

Academic Council Meeting Notes

October 8, 2020, 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Zoom: <https://alaska.zoom.us/j/9074508042>

Audio: 1-253-215-8782

Meeting ID: 907 450 8042

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- a. [NOI to add GC on Business Analytics - no objections received from ASA](#)

Updates/Discussion:

4. AlaskaX Presentation - Owen Guthrie

Owen gave a presentation on edX, a MOOC (massive open online course) platform for non-credit courses, which has over 3000 courses and 40 million global partners. Twenty percent of its learners come from the US however. Owen confirmed they received one-time funds to investigate the platform further. He noted that although UAF already had a robust online curriculum development and instructional design team, this program really benefits their design team and allows them to engage with a dynamic community of professionals. The first MOOC developed through this platform was by Franz Meyer called Synthetic Aperture Radar: Hazard

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Fundamentals; and Salmon, People, and Place (which has over 500 students in the course). Paul noted for these courses there are generally for-credit courses available for the same subjects, so

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this can help to attract new students to the university. A lot of the cost of the program is marketing and access to edX students. There is a \$50,000/year maintenance fee. Karen noted she would like UAS to be included in these kinds of programs in the future and thanked Owen for previous collaboration.

5. Faculty Alliance Report - Heather/Jak/Gökhan

Heather noted Megan Buzby was on sabbatical and in her absence Julie Hamilton has agreed to chair the Common Calendar Committee. Heather noted the course block proposal was on hold until fall 2021. The Modality of Learning task force of the Faculty Alliance is now a permanent task force and will work in collaboration with the eLearning Council, chaired by Maren. She also noted the Faculty Alliance is concerned about the loss of tenure-track faculty. Jak pointed out the AAUP standards for elimination of tenure-track faculty and asked that UA leadership review those standards. She noted there is concern this is an attack on academic freedom due to the top-down nature of the restructuring and that it is damaging the faculty'n a t dsl

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- b. Differentiated Tuition - Chancellors will discuss separating tuition at each university. Paul noted Chancellor White at UAF is soliciting feedback on differential tuition models; UAA engaged a consultant to review its tuition models as well.
 - c. SB241 and AKCOE Update - Steve and Paul will update the planning process for education programs discussed earlier as well as provide the state mandated report on education and teacher preparation.
 - d. UAF Accreditation Update - Anupma reported there was tremendous engagement across the UAF community for the recent accreditation visit. The staff, student and faculty forums were well attended. Site visitors noted they were impressed with a number of areas, including ability to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic and the role of the e-campus, as well as the high level of research activity and the commitment to outreach to Alaska's communities. Recommendation areas included looking at program assessment plans, resource allocations and evaluating those goals, disaggregating data to align with new standards, and finally to look at a sense of belonging. Overall, Anupman noted she was pleased with the outcome and that in normal times they would be celebrating a successful visit.
 - e. UAA & UAS Mission Statement/Strategic Plans Update - Karen and Denise noted they can only

Karen noted she appreciated these meetings and the discussion and collaboration the comes out of them.

Priscilla noted her thanks to the president for meeting with the community campus directors. She noted at UAS, the community campuses are more closely connected than at UAA or UAF. She noted Gary Turner will be retiring and so they will need to identify a new chair.

Teri reported the fisheries, seafood and maritime initiative has been working on several projects

at the University of Alaska Institute. They are also continuing the maritime workforce development

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Anupma noted Sandra Wildfeuer will serve as president-elect this year for the UAF Faculty Senate.