

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
UAF Faculty Senate Special Meeting #223
Monday, April 24, 2017

I **Call to Order - Orion Lawlor**

A. Roll Call

Faculty Senate Members Present:	Members Present - continued
ABRAMOWICZ, Ken (18)	QUICK, Kate (18)
AGGARWAL, Srijan (18) - audio	TILBURY, Jennifer (17)
AGUILAR-ISLAS, Ana (18) – audio	TUTTLE, Siri (17)
ANAHITA, Sine (18)	WILDFEUER, Sandra (18)
ARNDT, Kathy (17)	WILLIAMS, Gordon (17)
BACSUJLAKY, Mara (18)	
BENOWITZ, Jeff (18) – Andy Mahoney	Members absent:
BRET-HARTE, Donie (17) – Javier Fochesatto	ANGER, Andy (18)
CROSKREY, Wendy (18)	BOLTON, Bob (18)
CUNDIFF, Nicole (17) – Troy Bouffard	COLLINS, Eric (17)
DIERENFIELD, Candi (17)	HARDY, Sarah (17)
FALLEN, Chris (18)	LILJEDAHL, Anna (18)
FARMER, Daryl (17)	NEWBERRY, Rainer (17)
GIFFORD, Valerie (17)	PETERSON, Rorik (17)
HAMPTON, Don (17)	REMBER, Rob (17)
HARDY, Cindy (17)	TOPKOK, Sean (18)
HARNEY, Eileen (17)	ZHANG, Mingchu (18)
HARRIS, Norm (17) – audio	
HIRSCH, Alex (18)	
HUNT, Steve (18)	Others Present:
ICKERT-BOND, Stefanie (18)	Susan Henrichs, Alex Fitts
LAWLOR, Orion (17)	Mark Herrmann; Chris Coffman
MAIER, Jak (17)	Abel Bult-Ito; Joe Little, Chris Wright
MAKAREVICH, Roman (18)	Kayt Sunwood; Holly McDonald
MATWEYOU, Julie (18) – via Zoom	Ginny Kinne; Nicole Dufour
MAY, Jeff (18)	
MEYER, Franz (17)	
MAXWELL, David (18)	

B. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as submitted. The addition of one more motion had been discussed at Administrative Committee, but no amendment to this agenda was requested.

II A. President's Remarks - Orion Lawlor

President Lawlor stated he would try very diligently to keep the meeting on track, and brought in a timer to help with that effort. He commented on the long term effect that program discontinuations have on the university, and that solidarity would argue that faculty would never agree to discontinue a program. But, because the Senate in Juneau controls the budget, university administrators have very difficult decisions to make. Those decisions can be made with or without faculty input. If faculty just say no to everything, they abdicate their responsibility to provide rationales, alternate ways of addressing cuts, and other kinds of input to the process. Discontinuations and reductions are going to happen; it's just a question of which ones at this point.

B. President-Elect's Remarks - Chris Fallen

President-elect Fallen commented on the influence Faculty Senate has had on the academic program review policy and resulting increased involvement with the program discontinuation process. The numbers of program discontinuations are increasing and there is less time to evaluate and formulate recommendations. Perhaps Faculty Senate will address this conundrum next year. He thanked those in attendance at this special meeting, and those who had taken time to be part of the online discussion and comment on the Google document containing the motion rationales. In the interest of time, he personally recommended that faculty vote no on the motions because there is both a shortage of time and incomplete information for full consideration on complicated and complex issues. He encouraged faculty to vote their conscience, and to provide feedback to those who will ultimately make the tough decisions.

III Senate Members' Questions / Comments

President Lawlor provided a brief overview of the Google document motions and how they would be finalized during the meeting into formal motions for voting.

One senator commented that no program discontinuations should be considered before Athletic programs are cut. All the academic programs are more important than any Athletic program. The core university mission is education and research, over Athletics.

Agreement with that sentiment was expressed, and the comment was made that each of the motions contains a statement about the current budget climate. Should faculty take that statement at face value, or is there any room to discuss the budget? Chris F. commented that he felt, since the Faculty Senate has no control over nor responsibility of the university purse, that budget should not be a basis of their consideration. Orion, who also serves on the Planning and Budget Committee, commented that even if the university received the \$325 million budget,

there is still a \$10 million shortfall due to debt service and other financial commitments. Athletics cuts would not come near to solving the budget problem.

