

ORAL HISTORY 01-84-02-03

Kathy Webb

Fairbanks, Alaska

Steve Lay, interviewer

Series: University Focus series

Kathy Webb talked about the Fairbanks assembly which is made up of faculty, staff and students, but the majority is made up of faculty members. It has its authority through the Board of Regents. There are four main standing committees. The academic council is the major one. It reviews all academic programs, courses and all curriculum on campus as well as the academic policy and calendars for the year. In reviewing these programs they have subcommittees that are specialized such as graduate subcommittee reviews all the graduate requests such as new courses or new programs. The academic council approves the changes they forward the material for chancellor approval. Certain items are approved by the Board of Regents. The members are elected by the campus community. Faculty is elected by faculty and staff and students do the same.

Students serve on committees.

Other committees of the Fairbanks assembly are staff affairs, student affairs and the budget committee. The budget committee has authority to review the budgets each year and procedures for developing the budget and the priorities. The standing committees are elected from the representatives and by the representatives of the assembly. The assembly has legislative authority but it is subject to approval by the chancellor. If it is a matter that affects the UA system then the Fairbanks assembly proposals are forwarded to the statewide assembly. The proposal goes to the president of the university for approval or veto. He then forwards to the Board of Regents.

The staff affairs committee has authority to look into issues such as tenure, promotion, benefits and leave for faculty and staff, salary and other issues. Tenure is being dealt with right now. If a faculty person isn't tenured what becomes of them.

The chairman of the standing committees -- the president and vice president make up the administrative committee. They determine what will be on the agenda. One of the issues on an upcoming meeting is a motion on a tuition policy. This is a statewide issue. There is a proposed draft for tuition policy. The assembly will adopt or amend the proposed draft. The student affairs committee reviews and develops policy for the bookstore. They've developed a subcommittee to develop guidelines for the operation of the bookstore. Other issues include developing a policy on cheating and plagiarism. The staff affairs committee is reviewing the criteria for faculty promotion evaluation. There is a proposal out of the student affairs office on student advising. When the assembly acts it will be forwarded to the chancellor's office. There are also ad hoc committees. There is an academic freedom ad hoc committee. They are to develop a draft policy to be reviewed by the full assembly. It would go on to the statewide office.

The president is elected from at large. It can be any member of the campus community. A nominating committee nominates a president who is elected for two years. The nomination is made to the assembly members and the assembly members elect their president. The vice president is elected from and by the assembly. Traditionally it has been a student. Standing committees are elected by the assembly and from the assembly members. Each standing committee elects its own chairperson. They can be faculty, staff or students.

Kathy Webb talked about other committees of the assembly. They are elected by the assembly. These are the promotion, tenure, sabbatical leave, grievance, evaluation for teaching effectiveness, and other committees. There are specific criteria for membership to these committees.