MINUTES
GOVERNANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE (GCC) Meeting #66
Tuesday, 25 October 2005
Chancellor's Conference Room

1. Paul Layer called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Maya Salganek, Staff Council President
Jeff Stepp, President-Elect
Paul Layer, President Faculty Senate
Shirish Patil, President-Elect
Scott McCrea, Chair, Intercollegiate Athletics Committee

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Joe Blanchard, President, ASUAF
Dani Carlson, Vice-President, ASUAF
Maria Reyes, Co-Chair CCDAC

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lynette Washington

B. Approved as distributed, GCC #68 Agenda Tuesday, 28 February 2006.

C. Approved as distributed, GCC #67 meeting Minutes, Tuesday, 13 December 2005.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation Committee (IAC), Scott McCrea

Intercollegiate Athletic Committee – Scott McCrea updated committee members on the purpose of the Intercollegiate Athletic committee and its list of members. He stated that the committee provides counsel and guidance to the Athletics Department on a variety of subjects, ranging in helping with the nominations of the student athletes of the year to serving on various search committees for the coaches. He stated that the Interim Athletic Director would like the committee to preview the team travel plans and then make recommendations for changes to make sure that the travel is in line with the academic calendar. He stated that the Director would like the committee to be more involved in that area.

Maya Salganek asked about handicap accessibility improvement in the Patty Center. Scott McCrea replied that it is in the University's request to the legislature. Jeff Stepp asked about the Interim Director, Forest Karr's thoughts are about this issue. Scott McCrea replied that it will be part of what ever campus-wide plan there is for general advocacy down in Juneau.

B. Chancellor's Campus Diversity Action Committee (CCDAC) – Maya Salganek for Maria Reyes.

Maya Salganek updated the Council about CCDAC business.

Campus-wide Diversity – Maya Salganek reported that the committee is seeing campus–wide input on the diversity plan.

3. GOVERNACE REPORTS

A. Joseph Blanchard – ASUAF President

Joseph Blanchard sent the following note for discussion:

I wanted to talk about the idea of creating a student judiciary, and update the GCC where I was on the project and what kind of vision I had for the future of ASUAF in relation to dealing with student conflicts at UAF. The title of such an addition could be simply ASUAF Judiciary.

Joseph Blanchard was not available to discuss the ASUAF Judiciary idea. The GCC will discuss the issue when he is available.

B. Paul Layer – Faculty Senate

Occupational/Workforce Certification Program – Paul Layer stated that TVC is working on developing several programs that are more work place focused as compared to an academic degree program. The Board of Regents (BOR) will review the proposed Program in December. He stated the Faculty Senate is negotiating on the name of the Program and what the number of credits will be. He said that the biggest problem faced by students is enrolling in a certificate program, completing the courses, and then leaving the certificate program. This looks like a failure in our system, but as far as person and employer are concerned it is a success. We want to be able to circumvent their success with our success. One of the biggest concerns is the problem of transferring courses from other institutions. In the catalog there is a table of substitutions and guidelines for how we deal with transfer courses and how they map into core courses. The bigger problem is when they are transferring within University of Alaska system, because we have a core which is a series of courses that are very specific and Anchorage and Juneau have a shopping list. The BOR policy tells us that we must take those 30 courses from whatever shopping list the student took and map them into our core; this is what is in the catalog now. We have to be fair to our students that have to take the specific core and also to the transcript students coming in so that they are not penalized.

Mixed Gender Committees – Paul Layer reported that the Faculty senate passed a motion to have all Senate committees be composed of mixed gender.

Committee on the Status of Women Survey – Paul Layer reported that the survey conducted by the committee had good response and good representation campus-wide.

Maya Salganek asked about occupational credentials, she stated that staff members are not able to use the tuition waiver to take the professional development courses. Paul Layer replied that the Senate has not discussed this issue. Scott McCrea stated that Michelle Renfrew is looking into this issue of taking transcript courses vs. non-transcript courses. Maya Salganek stated that the Staff Council is concerned with being able to use the tuition waiver to take professional development courses. Paul Layer stated that the occupational credits are not the same issue. Maya Salganek stated that we

should look into inviting Michelle Renfrew to a meeting.