Another senator commented that more input from affected program faculty would have been useful for considering the ramifications of decisions. Orion noted that the new policy process approved by Faculty Senate this year will provide more opportunity for program faculty input in the future.

Without budgetary authority, faculty can still decide how viable these programs are based on whether or not they're working, and listening to their colleagues about their insights on these programs. It was also urged that faculty support the academic integrity of this institution.

It was noted that Extension Research is not on the agenda today. No motion to amend the agenda was made to include it.

IV Public Comment

Abel Bult-Ito commented as the president of United Academics. He noted that new program motions always include budgetary considerations, but these proposed discontinuations do not include information about what cost savings will result. He surmised the Master's discontinuations are not going to result in any budgetary savings. To argue that the Senate should not look at the budget does not make sense to him. If the Senate agrees that a budgetary crisis is a basis for getting rid of programs, perhaps other ways of saving money should be examined to preserve the academic integrity of the university.

Provost Henrichs commented that a number of the program discontinuations are the result of earlier program reviews and program reorganizations. In this case, existing degrees have already absorbed some of these areas as concentrations, and what is before them is actually Catalog clean-up (e.g., the specialized engineering master's programs). She also noted that some of the programs are below a critical mass of faculty to keep up the quality and viability of the programs, so would need to be augmented to return them to viability. Part of the expense side, then, is avoided expense by not returning a program to adequate staffing. While the Faculty Senate is responsible for the quality of curriculum and academic programs, the administration is responsible for making the budgetary decisions.

V New Business

Motions and comments are in [Motions for Discontinuations](#) (one big document)

A. [Discontinuation of Specialized Engineering Master's Degrees](#)

- MS - Arctic Engineering
- MS - Engineering Management
- MS - Science Management
- MS - Environmental Engineering
- MCE - Civil Engineering
- MS - Mineral Preparation
- MSWE - Software Engineering

Orion noted that the Software Engineering program discontinuation has no faculty left due to attrition. Admissions had been suspended back in 2012. The remaining program faculty are focusing their efforts on the Master's in Computer Science program. Chris F. noted that these are relatively easy discontinuations to consider, especially as some of the emphasis areas have been folded into other degree programs. In the case of Software Engineering and Mineral Preparation, there is some expense savings as additional faculty would have had to be hired to continue them.

Proposed amendments to the motion were discussed and voted upon.

The Faculty Senate voted by majority to agree with the discontinuation of the seven specialized Engineering Master's degrees.

B. [Discontinuation of Geography BA](#)

A comment was made for retaining the program for students who wish to have a double major. The Provost commented on the fact that the BA focuses on cultural geography, and is distinctly different than the remaining BS which focuses on physical geography. This is unlike many BA / BS degree program pairs. It was noted there were seven majors in 2016. Several statements were made in support of keeping the program.

The Provost noted the current savings are related to an unfilled faculty vacancy. The possibility of incurring additional start-up costs to bring the program back in better times was commented upon. One senator also commented in favor of considering the budget constraints so that administration will take their feedback seriously. There was some discussion about whether or not the program had suspended admissions.

Some language amendments were discussed and approved. The Faculty Senate voted by majority to disagree with the discontinuation of the BA in Geography.

C. [Discontinuation of Dental Hygiene AAS](#)

The Provost commented that admissions to this program had been suspended two years ago. All the enrolled students have since graduated. Faculty are no longer employed to teach it. It was a very expensive program to maintain, limited in size by its facilities, and with specialized accreditation that required one faculty to every five students. Thus, they could only teach five students at a time.

A senator commented that the Red Cross does offer a free six-month training program to six military students. Those students volunteer in the community, and the program is contributing to the workforce need. It was also noted the facilities for the program are in prime shape and still exist. The Provost commented that the accreditation had to be let go since the program was not being taught.

Some senators had received input from CTC faculty urging them to leave the program in suspension and not agree to its discontinuation. The Provost noted, however, that the national standard is becoming a degree at the baccalaureate level, and if the program was brought back and accreditation sought again, it would almost certainly have to be done at that level, at significantly higher cost.

Amendments were discussed and approved. The Faculty Senate voted by majority to disagree with the discontinuation of the AAS in Dental Hygiene.

D. [Discontinuation of Sociology BA](#)

Sine A. commented about the program suspension in place for the BA. She recommended that collaboration be sought with UAA which has a strong Sociology Department, and UAS which has three PhD sociologists. This collaboration could be a model across the system. It was reported that there are 15 students who minored in sociology.

