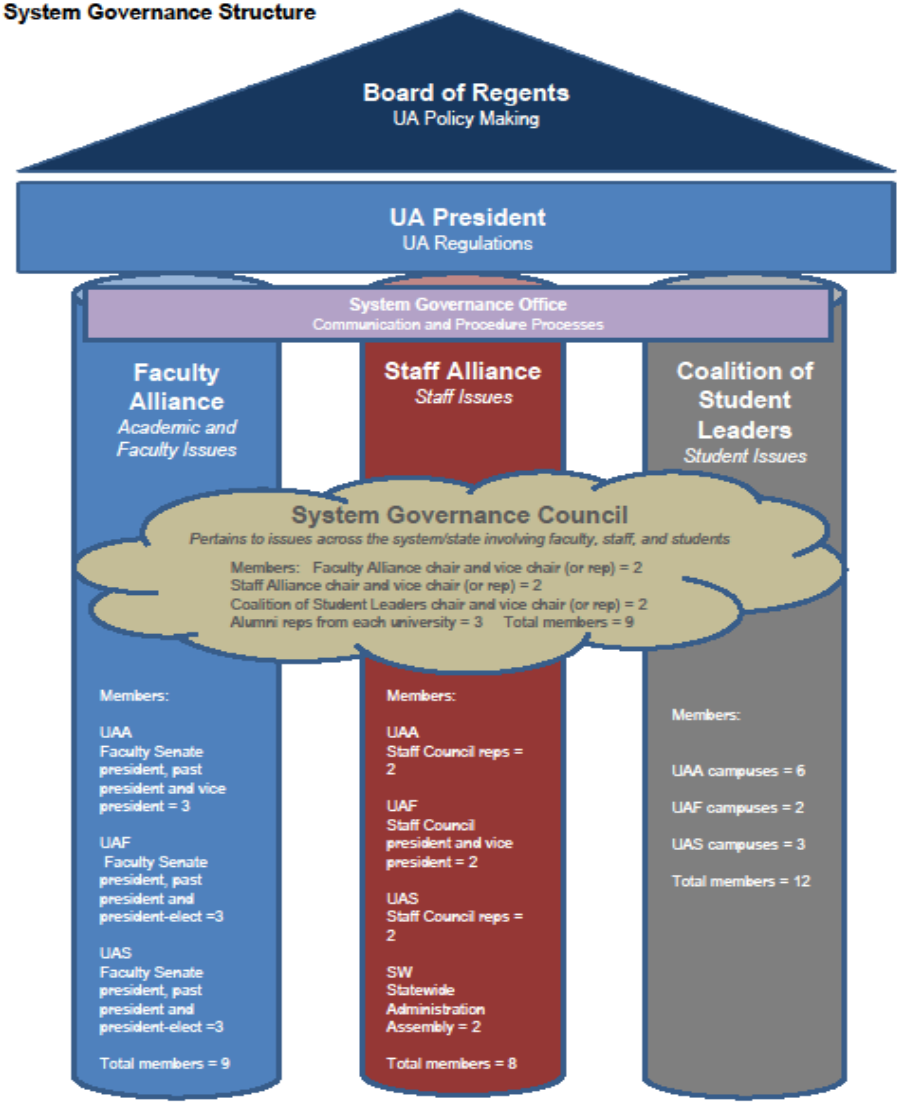
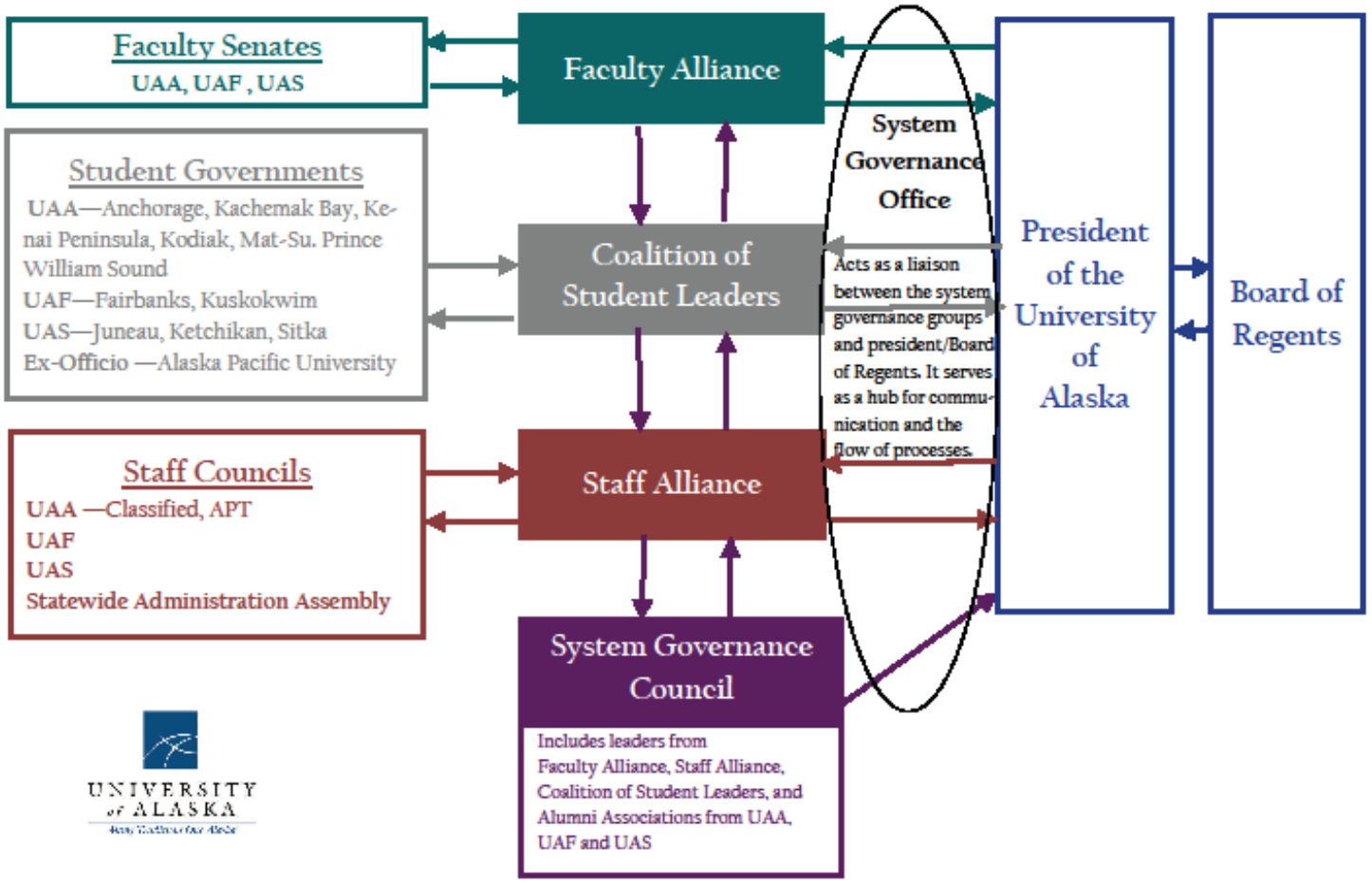
The Role of the Faculty Alliance in the UA Governance System