Grading Policy – Paul Layer stated that the Senate is soliciting responses from the students and departments as to whether or not we should revisit changing the grading policy. Paul Layer stated that so far the responses from students have been favorable. He stated the last time the issue surfaced was about ten-years ago.

Strategic Plan – Shirish Patil informed the Committee that the Strategic Plan Committee will make a series of reports to the Senate, Staff Council, and all stake-holders by the end of December to get feedback.

C. Maya Salganek – Staff Council

Wellness Plan – Maya Salganek reported that the Council organized a Wellness Plan Forum to get Mike Humphrey, Director of Benefits, UA Office of Human Resources to give better information about the plan and answer questions from concerned staff. She stated about 30 people attended the forum.

Legislative Luncheon – Maya Salganek stated that the Legislative Mixer held on October 20 attracted about 50 staff, faculty, and students. She sated that about eight officers, five representatives, and three staff attended the luncheon. She stated that every person on Staff Council will be required to write letters to the legislators to get full funding for the University.

Staff Council Retreat – Maya Salganek reported that goals and issues were discussed to improve committee strategies. She stated that there are concerns about the consistencies and inconsistencies across the MAUS in the way that online applications are handled. She stated that the committee discussed holding meetings by video-conference. She stated that the rural sites want to have more training options, because they are not offered the same training at the rural sites.

Employee Communication Specialist – Maya Salganek stated that the Staff Alliance met with Debbie Carter the statewide communication specialist. She stated that it is hoped that her services will not just be available to statewide.

President's Retreat - Jeff Stepp reported that at the President's Retreat it was discussed how staff and faculty aren't familiar with their own benefits. He stated that part of the reason a communication specialist was hired is to communicate with employees and that it is a high priority.

Grading Policy – Maya Salganek stated that the proposed plus and minus grade changes is interesting in relation to the Chancellor's desire to make employees accountable for tuition waivers. If employees and dependents do not pass a course or withdraw from a course, the course will then have to be paid for. Paul Layer stated that one thing being considered is that an employee has to be vested before being eligible for the tuition waiver.

Jeff Stepp asked Paul Layer what he thought about the legislative luncheon. Paul Layer stated that everyone was not on the same page; we did not look like a very impressive lobby group. Considering the size of the campus, the group was small; we did not get our point across in the way that we could have. It was a good idea to get the legislators on campus.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discuss Continuing the Diversity and Tolerance Committee – Maria Reyes

Dissolving the Diversity and Tolerance Committee – Maria Reyes sent the following note:

The members of the Diversity & Tolerance Committee have not met since spring 2005, and most are now members of the new committee (Chancellor's Committee on Diversity and Tolerance). The total membership of the Chancellor's Committee has expanded. I recommend that on that basis and since both committees had similar goals, the GCC consider dissolving the old committee. Maria Reyes was not present, the GCC tabled the discussion.

B. Creating a Staff Committee on the Status of Women

Committee on the Status of Women - Maya Salganek stated that there was not a lot of support to create a staff committee on the status of women. She stated that Qwynten Richards, Staff Council representative, regularly attends the Committee on the Status of Women faculty meetings. Lynette Washington stated that Qwynten Richards plans to publish a letter to all staff to generate interest in creating a committee on the status of women staff.

C. Draft University Regulation 03.01.010 Governance Policy

Governance Policy – Lynette Washington stated that the document was put on the agenda as information and to show the changes made to the document after March 2005. Maya Salganek stated that recently the General Counsel and President Hamilton proposed more changes to the document.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nominate New Governance Coordinating Committee Chair

Paul Layer was selected as Chair. Paul Layer asked how many meetings are held during a semester. Lynette Washington stated that there are two meetings a semester and more if necessary.

B. Select/set future GCC meeting dates:

The committee reviewed proposed meeting dates for November and December. Lynette Washington will send out another list of proposed dates to committee members.

6. Comments or Questions

Paul Layer asked if the GCC as a body has specific issues and concerns to focus on this year.

Lynette Washington suggested that the next time there is a legislative mixer a group should prepare questions to present to the legislators prior to the luncheon. Paul Layer stated that we could present questions about the President's budget request to the legislators, set parameters to get the crowd involved, and prepare an introduction rather than just having an open microphone. Maya Salganek stated that the Advocacy committee put everything together within about a week and wanted an informal structure, but that it was a little too informal. She stated a better process would be to hold a legislative training session.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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