



System Governance Council Constitution

Approved by President Pat Gamble on August 7, 2014

Article 1. Intent

It is the intent of the University of Alaska Board of Regents: 1) that the faculty, staff and students shall share in the governance of the university, 2) that shared governance is an integral part of the business of the university, and 3) that participators in shared governance are empowered by the UA Board of Regents to carry out their governance responsibilities to the best of their abilities without interference or fear of reprisal.

Article 2. Name

The UA Board of Regents hereby establishes a mechanism for System Governance consisting of faculty, staff, student, and alumni representatives, which shall be called the System Governance Council, hereinafter "Council."

Article 3. Authority, Role

A. Authority

The Council receives its authority by policy 03.01.01 of the UA Board of Regents, which derives its authority from the Constitution and Statutes of the State of Alaska. The Council shall carry out its functions subject to the authority of the UA Board of Regents and the University of Alaska President.

B. Role

The Council shall provide an opportunity for the chairs and representatives of Faculty Alliance, Staff Alliance, the Coalition of Student Leaders, along with the alumni associations to interact with the UA President, UA Board of Regents and others to discuss matters concerning the overall university system, and to work closely with the executive officer in the System Governance Office in matters pertaining to System Governance and its processes. Topics may include but are not limited to, the following: policies and procedures for, and participating in, the university budget process; the framing of long range plans, or topics and issues pertaining to two or more system governance groups: faculty, staff and/or students; university development; enhancing the university's public image and educating the public; discussing topics and issues pertaining to two or more system governance groups (Faculty Alliance, Staff Alliance and the Coalition of Student Leaders); and sharing input on the System Governance processes. The Council shall communicate the results of those discussions to the university community through Faculty Alliance, Staff Alliance and the Coalition of Student Leaders. The Council may also coordinate matters of mutual concern to the Faculty Alliance, the Staff Alliance, the Coalition of Student Leaders, and the alumni

associations.

Article 4. Membership and Organization

A. Membership

The voting membership of the Council shall consist of two members each from the Faculty Alliance, Staff Alliance, and Coalition of Student Leaders to include the chairs, and an additional representative elected by the originating bodies, along with one alumni association representative each from UAA, UAF and UAS (nine members total).

Voting members shall communicate their governance activities to their constituencies, and to their supervisors or professors as appropriate, on a regular basis.

B. Selection

Faculty and staff representatives to the Council shall be automatically selected by their respective alliances and the student coalition according to the election process in each system governance group's constitution and bylaws. Alumni association representatives shall be selected by the board of directors of the respective alumni association as prescribed in the association's bylaws.

C. Qualifications

Representatives to the Council must be employed by the University of Alaska and be a member of Faculty Alliance, Staff Alliance, Coalition of Student Leaders, or an alumni association for UAA, UAF, or UAS.

D. Recall of Members

The body by which the member was selected may recall any member. The System Governance body from where the member originates shall select a replacement to complete the term of office.

E. Ex-officio, Non-Voting Membership

Ex-officio, non-voting membership in the Council shall include the UA President, the chancellors, the executive officer from the System Governance Office, or other administrative officer, and any other such person or persons as the UA President may designate, and such others as determined by the Council.

F. Chair

1. Election

The chair for the Council shall be elected by and from the voting membership by a majority vote.

2. Duties

The chair for the Council shall a) preside over all meetings of the Council, b) represent the Council, and c) serve as primary Council contact to the UA President and the UA Board of Regents.

G. Task Forces

The UA Board of Regents, the UA President, or the Council may establish task forces to consider complex system issues pursuant to Council responsibilities. These task forces shall, in all cases, include governance representatives appointed by the Council. These

task forces are a formal part of shared governance, and as such, are subject to the Alaska Open Meeting Law per 5.C. below.

Article 5. Meetings

A. Regular and Special Meetings

The Council shall meet a minimum of six times per year. At least once per year, all governance group chairs shall meet with the UA President to identify system issues and plan for the coming year. Special Council meetings may be called by the UA Board of Regents, the UA President, the chair of the Council, or on petition of one-third of the membership of the Council.

B. Voting

Voting shall be by simple majority of the full voting membership except for amendments to the constitutions or bylaws. Amendments to the Council constitution affecting membership rights shall require a two-thirds majority of the voting membership in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

C. Open Meetings

All meetings of the Council are subject to the Alaska Open Meetings Law, AS 44.62.3101 and any additions or exemptions thereto, and Regents' Policy 02.06.01 and university regulations 02.06.01 through 02.06.04. This means that meetings of the Council are open to the public, agendas must be posted, and meeting records kept. Council activities shall be regularly communicated to the university community.

Article 6. Quorum

A minimum of a simple majority of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum.

Article 7. Parliamentary Authority

The parliamentary authority shall be the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Article 8. Constitutions and Bylaws, Amendments, Approval

A. Constitutions and Bylaws

The Council constitution and bylaws, once passed by the Council, shall be transmitted to the UA President for approval. Copies of Council constitutions and bylaws shall be maintained in the System Governance Office.

B. Amendments; Distribution Prior to Voting

Amendments to the constitution and bylaws shall be sent to all members of the Council at least 30 days prior to the meeting at which they will be considered.

C. Transmittal to the UA President for Approval

Amendments passed by the Council shall be sent to the UA President for approval.

Article 9. Review and Transmittal of Proposals

A. Review

Administrative proposals and issues affecting the university system or system community shall be submitted to the executive officer who shall send the items to the Council for review as appropriate. The Council shall respond to these proposals and issues within 40 days after receipt from the executive officer. The Council shall act upon those administrative proposals submitted in the summer months by October 15. Responses shall be transmitted to the executive officer for compilation and submission to the UA President. Proposals requiring immediate implementation for compliance with state or federal law shall be submitted to the Council for review, but may be implemented prior to their action.

B. Transmittal to the UA President

The executive officer shall submit the original proposal, together with the majority and minority views, in writing to the UA President for information or action as appropriate.

C. Transmittal to the UA Board of Regents

The chair for the Council may present Council views, including majority and minority views, in writing to the UA Board of Regents on any issue within the purview of shared governance. The Council may also present its views to the UA Board of Regents' committees as appropriate.

Article 10. Actions of the UA President and UA Board of Regents

A. Action by the UA President

The UA President shall, in writing, approve, disapprove, or modify a Council action, and notify the chair and the executive officer within forty-five (45) days of receiving notification of the action by the executive officer.

B. Modifications by the UA President

The UA President may modify a Council action if the modification does not effectively contravene or nullify the purpose or principle involved in the action.

C. Disapprovals

The UA President shall inform the Council of the reasons for any disapproval or modification within one month of disapproving or modifying a Council action.

D. UA Board of Regents Notification and Action

Council actions, which are modified or disapproved by the UA President, together with the statement of reasons, may be placed on the next UA Board of Regents' meeting agenda for the information of the board if requested by the Council. At the request of either the UA President or the Council, the Council action, which has been modified or disapproved, may be brought before the UA Board of Regents for action. The decision of the UA Board of Regents is final.

Article 11. Handbook

The Council shall annually submit a directory of Council members, a description of the Council and how it works, and the annual Council calendar to the executive officer for inclusion in the governance handbook. This handbook shall be posted online and publically available.

Article 12. Reports

The Council chair shall prepare a report of activities. This report shall be submitted to the System Governance executive officer for compilation into a single report of governance activities for submission to the UA President and the UA Board of Regents as part of the agenda for regular UA Board of Regents' meetings as activities occur. The System Governance executive officer shall maintain Council communications electronically.