Public comment in support of sociology was given. General comments supporting the idea of collaboration across the system as opposed to discontinuing the program were also made, particularly in view of the Strategic Pathways process. The BS in Sociology will remain suspended. The differences in degree requirements between the BA and BS were noted.

Amendments were discussed and approved. The Faculty Senate voted by majority to disagree with the discontinuation of the BA in Sociology.

A short break occurred at approximately 2:15 PM.

VI New Business continued

E. [Discontinuation of Clinical & Community Psychology PhD](#)

Provost Henrichs noted that cost is the primary issue with this program. The positions for two licensed clinical psychology PhD-level faculty are vacant. TA-ships and other associated program costs also make it unaffordable. UAA is jointly offering the degree at this time, and their accreditation for the program will be complicated if UAF does not discontinue its part of this program. Suspension is not adequate under the current circumstances.

Valerie G. noted students have been given the option to continue at Anchorage, but a teach-out program has been developed for current students in the joint program here at UAF and UAA. UAA is currently creating a self-study for its own accredited PhD program in clinical psychology. UAA also currently has a master's program to augment its faculty needs for the PhD program.

Cécile Lardon, Psychology Department chair, spoke about the difficulties of offering the joint program which is quite resource intensive particularly in terms of faculty. There have been many challenges of providing enough resources to the students in the program, made more difficult by having to stretch resources for the other ongoing programs. It's a unique and important program, but stretches available UAF resources in an unsustainable manner.

Valerie G. spoke to a question about the number of program graduates and whether or not they have remained in Alaska. Cécile L. commented about whether clinical needs in Alaska can be met by workers with master's or baccalaureate degrees. She also commented about the need for the PhD program and UAA's ability to offer the program effectively.

Amendments were discussed and approved. The Faculty Senate voted by majority to disagree with the discontinuation of the PhD in Clinical and Community Psychology.

F. [Discontinuation of Economics](#)

BA - Economics

BBA - Economics

MS - Natural Resource Economics

Ken A. noted that he had collected some program numbers internally at the School, as well as current numbers from the Registrar's Office. He asked that Dean Mark Herrmann be allowed to speak, as well as some of the program faculty.

Dean Herrmann commented on the budget situation. The decision to discontinue their Economics programs is based purely on financial considerations. Their budget has already been reduced 33% over the last three years. They realize they are facing further cuts in the coming years, and even though they have increased their tuition with a surcharge, and performed aggressive student recruitment especially in the areas of homeland security and emergency management coupled with putting degrees online. Those efforts have helped, but they will not cover the cuts. The School is already run efficiently with the lowest cost per student credit hour at UAF. They have just 24 faculty with nearly 900 major students. After next year they will have the lowest amount of general funds of any other school or college despite having the third largest enrollment. In 2010, tuition was 18% of their revenue; today it is 53% and next year it will be over 60%. They are looking at over \$500,000 more in expenses than revenues next year. There is no room for faculty reductions, and their specialized accreditation is already at risk with current faculty numbers. The only option they have is a vertical cut in order to keep the core of their School intact with the least disruption to their students. Though the Economics program is very high quality, its annual cost is \$1 million and it only generates 5% of their majors. The ECON F100 course had brought over a quarter of a million dollars of tuition into the School, but with the expanded selection of GER courses that replaced the Perspectives on the Human Condition, enrollment dropped dramatically. He spoke about how difficult the decision to cut Economics programs has been. The budget cuts have been too large and too devastating to the School. Horizontal cuts put the entire School at risk, while a vertical cut will help it survive. They will still have an Econ minor, and a concentration will be added to the BBA. Unfortunately, the graduate program will be hardest hit.

Bret Luick of CES spoke about the relevance of an Economics program to the university, and expressed how he hated to see this development.

Joe Little of the Economics Program spoke about the strengths of the program and its graduates. He reminded the Faculty Senate that this type of process is not going to end and to make sure they are using valid and rational arguments in their decisions.

Amendments were discussed and voted upon. The more recent data that Ken A. contributed was discussed at length, with disagreement expressed by the Economics faculty present. Provost Henrichs commented that PAIR data would have been used in the academic program review, while the numbers provided by the Registrar's Office would reflect lower numbers since admissions were suspended last year. PAIR reports annualize enrollment figures which are higher than numbers by semester. Both sets of numbers are accurate, but reflect different sets of circumstances. Chris Wright, an Econ faculty, commented on the metrics that were used in the program review. A proposed amendment to add the newer numbers Ken had provided was not seconded. An amendment to add a statement to the "does not agree" rationale was adopted.