UA System Governance Structure



July 2014

System Governance Flow Chart



UNIVERSITY of ALASKA

Revised 3/19/13 lat

Intent (UA Reg. Chapter 03.01)

It is the intent of the University of Alaska Board of Regents:

1. that the faculty shall share in the governance of the university,
2. that shared governance is an integral part of the business of the university, and
3. that participators in shared governance are empowered by the UA Board of Regents to carry out their governance responsibilities to the best of their abilities without interference or fear of reprisal.

Alliance Purposes (from Constitution)

- **Representation**
  - To provide official representation for the faculty of the University of Alaska in matters which affect the general welfare of the university system and its educational purposes and effectiveness.
- **Consultation**
  - To provide consultation to the UA Summit Team, UA vice president for Academic Affairs and Research, UA President and the UA Board of Regents.
- **Communication**
  - To serve as an instrument by which information which is of interest and concern to the university system faculty may be freely collected, disseminated, coordinated, and discussed.

Alliance Responsibilities

- The Alliance has an **advisory and coordinating role in academic affairs**; no action of the Alliance shall abridge individual academic major administrative unit's authority in academic matters.
- When **issues have statewide impact**, the responsibilities of the Alliance may include, but are not limited to,
  - **coordination on matters relating to academic affairs** such as academic program review;
  - the **addition, deletion or merging of academic programs**;
  - **curriculum**;

Alliance Responsibilities (continued)

- **subject matter and methods of instruction**, those aspects of student life relating to the educational process such as degree requirements, grading policy, course coordination and transfer, student probation and suspension, standards of admission and scholastic standards;
- and **faculty welfare issues**, including, but not limited to compensation, benefits, appointments, reappointments and termination, workload, promotions, the granting of tenure, dismissal, ethics, and other matters affecting the faculty, the general welfare of the university and its educational purposes and effectiveness.

Transmittal of Recommendations and Actions (UA Reg. 03.01.010)

Transmittal of System Governance Recommendations and Actions **to** the Administration or Board of Regents

- Actions of the system governance groups affecting the university system or system community shall be transmitted in writing to the President of the University and the responsible executive within 40 days of the action taken.
- Transmittal shall include evidence of dialogue with the responsible executive and a faithful characterization of the views that executive and of governance.

Transmittal of Recommendations and Actions (UA Reg. 03.01.010)

Transmittal of Items **from** Administration and the Board of Regents to System Governance

- Items initiated by the President of the University, the President's designee, or the Board of Regents affecting matters within the scope of staff, faculty and/or student governance normally shall be submitted to the appropriate system governance group through the system governance of office in a timely fashion to allow sufficient time for adequate review and response prior to implementation.
- **However**, Regents' Policies and University Regulations requiring immediate implementation may be implemented prior to review by governance. Such policies and regulations will also be forwarded to governance in an expedient manner and may be modified after governance review

Presidential Action on Recommendations

- If the President determines that Board of Regents action is warranted as a result of a governance recommendation, including, but not limited to changes to Regents' Policy, the governance **item is placed on the Regents' agenda for discussion or action as appropriate and the sponsoring governance leader(s) are invited to participate in the discussion of the issue.**
- Spokespersons for governance groups may also present their views directly to the Board of Regents in accordance with board procedures.

Workflow between Senate & Alliance

- No specific regulations
- Issues are brought either
  - From Senate to Alliance via President/President-elect (e.g., review of student dispute resolution policies)
  - From Alliance to Senate (e.g., minimum admission standards)
- Alliance also receives requests or directives from UA Administration and BoR (e.g., GERs)
- Policies that concern individual Faculty Senates but deal with system-wide issues
  - Are researched & discussed at Alliance.
  - Alliance drafts motion that has chance of passing all 3 Senates.

Workflow between Senate & Alliance

- Policies that concern individual Faculty Senates but deal with system-wide issues
  1. Are researched & discussed at Alliance.
  2. Alliance drafts motion that has chance of passing all 3 Senates.
  3. Vetted by Senate administrative/executive committees and either returned to Alliance for revisions or brought to Senate.
  4. Senates discuss and vote on motion and either pass or return to Alliance for revisions.
  5. If motion is passed it is transmitted to the appropriate authority to institute.

Workflow between Senate & Alliance

- Not clear what happens when the 3 Senates can not come to an agreement despite multiple attempts (e.g., minimum admission standards).
- Will need to figure this out because there will be more issues that concern all three universities.