

FROM THE PROVOST: January 5, 2015

• WELCOME BACK TO SPRING SEMESTER 2015—ENROLLMENT UPDATES

Welcome back to Spring Semester 2015! I hope all had a restful and rejuvenating holiday break. I'm attending a CASE workshop in the Lower 48 this week on development and fundraising for academic leaders. My workshop homework is reading the book listed below under "Provost Reads." Instruction in regular spring semester courses begins on Monday, January 12. The latest enrollment data for Spring (12/30/14) shows that UAS overall is holding its own in student headcount and credit hours (SCH) compared with this time last year; headcount is down just slightly at -.6% and SCH down -1.1%. Applications continue to be up. See http://www.alaska.edu/swbir/ir/early-semester-reports/spring_201501_combined.xls

The week of January 5 provides an important opportunity for faculty and staff professional development at all three UAS campuses. This includes adjunct faculty orientation plus an all-hands meeting for Arts and Sciences faculty in all three campuses. In Juneau *Spring Startup 2015* includes a Title IX training refresher, Blackboard training with Maureen O'Halloran, and updates about academic integrity policies and regulations. All are invited to participate. For details see http://www.uas.alaska.edu/provost/docs/convocation/spring_startup/2015springstartup.pdf

• REVIEW OF STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES—300/400-LEVEL COURSES

Thanks to all faculty and to Curriculum and Graduate committee members who've worked hard to fulfill our collective goal in Fall 2014 of reviewing student learning outcomes for all 100- and 200-level courses plus graduate courses in line with NWCCU accreditation standards. The next stage of this important effort is review of SLOs for all 300- and 400-level courses no later than April 1, 2015. As with lower division SLOs, these are to be submitted through our regular Curriculum Committee process. Our goal is to have faculty updates to all SLOs by the end of the 2014-15 academic year. For more details please see the Provost's Office website tab about Student Learning Outcomes.

• STARTUP OF DIVERSITY ACTION COMMITTEE

UAS is in the process of establishing its university-wide Diversity Action Committee. The charge for this committee is to: "1) support initiatives and training that advance affirmative action goals in recruitment, hiring and retention so that faculty, staff, and administration reflect the diverse populations we serve; 2) work with faculty in support of incorporating diverse histories, values, and perspectives in our curriculum; 3) assess and report on our progress in achieving these goals; and 4) make recommendations at least annually to the Chancellor about diversity actions."

Faculty Senate identified Assistant Professor Ernestine Hays as co-chair. Staff Council identified Ketchikan Campus staff member Marianne Ledford as the other co-chair (however Dayna Mackey will fill in on an interim basis until March). My office will be working with these co-chairs, governance groups, and HR to finalize the membership and move ahead with a meeting schedule.

• TOWARD UA-WIDE MINIMUM BACCALAUREATE ADMISSION STANDARDS

Faculty Alliance, made up of representatives from all three UA universities, continues to discuss a proposal for UA-wide minimum baccalaureate admission standards. An Alliance motion (#2014-02, dated October 22, 2014) invited faculty senates at all three universities to consider three options for such standards. Further refinement of this proposal is expected in Spring 2015.

• COMPLETING ADJUNCT FACULTY SELF-ASSESSMENTS

Deans, department chairs, and program heads are encouraged to use the UAS adjunct faculty self-assessment tool—found on the Provost's Office website—to engage all adjunct faculty in regular conversations about excellence in learning and teaching. While voluntary, this process helps UAS fulfill best practices in promoting success of adjunct faculty. For details see <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/provost/adjunct/selfassessment.html>

• ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW UPDATES

Academic program reviews for AY14-15 are moving forward in line with our UAS policy and procedures. Review documents and data prepared by faculty in Fall semester will now be assessed by Institutional Review Committees appointed by the Provost with input from faculty and deans. These committees are expected to complete their work no later than February 23, 2015. Input from deans and Faculty Senate will be sought before the reviews are finalized in April 2015. Details at http://www.uas.alaska.edu/provost/program_review.html

****PROVOST READS****

Development for Academic Leaders: A Practical Guide for Fundraising Success

Penelope Hunt, John Wiley & Sons, 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 5	University reopens
January 7-9	<i>Spring Startup</i> events
January 12	First day of instruction—Spring Semester 2015 Chancellor's Cabinet meeting, 8:30-11:00am
January 19	Holiday—Alaska Civil Rights Day/Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
January 20	UAS Deans and Directors meeting (revised date/time) 2:30-4:30pm
January 22-23	UA Board of Regents Retreat—Anchorage
January 26	Provost's Council—2:00-3:30pm
January 27	Strategic Planning and Budgeting Advisory Committee, 1:30-3:30pm