

Spring Semester 2013 Highlights from UAF Faculty Senate

This is a summary of selected Faculty Senate actions and discussions that are relevant to most UAF faculty. For details, click the hot links to information on the Faculty Senate web site.

FACULTY EVALUATION

- Post-tenure review (May 6, 2013):
For post-tenure review of UNAC faculty, recommended elimination of levels of review above that of the dean (i.e., university-wide peer committee and the Provost) in cases where both the unit peer committee and the dean have judged the performance to be satisfactory. This recommendation has been submitted to university administration.

ALL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- Letter grades (March 4, 2013):
Changed the UAF Catalog [descriptions of letter grades](#).
- Database of expanded course descriptions (April 1, 2013):
Approved establishment of a central online collection of [expanded course descriptions](#) for all UAF courses. The purpose is to improve student advising. Access will be restricted behind a UA login. These descriptions will follow a template in which most elements can be populated by Banner. Course description, course goals, and student learning outcomes will be added, and may be extracted from existing course syllabi. OIT is developing a database structure and user interface.
- Students filing grade appeals would benefit from advice. The Academic Advising Center can provide this advice as a neutral party.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

- New program approved:
[B.A. degree in Secondary Education with Content Area](#) (School of Education)
- New minors approved:
[Minor in Military Security Studies](#) (School of Management)
[Minor in Dispute Resolution](#) (Justice Department)
- Minors discontinued:
[Minor in Leadership and Civic Engagement](#) (Northern Studies Department)
- Grading policy for undergraduate programs (March 4 and April 1, 2013):
A [grade of C- \(1.7\)](#) is now the minimum acceptable grade for undergraduate major / minor degree requirements and prerequisites. The previous minimum was C (2.0). The minimum GPA in a major is still 2.0. Individual programs may still establish more stringent requirements.
- Credit by Exam (February 4, 2013):
Amended the policy to state this [clarification](#): "It is up to the discretion of the department and instructor to decide which courses can be challenged, and the testing method and grading procedures."

GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Master's degrees (February 4, 2013):
Required student [transcripts to distinguish between](#) Master's with Thesis and Master's with Project.
- Master's degrees (February 4, 2013):
Reaffirmed the requirement that Master's Projects [must be archived](#) in the Rasmuson Library.
- Credit requirement in graduate programs (February 4, 2013):
Changed the [credit requirement](#) for the semester of thesis defense and semester of graduation. These credits must now be in the discipline of study, and the minimum requirement for a final semester that does not include thesis defense is reduced to one credit.
- Program continuation (May 6, 2013):
Approved continuation of the [Ph.D. program in Mathematics](#), in light of a new commitment by faculty and a department plan to revitalize the program.
- New certificate program approved:
[Graduate Certificate in Science Teaching and Outreach](#) (College of Natural Science and Mathematics)

REPORTS

- [Assessment of Electronic Course Evaluation Options for UAF](#). This report was submitted to the Faculty Senate (May 6, 2013). An [executive summary](#) is available. Further assessment and discussion will continue in 2013-14.
- Progress by the General Education Revitalization Committee is summarized in a [short report](#) (May 6, 2013). More detailed information will be available on the [committee's web page](#) by Fall 2013.
- The Interdisciplinary Issues Faculty Committee will complete its report in May 2013. The report will be posted on the [committee's web page](#).