The Faculty Senate voted by majority to disagree with the discontinuations of the Economics programs.

VII Members' Comments/Questions/Announcements
 A. General Comments / Announcements
 B. Committee Chair Comments

Due to time constraints, no comments or announcements were made.

VIII Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Audio and video recordings of the meeting are posted online at:
<http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty-senate/meetings/2016-17-fs-meetings/#223-special>

The following attachments consist of the motions in their final form after being amended during Meeting #223 on April 24, 2017.

MOTION:

Discontinuation of Specialized Engineering Master's Degrees

The UAF Faculty Senate observes:

- A Civil Engineering MS will remain in the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department if their other MS and MCE degrees listed below are discontinued. Admissions were suspended in 2014 for these degrees. Many of these separate degrees are now available as [concentrations within the Civil Engineering MS](#).*
- A Mining Engineering MS will remain if the Mineral Preparation Engineering MS is discontinued. The Mineral Preparation Engineering MS has not had more than one enrolled student since 2012, and admissions were suspended in 2014.
- A Computer Science MS will remain if the Software Engineering MSWE is discontinued. Admissions to the MSWE were suspended in 2012. The faculty who primarily taught the program's courses have retired. The Computer Science department does not protest the discontinuation.
- The intention of this recommendation is to have minimal impact to students and faculty.

Faculty Senate recommends:

- That the Mineral Preparation Engineering MS program be discontinued, since there are no faculty members currently affiliated with the program and the last student from the program will graduate soon.

Therefore, the UAF Faculty Senate agrees to the discontinuation of the following specialized Engineering Master's Degrees:

MS - Arctic Engineering
MS - Engineering Management
MS - Science Management
MS - Environmental Engineering
MCE - Civil Engineering
MS - Mineral Preparation
MSWE - Software Engineering

Effective: Fall 2017 upon approval of the UA Board of Regents

Rationale: There are not enough students to allow us to afford the expense of these specialized degrees in this budget climate, and each department will still retain a graduate program.

MOTION:

Discontinuation of the BA in Geography

The UAF Faculty Senate observes:

- The Geography BS degree will remain even if the BA is discontinued.
- The majority of the Faculty and Administrative review committee members voted to discontinue the Geography BA, although at the Faculty review level, there was significant support for the program.

Faculty Senate recommends:

- Geography might consider establishing collaborations with other social science programs on campus, such as through cross-listed courses, to increase the number of faculty to teach courses, attract new students, and fulfill GER requirements.

Therefore, the UAF Faculty Senate does not agree with the discontinuation of the BA in Geography.

Rationale: The savings from eliminating the BA while retaining the BS is minimal, because all of the classes in the discipline will still be taught by the faculty. Yet for many UAF students, the BA is achievable but earning a BS is not feasible, for example due to the BS degree requirement for calculus. BA degrees also allow students to have a broad experience in their major, while having a minor in a different subject.

MOTION:

Discontinuation of the AAS in Dental Hygiene

The UAF Faculty Senate observes:

- The Dental Hygiene program reliably graduated one cohort of 5 students at the end of each 2-year cycle. Admission to the program was suspended in summer 2016.
- Alaska health care, including dental hygiene, is in acute need of qualified professionals. All graduates of the Dental Hygiene AAS were employed immediately after graduation.
- The [Alaska Department of Labor projected](#) * a 21.6% growth rate in the demand for Dental Hygienists through 2024, the highest listed growth rate.
- There is a similar program at UAA that admits a cohort of 14 students each year.
- This is a high cost and low enrollment program for structural reasons, including a need to have dedicated dental office equipment for the students.
- Faculty and Administrator reviews of the program voted to discontinue it primarily for cost reasons and not on its service to Alaska workforce needs.

Faculty Senate recommends:

- Consider merging with the UAA program.

Therefore, the UAF Faculty Senate does not agree with the discontinuation of the AAS in Dental Hygiene.

Rationale: This is an expensive but important program for interior Alaska health care workforce development. The program should continue in its suspended state.

