

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**  
 UAF Faculty Senate Special Meeting #223  
 Monday, April 24, 2017

I Call to Order - Orion Lawlor  
 A. Roll Call

Faculty Senate Members Present:	Members Present - continued
ABRAMOWICZ, Ken (18)	QUICK, Kate (18)
AGGARWAL, Srijan (18) - audio	TILBURY, Jennifer (17)
AGUILAR-ISLAS, Ana (18) – audio	TUTTLE, Siri (17)
ANAHITA, Sine (18)	WILDFEUER, Sandra (18)
ARNDT, Kathy (17)	WILLIAMS, Gordon (17)
BACSUJLAKY, Mara (18)	
BENOWITZ, Jeff (18) – Andy Mahoney	Members absent:
BRET-HARTE, Donie (17) – Javier Fochesatto	ANGER, Andy (18)
CROSKREY, Wendy (18)	BOLTON, Bob (18)
CUNDIFF, Nicole (17) – Troy Bouffard	COLLINS, Eric (17)
DIERENFIELD, Candi (17)	HARDY, Sarah (17)
FALLEN, Chris (18)	LILJEDAHL, Anna (18)
FARMER, Daryl (17)	NEWBERRY, Rainer (17)
GIFFORD, Valerie (17)	PETERSON, Rorik (17)

## B. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as submitted. The addition of one more motion had been discussed at Administrative Committee, but no amendment to this agenda was requested.

## II A. President's Remarks -

there is still a \$10 million shortfall due to debt service and other financial commitments. Athletics cuts would not come near to solving the budget problem.

Another senator commented that more input from affected program faculty would have been useful for considering the ramifications of decisions. Orion noted that the new policy process approved by Faculty Senate this year will provide more opportunity for program faculty input in the future.

Without budgetary authority, faculty can still decide how viable these programs are based on whether or not they're working, and listening to their colleagues about their insights on these programs. ~~future. This is the project that faculty support the academic integrity of the institution. It is not a \$10 million (\$10 million) shortfall.~~

Orion noted that the Software Engineering program discontinuation has no faculty left due to attrition. Admissions had been suspended back in 2012. The remaining program faculty are focusing their efforts on the Master's in Computer Science program. Chris F. noted that these are relatively easy discontinuations to consider, especially as some of the emphasis areas have been folded into other degree programs. In the case of Software Engineering and Mineral Preparation, there is some expense savings as additional faculty would have had to be hired to continue them.

Proposed amendments to the motion were discussed and voted upon.

The Faculty Senate voted by majority to agree with the discontinuation of the seven specialized Engineering Master's degrees.

#### B. Discontinuation of Geography BA

Some senators had received input from CTC faculty urging them to leave the program in suspension and not agree to its discontinuation. The Provost noted, however, that the national standard is becoming a degree at the baccalaureate level, and if the program was brought back and accreditation sought again, it would almost certainly have to be done at that level, at significantly higher cost.

Amendments were discussed and approved. The Faculty Senate voted by majority to disagree with the discontinuation of the AAS in Dental Hygiene.

#### D. Discontinuation of Sociology BA

Sine A. commented about the program suspension in place for the BA. She recommended that collaboration be sought with UAA which has a strong Sociology Department, and UAS which has three PhD sociologists. This collaboration could be a model across the system. It was reported that there are 15 students who minored in sociology.

Public comment in support of sociology was given. General comments supporting the idea of collaboration across the system as opposed to discontinuing the program were also made, particularly in view of the Strategic Pathways process. The BS in Sociology will remain suspended. The differences in degree requirements between the BA and BS were noted.

Amendments were discussed and approved. The Faculty Senate voted by majority to disagree with the discontinuation of the BA in Sociology.

A short break occurred at approximately 2:15 PM.

