

UAF Faculty Senate President's Final Report

I'd like to begin by thanking everyone for two years as President of UAF's Faculty Senate. If there is one thing that I have learned it is that the Senate only works as a team, and all of you have been a great team. For shared governance to function everyone has to be engaged and have a voice, you've all been engaged and used your voice. We've made shared governance work at UAF, and have played a role in guiding this institution toward a bright future.

Every team needs leaders and facilitators, and I would like to thank one in particular, Prof. Cathy Cahill. Without her unwavering support as a President-Elect, this would have been a difficult time for all of us. She will be an excellent Faculty Senate President, and I know as well that Prof. Jennifer Reynolds will continue in this tradition. The future for the Faculty Senate is a bright one indeed with our active Senators and excellent facilitators guiding the discussion. Finally I would like to thank Jayne Harvie, without whose tireless efforts chaos would surely have reigned.

Over the past two years we've seen a lot of change at UAF and UA. I'd like to recount some of those changes and the role the Senate has played. From my own experience as a faculty member and a senator, it was often not clear what the roles of the President and President-Elect are, aside from presiding over the meetings. The answer is simple, many more meetings, but primarily we become the facilitators of change, and help our Provost and Chancellor in representing UAF at the system-wide level. After leaving the Senate floor, many of our motions pass through the Chancellor and Provost, and go to Statewide committees for approval at higher levels. Particularly new academic programs and UA-wide policy issues. Having faculty present at