MOTION:

Discontinuation of the BA in Sociology

The UAF Faculty Senate observes:

- The department lost three faculty in 2016, and currently has one tenured faculty member and four active majors. These numbers are far too low for a sustainable program.
- The loss of three faculty in 2016 and the hiring freeze that prevented the department from being able to hire tenure track PhD sociologists have crippled the department.
- Recent changes to our bachelor's degree general education requirements mean that instead of choosing between SOC 100X and ANTH 100X, students can now [choose from 27 possible courses](#).^{*} This substantially reduced the tuition dollars earned by the Sociology Department.
- The Sociology BS was suspended in 2014, but has not been discontinued; there is a possibility that the BS could be reinvigorated through collaborative relationships with UAA and UAS to offer a joint online BS degree.
- Other programs would be adversely impacted by this discontinuation, including: Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies; Justice BA; Psychology BA and BS; Alaska Native Studies; and CTC certificate and AAS degrees.
- UAF is a major research university and Sociology is a standard program at nearly all major universities. The MCAT now tests students on their sociological knowledge; UAF students who plan to enter medical school will thus be at a significant disadvantage if they are unable to take Sociology courses. Federal grants increasingly require applicants to include a social science component.

Faculty Senate recommends:

- Since [a viable Sociology Department exists at UAA](#) ^{**} and there are also [three PhD sociologists affiliated with UAS](#), ^{***} we should find a way to work together via online course sharing to allow interested Fairbanks students to earn Sociology degrees. A collaborative online degree in Sociology would serve as an excellent model of collaboration that other programs might adapt. A collaborative online program would allow students all across Alaska and beyond to benefit from a Sociology degree.

Therefore, the UAF Faculty Senate does not agree with the discontinuation of the BA in Sociology.

Rationale: The cost savings will be minimal as only one tenure track faculty is employed. Collaboration with UAA and UAS through distance education should be explored for continuing the program, which is consistent with Strategic Pathways objectives for making the three universities collaborate.

*Link to: <http://catalog.uaf.edu/bachelors/general-education-requirements/>

**Link to: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-arts-and-sciences/departments/sociology/>

***Link to: http://www.uas.alaska.edu/arts_sciences/socsci/disciplines/sociology.html

MOTION:

Discontinuation of the PhD in Clinical and Community Psychology

Faculty Senate observes:

- The program has approximately 20-35 students enrolled, and approximately 1 graduate per year.
- Alaska has an enormous unmet demand for clinical & community psychology professionals.
- Significant faculty and staff turnover has occurred within the Department of Psychology over the past 10 years. This turnover coupled with the fiscal crisis requires the department to shift focus from the PhD program to undergraduate programs including the online bachelor's degree.
- The Faculty Evaluation Committee recommended continuation of the program.
- This department operates a local clinic, the [UAF Department of Psychology Clinic](#),* which serves students, staff, faculty, and community members.
- The accreditation-required oversight for clinical operations (with real patients) in Fairbanks is expensive, and coordination with UAA on this has been complex.
- This was originally designed as a joint program between UAA and UAF.
- This discontinuation has both strong proponents and opponents within the department.

Therefore, the UAF Faculty Senate does not agree with the discontinuation of the PhD in Clinical and Community Psychology.

Rationale: This is an important program for interior Alaska healthcare research and also workforce development. Many mental health issues in Alaska, including Interior Alaska, are unique and deserve local study from America's Arctic University. Coordination with UAA consistent with Strategic Pathways recommendations should be explored. Some of the difficulties faced by the program are noted by the faculty review to result from lack of cooperation with UAA.

MOTION:

Discontinuation of the Economics Programs

The UAF Faculty Senate observes:

- Our recent bachelor's degree general education requirements changes mean that fewer students are taking ECON 100X. This reduced the tuition earned by the Economics Program.
- In April 2016, SOM [ceased admitting new students](#)* to the economics programs.
- According to the spring 2016 review document:
 - The UAF Economics program appears to have a viable number of students, approximately 20 majors in each of the BA, BBA, and MS programs.
 - Student tuition covers nearly the entire cost of the BA and BBA programs.
 - Student tuition covers approximately 30% of the cost of the MS program.

Therefore, the UAF Faculty Senate does not agree with the discontinuation of the following Economics programs:

BA in Economics

BBA in Economics

MS in Natural Resource Economics

Rationale: UAF is a major research university and Economics is a standard program at nearly all major universities. Economics is one of the foundations of the modern university. Understanding how economies work is one of the most important skill sets students need in order to understand our world. Moreover, trained economists will provide vital insight and guidance to the state as our economy shifts and changes in response to declining oil production and profits. Faculty review voted strongly--unanimous with one abstention--in favor of keeping all three economics programs. This is a viable program, and should not be cut.