VI New Business continued

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#### E. Discontinuation of Clinical & Community Psychology PhD

Provost Henrichs noted that cost is the primary issue .152 TDa [ (pa(A)P22(9)TW P)2(p)21.6(5)(2(0)510(5)(1)96(0)

Valerie G. spoke to a question about the number of program graduates and whether or not they have remained in Alaska. Cécile L. commented about whether clinical needs in Alaska can be met by workers with master's or baccalaureate degrees. She also commented about the need for the PhD program and UAA's ability to offer the program effectively.

Amendments were discussed and approved. The Faculty Senate voted by majority to disagree with the discontinuation of the PhD in Clinical and Community Psychology.

F. Discontinuation of Economics

BA - Economics

BBA - Economics

MS - Natural Resource Economics

Ken A. noted that he had collected some program numbers internally at the School, as well as current numbers from the Registrar's Office. He asked that Dean Mark Herrmann be allowed to speak, as well as some of the program faculty.

Dean Herrmann commented on the budget situation. The decision to discontinue their Economics programs is based purely on financial considerations. Their budget has already been reduced 33% over the last three years. They realize they are facing further cuts in the coming years, and even though they have increased their tuition with a surcharge, and performed aggressive student recruitment especially in the areas of homeland security and emergency management coupled with putting degrees online. Those efforts have helped, but they will not cover the cuts. The School is already run efficiently with the lowest cost per student credit hour at UAF. They have just 24 faculty with nearly 900 major students. After next year they will have the lowest amount of general funds of any other school or college despite having the third largest enrollment. In 2010, tuition was 18% of their revenue; today it is 53% and next year it will be over 60%. They are looking at over \$500,000 more in expenses than revenues next year. There is no room for faculty reductions, and their specialized accreditation is already at risk with current faculty numbers. The only option they have is a vertical cut in order to keep the core of their School intact with the least disruption to their students. Though the Economics program is very high quality, its annual cost is \$1 million and it only generates 5% of their majors. The ECON F100 course had brought over a quarter of a million dollars of tuition into the School, but with the expanded selection of GER courses that replaced the Perspectives on the Human Condition, enrollment dropped dramatically. He spoke about how difficult the decision to cut Economics programs has been. The budget cuts have been too large and too devastating to the School. Horizontal cuts put the entire School at risk, while a vertical cut will help it survive. They will still have an Econ minor, and a concentration will be added to the BBA. Unfortunately, the graduate program will be hardest hit.

Bret Luick of CES spoke about the relevance of an Economics program to the university, and expressed how he hated to see this development.

Joe Little of the Economics Program spoke about the strengths of the program and its graduates. He reminded the Faculty Senate that this type of process is not going to end and to make sure they are using valid and rational arguments in their decisions.

Amendments were discussed and voted upon. The more recent data that Ken A. contributed was discussed at length, with disagreement expressed by the Economics faculty present. Provost Henrichs commented that PAIR data would have been used in the academic program review, while the numbers provided by the Registrar's Office would reflect lower numbers since admissions were suspended last year. PAIR reports annualize enrollment figures which are higher than numbers by semester. Both sets of numbers are accurate, but reflect different sets of circumstances. Chris Wright, an Econ faculty, commented on the metrics that were used in the program review. A proposed amendment to add the newer numbers Ken had provided was not seconded. An amendment to add a statement to the "does not agree" rationale was adopted.

The Faculty Senate voted by majority to disagree with the discontinuations of the Economics programs.

- VII Members' Comments/Questions/Announcements
  - A. General Comments / Announcements
  - B. Committee Chair Comments

Due to time constraints, no comments or announcements were made.

- VIII Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Audio and video recordings of the meeting are posted online at:  
<http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty-senate/meetings/2016-17-fs-meetings/#223-special>

The following attachments consist of the motions in their final form after being amended during Meeting #223 on April 24, 2017.

