

Academic Council Agenda
October 14, 2021; 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Zoom: ID: [83541881843](#)
Audio: 1-301-715-8592
Password: 523476

Action/Business:

Opening Comments - Paul

- Paul thanked Anupma for her kind words at the Student Success Convening kickoff. There were approximately 160 people in attendance with some good conversations. The focus was on equity in student success, including equity in success in large classroom settings. The first speaker talked about some interventions, especially designed for large classrooms. Another speaker covered health and mental well-being and happiness, and another on open education resources. The keynote speaker was Bill Davis from Washington State University.
1. Approve [September 30, 2021 Meeting Not](#)

- ii. Gokhan - Thought it was a three separately accredited institution. Why is the president responsible for the accuracy of the report? Paul - Each university is separately accredited, but the board serves as the board of each university and the president is part of that board and is part of the university, so ultimately, it comes together at the top. Each university is separately accredited and responsible for that report that is conveyed to the regents. Paul and Matt will work on the language. Everything goes through the president that is presented to the board. The regents feel they would like this to be more explicit on accountability, but anything we provide to the board there is the requirement that it is correct and accurate.
- iii. Denise - The NWCCU considers the chancellors to be the chief executive officers of the institutions. The highest level of responsibility is the CEO, so to try to make someone above the CEO responsible is illogical and does not fit with basic administrative theory or business theory or any other kind of theory. It could be stated that through the president annually, each university shall provide to the board through the president a written report, because that is how it works.
- iv. Paul - Regent Perdue has brought up from time to time the concept of the universities' internal process. We don't want to put internal processes in policy or regulation because each of the universities does their reporting in different ways and have different structures.
- v. Gokhan - Feels Northwest would be extremely nervous about what is going on right now, after three years, we went through this consolidation story. We have to be careful.
- vi. Anupma - Questions the next steps in the process of this policy change. Paul - Will meet with Matt Cooper and see what changes can be made. He will also meet with President Pltney, who has been in Iceland, so unable to meet. He will try to resolve this early next week.
- vii. Gokhan - Mentioning the president has been responsible and accountable for our accreditation has made him nervous. Paul - Will work with Matt on the

language. He understands where Gokhan is coming from and if it's the president being responsible then the president has more control.

1. [Chat link](#)

ACTION: Paul will work on the modification to the language with General Counsel and bring it back to the Council for review.

Agenda Items:

1. Common Calendar/Common Course Block - Megan Buzby
 - a. [Common Calendar Committee memo](#)
 - b. [Common Calendar Committee memo to school districts](#)
 - c. [UA Common Calendar Recommendation](#)
- Megan provided an overview of the process the committee went through to reach the current proposed common calendar. Their bylaws state they are just responsible for proposing calendars two years out. There were some concerns about spring break, so they wanted to add another year of dates to the calendar so that people could provide feedback if the spring break dates need to be changed. This also gives school districts the opportunity to see when we're going to do the spring break. Will submit the proposed calendar by 10/1/2021 and would like to get some sort of approval that the dates look good.

DISCUSSION:

- a. Anupma - She has received requests from faculty to consider an alignment of spring break with the local school district in Fairbanks. There is a request for a discussion with the school board. It was also brought up at the Academic Council last time. There is a plan to have broader communication with other school districts. The faculty senate president brought this up and would also like an alignment with future school years.
- b. Paul - Megan has provided a couple of templates for letters for communicating with boards. He prefers that you reach out to your local school boards.
- c. Megan - The Committee had discussed aligning the spring breaks and the school districts, but it would be near impossible for the UAA calendar to align with the school districts when they aren't aligned themselves. Spring break may be able to be moved by

a week, but we want to make sure that the withdrawal date isn't on the Friday of spring break when school is closed and students aren't around. Anupma - The withdrawal date needs to be before faculty start submitting grades, so that it's not that students are withdrawing after they've seen the grades.

- d. Paul - There has been a proposal to perhaps make indigenous peoples day a university holiday. This takes a Monday out of the teaching days in the fall semester. It is unsure of the amount of sentiment from each university on this, but wanted to put it out there as a possibility. Another day would have to be added or use a finals day. Also, all three universities have events centered around indigenous peoples day. If it is a day off, the events probably wouldn't have happened, which takes away from the value of the day. It would be just another day off instead of a day of remembrance, like Memorial Day, Veterans Day, etc, as it has become.
- e. Megan - Another concern that has been brought up was the start date for the fall semester starting on a Thursday, which gives the students a weekend to move into the dorms. However, the fall semester

- Common Course Block proposal - The Common Calendar Committee presented a Common Course Block proposal to us in March of 2020. However, that was the month when everything shut down and schedules were disrupted. After discussing this with the provosts, it was agreed that this is not the time to start pushing the common course block alignment proposal. We are still trying to adjust to modified delivery modes. Megan will check with the registrars to see how much time they would need to make changes if they received them by October 1. They may be able to have it scheduled for the following year, maybe the one after that.
 - Denise - The number of students that are affected by this is very small relative to the number of students that we serve.
 - Megan - One of the programs that was considered a lot was the engineering program. Because they have to share courses across UAA and UAF, but they were also taking other courses, GERS, with some synchronous and asynchronous options. It may be worth checking with the engineering deans to see if the different departments can figure out a scheduling option that may help them in the meantime. The common course block was something the board wanted and was stated in policy.
 - Paul - It is in the policy. The board has not brought it up, but it is lingering in the background. The main point is, are we meeting the needs of the students with our current structure?
 - Gokhan - Is there any data on the number of students impacted by the common course structure? Paul - He has discussed it with the provosts, but it is not stored centrally, and we are unsure of how to pull that type of data. Anupma - estimates about 2% of the students. Gokhan would like a look at the data before we come up with a common course block for a proper comparison.

2. Faculty Governance Report - Jak, Gokhan, Jennifer

- a. Jak - Only met once since the last AC meeting. Dr. Pearl Brower met with the FA and reviewed the ANSI report to get feedback from as many groups as she can. It was a good meeting with her and the FA provided comments on her draft report. The FA

discussed setting goals for the academic year and defining the t

greater incentives for receiving the COVID-19 v

request is to further differentiate the tuition. Looking at where the students are and where the market is, this was done in consultation with the enrollment consultants. We want the community college tuitions, especially those that are serving the 100-200 level classes, to be frozen. Our community college tuition is high. We want a differentiated tuition for the Troth Yeddha campus with the four year degree programs.

g. Alex - Congratulations to UAA on their successful sit