

MINUTES
GOVERNANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE (GCC) Meeting #71
Tuesday, 12 December 2006
Chancellor's Conference Room

1. Sven Gilkey called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Shirish Patil, President, Faculty Senate

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lynette Washington, Secretary, Staff Council and the GCC

B. Tuesday, 12 December 2006, GCC #71 Agenda, approved as submitted.

C. Tuesday, 18 April 2006, GCC #69 Minutes and Tuesday, 17 October 2006 Minutes approved as submitted.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Chancellor's Campus Diversity Action Committee – CCDAC

Discussion about the Chancellor's Committee on Diversity was tabled.

3. GOVERNANCE REPORTS

A. Sven Gilkey – ASUAF President

Sven Gilkey updated the committee on recent student actions. Sven reported that the ASUAF group wrote a resolution in support of the bookstores price reduction on Fridays and passed a resolution to support student success. The student coalition group plans to support campus life capital improvement projects on almost every campus for the FY09 budget. Sven informed the committee that he was appointed as Speaker Pro Tem of the coalition. Sarah Byram and Sven reported that more students are moving off campus (mostly sophomores) due to the residence life fee increase and a substantial cut in student services and programs. Jeff Stepp commented that this does not coincide with the university's student success goals. Sven added all this, along with the student life fee increase, not to mention the 10% increase in tuition, and the proposed SRC fee increase is the cause of much student discontent.

B. Jon Genetti, President, Faculty Senate

Jon Genetti updated the GCC members about the reasoning behind the plus and minus policy change. Sven Gilkey asked for clarity about C- grades considered as not passing. He stated that students are concerned about the academic disqualification motion that reads, "Undergraduate students on probation whose semester and cumulative gpas are less than 2.0"...is that going to be read as, "Or cumulative," is it? Is it really, "And" and not "OR", do both have to be below 2.0 to disqualify? For example, if you have a cumulative GPA of 3.9, but your last semester is 1.7, are you removed from financial aid? Will it matter how high your cumulative GPA is? Jon Genetti asked that Sven Gilkey forward that concern to him and Shirish via email. Sven asked about being disqualified and removal from a degree program causing a student to reapply to get back into a degree program. Does that mean that the clock on your catalog will be reset? If I am kicked out of the history department this semester and I have to reapply in fall of 2007, do I have to use the 07 catalog or do I get to keep using the 2005 catalog, which I am under? I've spent several years basing my graduation on this catalog and who knows what the faculty in the history department will do. It can really mess up a student's plans for graduation and keep you here a longer period of time which makes it less likely for you to want to stay. Jon Genetti stated that he would have to look into department and college grading policies. Jon Genetti informed the group that the plan is to implement the changes in the academic fall 2008 catalog. Sarah Byam stated that students are really worried about being informed about the plus and minus policy changes and would especially like incoming freshman to be informed about the new catalog.

C. Jeff Stepp, President, Staff Council

Jeff Stepp reported information about Chancellor Jones' UAF vision and a fifty-five member task force to help come up with strategies to implement the six pathways to success (identified in the strategic plan). He reported that the Chancellor is also looking at strategies for strategic plan 2017. Jeff stated that it is important to have diverse representation on the task force and that Staff Council has nominated a few people and are waiting to hear back from the Chancellor's office. Jeff updated the group about Staff Council's efforts to move forward with the mediation program. He stated that a mediation report has been presented by a consultant entitled, "Establishing A Comprehensive Mediation Program from the University of Alaska Fairbanks", that concludes with a three-year action plan, that provides UAF a guide as it moves forward in the direction of incorporating mediation into the campus culture. Conceivably this would be a resource for not only staff, but faculty and students, not just peer to peer, but also staff/faculty disputes, student/staff disputes, and student/faculty disputes. Jeff reported that there is a lot of peer mediation activity in the district, so a lot of students are coming to UAF with some kind of peer mediation training and then losing the skill, because there is nothing to do with it. Jeff informed the group that he has suggested creating a peer mediation program in the residence halls to handle a variety of disputes that students might encounter while living in the dorms. Jeff stated that he has thought about it having a place in the new Susan Butcher Leadership Institute. Jeff stated that this Program was approved by the Board of Regents and instituted without any prior awareness of the process. Jeff reminded the group that there is an established Student Leadership Program at UAF that was not at all engaged in the conversation about the new leadership institute. Jeff informed committee members about efforts underway to update the black board system to make it uniform on all campus locations. Sven relayed that each MAU is different and each campus created a program based on the faculty needs of that campus. Jeff informed the group about National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) survey. Jeff shared a handout highlighting the five benchmarks of educational practices of the NSSE. Jeff reported that he plans to attend a NSSE conference in February 2007 and encouraged committee members to find the survey online. Jeff and Sven reported that they are drafting a resolution to support student success on campus. Jeff read the draft motion. The resolution will be discussed further at the next committee meeting.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business.

5. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

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.