

MINUTES
GOVERNANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE (GCC) Meeting #70
Tuesday, 17 October 2006
Chancellor's Conference Room

1. Shirish Patil called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Shirish Patil, President, Faculty Senate
Jon Genetti, President-Elect, Faculty Senate
Jeff Stepp, President, Staff Council
Vacant, President-Elect Staff Council
Sven Gilkey, President, ASUAF
Sarah Byram, Vice-President, ASUAF

MEMBERS ABSENT:

No members were absent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ann Ringstad, Vice Chancellor, University Relations
Lynette Washington, Secretary, Staff Council and the GCC

- B. Tuesday, 17 October 2006, GCC #70 Agenda, approved as changed to add Ann Ringstad under Unfinished Business, Item A.
C. Tuesday, 18 April 2006, GCC #69 Minutes, Tabled until the next GCC meeting scheduled, Tuesday, 12 December 2006.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Chancellor's Campus Diversity Action Committee – CCDAC

Discussion about the Chancellor's Committee on Diversity was tabled. The committee has not met and it has not been determined who from the committee will report to the Governance Coordinating Committee.

3. GOVERNANCE REPORTS

A. Sven Gilkey – ASUAF President

Sven Gilkey updated the GCC members on current UAF priorities that involve the 24 October, Gubernatorial Forum, the resolution for campus-life capital improvement, the expansion of the UAF Wood Center, and how to best facilitate the student union development goals, student concerns about the smoking ban around UAF facilities, and how if the ban is not enforced can cause a health risk, the nomination of the commissioner of post secondary education, as well as the student regent nomination forms, revision of the current UAF elections manual, and a resolution looking at how club status is given

to student organizations. Sarah Byram updated the group on recent Club Council actions and how delegates are selected.

B. Shirish Patil, President, Faculty Senate

Shirish Patil briefed the GCC group on the Senate's actions with UAF's change in admission's standards (UAS and UAA are not changing admission standards), the Vice President for Academic Affairs's search, the MAU discussions going on between campuses about student success and college readiness, the accreditation teams visit to campus, faculty and administrative issues and evaluations, retention of student work by faculty, and changing freshman mid-term grade reports from week eight to week five of the semester, but many instructors do not favor the proposed change. The Senate discussed a request to remove the course descriptions from the UAF academic catalog, but the descriptions will be retained. Shirish reported that beginning 1 July, the Institute of Northern Engineering graduate student stipends will be \$21.98 an hour. Shirish reported that the Curricular Affairs committee is looking into removing the instructor signature required block from the secondary school enrollment form at the University. He stated that right now, high school students that want to take UAF classes must chase down the instructor to get the signature, parents have complained that the students don't know where the academic programs are on campus, and often instructors are not available. Shirish stated that the Curricular Affairs group does not want to remove the signature block, because it informs the instructor if the student has the prerequisites to take the course. Additionally, instructors may have explicit material not appropriate for younger students. Shirish informed GCC members that a compromise was reached, instead of "Instructor signature required," the form will be changed to read, "Instructor or Department Chair approval needed," and the approval may be sent by e-mail. This falls under making the University more accessible and user friendly.

Jon Genetti reported that a group is working on getting the message out about UAF admission standards going up, without it reflecting negatively on the University. Jon Genetti expressed, we are attempting to identify ways to get an accurate message out to the right people and also everybody here at UAF.

B. Jeff Stepp, President, Staff Council

Jeff Stepp briefed the GCC group about recent PERS/TRS/unfunded liability issues. Jeff stated that during the scheduled 24 October Gubernatorial Forum candidates Halcro and Knowles may be asked to address the possibility of returning to the defined benefit plan instead of the defined contribution plan. Jeff stated that staff will be sent an e-mail to solicit questions to be asked of candidates during the Forum. The Forum is a collaboration of efforts between Staff Council, Faculty Senate, ASUAF, and the UAF Alumni Association. Jeff reported to the GCC members that the UAF Staff Council recently held its Staff Council Retreat on 13 October, the retreat focused on group dynamics and getting to know each other better. Jeff informed the Committee that Chancellor Jones is planning to schedule listening sessions with staff. He reported that Staff Council nominations and elections will begin in November. Jeff reported that for the first time in UAF history accreditation team members met with staff members while visiting campus. The main issue addressed was the Human Resources website lack of a staff manual and the difficulties staff and others encounter when trying to find information about the grievance policy process. Jeff reported that Staff Council members are invited to the Chancellor's for a holiday party on Tuesday, 5 December. Jeff reported that the Chancellor was asked to give a status report about the strategic goals under faculty and staff development, what has been done to increase the representation and retention of women and minorities in staff and faculty positions, and what has been done to increase staff development activities. The questions were asked to access what action the Chancellor has taken to support the success of these goals and to improve evaluation measures of faculty and staff performance.

Jeff Stepp called attention to a recently published brochure from the Office of Development, which talked about UAF's outstanding students and faculty and other facts, but did not include staff.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Ann Ringstad, Vice Chancellor of University Relations

Ann Ringstad briefed GCC members about the upcoming 24 October Gubernatorial Forum that Staff Council, Faculty Senate, ASUAF, and the UAF Alumni Office are planning. Ann Ringstad advised the committee on the appropriate format of the nonpartisan candidate forum. Ann informed the committee that the groups involved with promoting the forum will forward a release to be distributed to all staff and faculty. Ann Ringstad recommended that the groups involved in this effort should look into inviting the interior delegates to campus soon after the Gubernatorial Forum is held. Ann advised the committee to create a list of topics and questions to ask candidates during the forum's question and answer period.

B. Select a new GCC Chair

After a brief discussion the Committee members agreed to select Sven Gilkey as the GCC Chair.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss focus of GCC

Jeff Stepp recommended focusing on student success as the number one priority of the GCC group. Shirish Patil affirmed that the student success issue is already a top priority of the Faculty Senate group. Sven Gilkey stated that student success is always a goal of ASUAF, along with student engagement/communication with each other, and administrators. Sven stated that he is interested in learning what areas the Faculty Senate is targeting for student success.

6. COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

No comments or questions.

7. ADJOURN

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

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