**MOTION:**

**Discontinuation of Specialized Engineering Master's Degrees**

The UAF Faculty Senate observes:

- ” A Civil Engineering MS will remain in the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department if their other MS and MCE degrees listed below are discontinued. Admissions were suspended in 2014 for these degrees. Many of these separate degrees are now available as concentrations within the Civil Engineering MS.\*
- ” A Mining Engineering MS will remain if the Mineral Preparation Engineering MS is discontinued. The Mineral Preparation Engineering MS has not had more than one enrolled student since 2012, and admissions were suspended in 2014.
- ” A Computer Science MS will remain if the Software Engineering MSWE is discontinued. Admissions to the MSWE were suspended in 2012. The faculty who primarily taught the program's courses have retired. The Computer Science department does not protest the discontinuation.
- ” The intention of this recommendation is to have minimal impact to students and faculty.

Faculty Senate recommends:

- ” 7 K D W W K H 0 L Q H U D O 3 U H S D U D W L R Q ( Q J L Q H H U L Q J 0 6 S U R J U are no faculty members currently affiliated with the program and the last student from the program will graduate soon.

Therefore, the UAF Faculty Senate agrees to the discontinuation of the following specialized Engineering Master's Degrees:

- MS - Arctic Engineering
- MS - Engineering Management
- MS - Science Management
- MS - Environmental Engineering
- MCE - Civil Engineering
- MS - Mineral Preparation
- MSWE - Software Engineering

Effective: Fall 2017 upon approval of the UA Board of Regents

Rationale: There are not enough students to allow us to afford the expense of these specialized degrees in this budget climate, and each department will still retain a graduate program.

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**MOTION:**

**Discontinuation of the BA in Geography**

The UAF Faculty Senate observes:

- x The Geography BS degree will remain even if the BA is discontinued.
- x The majority of the Faculty and Administrative review committee members voted to discontinue the Geography BA, although at the Faculty review level, there was significant support for the program.

Faculty Senate recommends:

- x Geography might consider establishing collaborations with other social science programs on campus, such as through cross-listed courses, to increase the number of faculty to teach courses, attract new students, and fulfill GER requirements.

Therefore, the UAF Faculty Senate does not agree with the discontinuation of the BA in Geography.

Rationale: The savings from eliminating the BA while retaining the BS is minimal, because all of the classes in the discipline will still be taught by the faculty. Yet for many UAF students, the BA is achievable but earning a BS is not feasible, for example due to the BS degree requirement for calculus. BA degrees also allow students to have a broad experience in their major, while having a minor in a different subject.

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**MOTION:**

**Discontinuation of the AAS in Dental Hygiene**

The UAF Faculty Senate observes:

- x The Dental Hygiene program reliably graduated one cohort of 5 students at the end of each 2-year cycle. Admission to the program was suspended in summer 2016.
- x Alaska health care, including dental hygiene, is in acute need of qualified professionals. All graduates of the Dental Hygiene AAS were employed immediately after graduation.
- x The Alaska Department of Labor projected \* a 21.6% growth rate in the demand for Dental Hygienists through 2024, the highest listed growth rate.
- x There is a similar program at UAA that admits a cohort of 14 students each year.
- x This is a high cost and low enrollment program for structural reasons, including a need to have dedicated dental office equipment for the



**MOTION:**

**Discontinuation of the PhD in Clinical and Community Psychology**

Faculty Senate observes:

- x The program has approximately 20-35 students enrolled, and approximately 1 graduate per year.
- x Alaska has an enormous unmet demand for clinical & community psychology professionals.
- x Significant faculty and staff turnover has occurred within the Department of Psychology over the past 10 years. This turnover coupled with the fiscal crisis requires the department to shift focus from the PhD program to undergraduate programs including the online bachelor's degree.
- x The Faculty Evaluation Committee recommended continuation of the program.
- x This department operates a local clinic, the UAF Department of Psychology Clinic,\* which serves students, staff, faculty, and community members.
- x The accreditation-required oversight for clinical operations (with real patients) in Fairbanks is expensive, and coordination with UAA on this has been complex.
- x This was originally designed as a joint program between UAA and UAF.
- x This discontinuation has both strong proponents and opponents within the department.

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**MOTION:**

**Discontinuation of the Economics Programs**

The UAF Faculty Senate observes:

- x Our recent bachelor's degree general education requirements