DATE: December 2, 2016

TO: UAA Faculty Senate, UAF Faculty Senate, UAS Faculty Senate

FROM: Tara Smith, Chair, Faculty Alliance

RE: October Report of Activities

The Faculty Alliance consists of the president

Other continuing projects include feedback from faculty on the new common calendar and comparable budget information from all three universities and Statewide. Please note that my monthly meetings with President Johnsen for January through May 2017 have yet to be scheduled.

In my capacity as chair, I attended the two-day Leadership Summit held by President Johnsen for senior leadership across the system. We received communications and media relations training, national data from representatives from NCHEMS and SHEOO, an address by Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallot, and heard from an Alaskan panel of faculty, student, and community/business perspectives on the ACPE goal of 65% of Alaskans having some postsecondary credential by 2025. I was one of the panel members. The communications training was given by David Grossman and focused heavily on listening with empathy and communication principles to improve morale and collaboration. No gathering of this kind has occurred in our system for many years. Attendees also spent some time collaboratively focusing on how the Strategic Pathways process could be improved. I believe the quality of the training provided and the breadth of the participation gives reason to expect improved communication from our senior leaders across the system, though I do note that we have leaders who already excel at respectful communication. I think generalized enhancement of direct, empathetic, and respectful communication is welcome, regardless.

Faculty Alliance will have only one regular meeting in December on the 9th. Faculty Alliance will hold a retreat in January overlapping with the BOR retreat (19th & 20th) and will not hold a regular meeting on January, 27th. We hope to have an informal dinner with the regents on January 19th. When confirmed, this will be posted on the BOR website as per the Open Meetings Act. We have offered to conduct a shared activity before the dinner, as well.

Please do not hesitate to contact your respective Faculty Alliance members with any comments or questions on these items or to make suggestions of items we should address. I can be reached best at tmsmith@alaska.edu if you would like to contact me.







