Staff Council Rural Affairs Committee

Annual Report, June 2012

Brad Krick, Committee Chair

The Rural Affairs committee oversees the general welfare of the UAF community not residing on the Fairbanks campus and monitors all activities affecting compliance with the Rural College mission statement of UAF.

The committee met monthly from September of 2011 to May of 2012, excepting January. We primarily covered the following items:

1. Geographic Differentials - We had long term discussions on UA’s geographic differentials. In December, Tara Ferguson, Compensation Director for UA, attended our meeting and took some of our questions and comments. As a result of that meeting, the committee worked in February to draft a resolution regarding geographic differentials. It was unanimously passed at the Feb. SC meeting and sent to Staff Alliance.

2. Peggy Wood Award - During an early 2012 Administrative Committee meeting, concerns were raised about Staff Council administering (setting rules and evaluating said rules) awards that it does not own. Since the Peggy Wood award is owned by the College of Rural and Community Development but administered by Rural Affairs, it was decided that the award should be returned to CRCD.

3. During our April meeting, we discussed the proposed reorganization of Staff Council. One suggestion which we took back to Staff Council: if we have fewer SC members overall, we should have more face-to-face meetings during the year.

4. Rural Nominations for Staff Make Student Count Award – during our May meeting, we discussed concerns about the award and ways to improve it. We specifically noted that the 2012 and 2011 awards were done on a fairly short timetable as compared to 2010 award. This likely has a greater impact on rural staff. Without a closer look at statistics for the award – how many rural staff are nominated each year, for example – we cannot make any specific claims.

The committee adjourns over the summer, and will meet again in August or September 2012.