Rural Affairs Committee Report for May SC Meeting

Committee Chair: Brad Krick

The Rural Affairs Committee met on May 2 and primarily discussed Staff Appreciation Day events and the Staff Make Students Count award.

We discussed if rural staff could help run eLive sessions for Staff Appreciation Day. We also discussed if campus and other sites that had been given money for events were using it. Brad said that he would follow up with the SAD committee on both counts.

The committee was asked to discuss if there was enough focus on the Staff Make Students Count award, since there were apparently not many rural staff nominated for this year's award. We agreed that the length of time to submit nominations was too short. This year and last year, nominations were open for about 10 – 14 days. However, in 2010, nominations were open for seven weeks. More time would have allowed nominators to assemble the necessary letters and either nominate more staff or nominate someone at all.

We also discussed that there might be a feeling on the part of rural campuses that they are less likely to be considered for the award, which might lead to fewer nominations overall. We wondered if the amount of work done by rural staff in support of students isn't being rated as highly or if there might be a sense that rural staff already have recognition with the Peggy Wood Award. It was noticed that of the UAF winners since the award started, one winner was at CTC and the rest were at the Fairbanks campus, with one Fairbanks campus employee in Anchorage (there are a few bios without campus locations, though).

It was also suggested that perhaps the award could be improved by finding a way to recognize the nominees as well as the winners. Brad summarized this information and passed it along to Juella Sparks.