

DATE: March 29, 2017  
TO: UAA Faculty Senate, UAF Faculty Senate, UAS Faculty Senate  
FROM: Tara Smith, Chair, Faculty Alliance  
RE: February Report of Activities

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The [Faculty Alliance](#) consists of the president-elect (First Vice President at UAA), president, and past president of each Faculty Senate in the University of Alaska System. The chair of this body rotates amongst the past presidents of each university. AY17 is UAA's year to chair, and this is why I am writing to you on behalf of the Faculty Alliance members.

The Faculty Alliance exists primarily to promote communication amongst the Faculty Senates and to/from Statewide leadership. We are an advisory body to the President and we have members serving on the Statewide Academic Council ([SAC](#)) and the chair is an ex-officio member of the Board of Regents Academic & Student Affairs (ASA) committee. We meet via Google Hangouts and anyone is welcome to attend our [meetings](#). President Johnsen is scheduled to attend the last 45 minutes of the rest of our meetings for the year. Both the ASA and BOR meetings are [livestreamed](#) if you are interested in watching.

Following this overview are documents related to the work of Faculty Alliance from March. This month, we held two regular meetings and three members participated in a discussion of shared governance with the regents, President Johnsen, General Counsel Mike Hostina, the chair of Staff Alliance Nate Bauer, and the president of the Coalition of Students, Colby Freel. The discussion began with a short [presentation](#) by President Johnsen and General Counsel Mike Hostina.

During the discussion, we asked for official communications to be improved between governance groups and administration, and we emphasized wanting to have full governance groups consulted even when a member or two might have served on a team. We discussed the benefits of creative conflict (from [Doing Democracy](#), page 13) and need for collaboration in order for our institutions to thrive. When the need for change to "business as usual" came up, we pointed out that faculty work (teaching, research, and service) is inherently about change—we are not impediments to change but essential partners in such endeavors. Further, in discussions of how long shared governance takes, it was a pleasure to point out that Faculty Alliance had been asked for feedback on the Strategic Pathways Phase 2 options on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and had delivered a summary inclusive of all three senates on February 28<sup>th</sup>. President Johnsen held up our report and said it was exactly the input he had wanted. The regents seemed engaged and appreciative of the discussion from all participants.

Out of that conversation, Chair O'Neil asked all three governance groups to gather responses to the questions on page 9 of President Johnsen's presentation. Faculty Alliance will be gathering input on these through the Faculty Senates for a report to the BOR for their June meeting.





UNIVERSITY  
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## Faculty Alliance

Resolution 2017-07

### Regarding the Statewide System Offices of the University of Alaska

Whereas the Board of Regents and President Johnson have publicly authorized the need for



*Whereas*, a significant potential for savings lies within an examination of administrative services

[chart](#)

*Whereas*, additional savings could be realized through more economical approaches to

*Whereas*, President Johnsen has already indicated that he opposes learning from the Oregon

a white paper at the March Board of Regents  
accurately reflect the actual cost of Statewide to the

*Whereas*, President Johnsen has distributed  
meeting with financial data that does not ac

board of Regents to take the

***Therefore Be It Resolved***, that the Faculty Alliance urges the UA Board  
following actions:

actions to the Statewide System Offices and the

- Publicly endorse significant redu

Tara Smith

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