

**UAF Alumni Association Board of Directors
Winter Meeting Agenda
Saturday, January 25, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Zoom meeting:

<https://alaska.zoom.us/j/82793575073?pwd=1nc6AzGCnEWaa2JFv8mCYrb3x8n49X.1>

I. Called to Order by Vice President Thomas Farrugia at 10:10 with Roll Call

Seat	Individual	Attendance
President, Seat 9C - FNSB	Rhonda Widener	online
Vice President, Seat 11C - Anchorage Municipality	Thomas Farrugia	online
Treasurer, Seat 2A - Southcentral Alaska	Birch Foster	online
Secretary, Seat 10C - outside of Alaska	Lorna Shaw	online
Seat 1A - rural Alaska	DeeDee Ivanoff	online
Seat 3A - FNSB	Ryan Tilbury	online
Seat 4B - Southcentral Alaska	Meredith Cameron	excused
Seat 5B - FNSB	Valerie Demming	online
Seat 6B - At Large	Darryl Lewis, Sr.	online
Seat 7B - Southeast Alaska	Tim Lamkin	online
Seat 8C - At Large	George Cromer	online; joined at 10:30
UAF Development & Alumni Relations Director, ex officio	Theresa Baker	online
Alumni Relations Manager, ex officio	Felicia Burrard	online
Alumni Storytelling Manager	Katie Straub	online

II. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: "The Board adopts the agenda as presented."

Moved by Rhonda Widener, seconded by Darryl Lewis. Adopted without objection

III. Approval of the September 2024 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: "The Board approves minutes for the September 2024 regular meeting."

Corrected minutes to remove the ASUAF student lines from the attendance table.

Moved by Birch Foster, seconded by Ryan Tilbury. Adopted without objection

IV. **Land Acknowledgement** -- read by Rhonda Widener

The UAF Alumni Association acknowledges the Alaska Native nations upon whose unceded traditional lands we are located. Our offices and facilities are located on Troth Yeddha, a sacred site of the Lower Tanana Dene people. We acknowledge and honor the ancestral & present land stewardship and place-based knowledge of the peoples of these territories.

OLD BUSINESS

V. **Standing Reports/Committees**

A. Executive Committee/ President's report – Rhonda Widener

Rhonda touched on the last executive committee meeting and recent UAFAA activities and thanked the board for their active participation. She also mentioned the fun and success of the recent UAF Alumni hockey event.

B. Executive Director Report – Theresa Bakker

A written report provided in the meeting packet and Theresa touched on some highlights. Athletics is revitalizing their Hall of Fame and they are seeking nominations. The Aurora featured a story about Coach O and his return to UAF. The Benefactor Fund is steadily growing and the fundraising letters for the Centennial Fund will be going out soon. Giving Day is coming up and UAFAA can discuss funding Look for Nook again as a pre-event marketing tool - to be discussed. The audit is complete and we will review today. Finally board elections are coming up - we need candidates, particularly for the Anchorage seat.

C. Network Reports – No reports

D. Scholarship – Lorna Shaw/Theresa Bakker

UAFAA has six endowed scholarships, three of which include UAFAA as a selection committee. The UAF Foundation is reviewing a scholarship management policy for future scholarships. The board discussed whether UAFAA should update the gift agreements to allow the Foundation to award the scholarships. The attached External Scholarship Selection Memo articulates the proposed changes. The work of the scholarship committee could pivot to scholarship fundraising and more direct contact with the recipients.

The memo will be remanded to the Scholarship Committee and/or Governance Committee for action and then back to the full board. The Scholarship Committee will also review Article VIII Section 1(F) of the Bylaws to recommend updates as necessary:
Scholarship Committee: Members – at least one active board member of the Association appointed by the President and confirmed by the Board. Charge – review applicants and make recommendations for Association scholarship recipients. Make recommendations on scholarship policies to the board. Participate in scholarship fundraising efforts. (Added 1/26/2008; 4/29/2016)

E. Legislative – Felicia Burud

The Fly-In is scheduled in Juneau Feb 26-27 for the Fly-In. Ryan and Birch to participate from the Board; there have been other interested (non-board) folks who have reached out for additional details. The committee is working with Chad Hutchison to help

prepare on the issues. Felicia is scheduling appointments for the full UA Fly-in, not just UAF. A meeting with Chancellor White is planned in advance of the event. The priorities will be shared with the full board.

F. Awards – Darryl Lewis Sr./Felicia Burud

Award recipients have been selected and arrangements are being made for the events. Future awards need more nominees - UAFAA Board Members should consider who in their networks is worthy and the staff can help fortify the nomination packets.

G. Governance – Thomas Farrugia

The next tasks for the committee are working with the scholarship committee and working on the upcoming elections. A meeting will be scheduled in February.

H. Finance – Birch Foster

The investment portfolio reached \$1M, though the value has dropped very slightly. Benefactor awards for \$13,400 were approved last month and will be distributed.

The attached Centennial Celebration Fundraising Memo details a proposal to account for the funds as they are raised. A transfer of funds from the investment account can serve as a backstop for the fundraising efforts, with a goal of \$100,000.

MOTION: “The UAFAA board rescinds a previous motion to establish a fund in the money market portion of the investment account. Monies raised for the Centennial Celebration and the proposed gift to UAF will be tracked internally and remain in the benefactor account at Denali State Bank.”

Moved by Valerie Demming, seconded by Birch Foster, passed without objection

MOTION: “The UAFAA board directs the alumni office to make \$100,000 of investment account earnings available in a money market portion of the fund for use during the Centennial celebration.”

Moved by Thomas Farrugia, seconded by Birch Foster, passed without objection.

I. Ad-hoc Centennial Committee – Rhonda Widener/Tim Lamkin

Tim has been working independently on the program and event side at this time. Will be connecting more directly with campus folks to move the projects forward. Rhonda and Felicia have been working on logo development and marketing. Working with the Foundation to understand the restrictions and rules for incentives for donors. The February Committee meeting will be scheduled soon.

VII. FY24 Audit Presentation

Arlene Koenig from RJG Accounting joined the meeting at 11:00 AM to share the annual audit results for the year ending June 30, 2024. The audit opinion was clean and the results were reviewed. Investments did well and experienced growth; expenses were compared year-over-year, and were down from 2023. The operating account has been adequate to fund UAFAA activities without needing support from investments. Records were in good order and staff was very helpful. The full report has been provided to the board in the board folder.

VII. Alumni Team Update – Felicia Burud and Katie Straub

Alumni Yearbook – Felicia shared that the same vendor (PCI) as used for the 2021 directory will be launching a new book project in 2025. Books will be in-hand November

2026, at the kick off of the Centennial event. UAFAA will begin outreach in March to help folks understand the project - and that the outreach from PCI is legitimate solicitation. This outreach will dovetail with a membership drive and opportunity to support the UAFAA. There may be an opportunity to review a logo at the April meeting.

Nanook Network - Katie reviewed the purpose of the Nanook Network site and perhaps the unique opportunity it presents with the politicization and avoidance of other social media sites. She will begin with CBSM to help showcase the platform and how it can support the schools in reaching their outreach goals. The Alumnus newsletter is now being delivered through Nanook Network.

Giving Day - Katie shared the dates of the 5th annual(ish) Giving Day - March 25-27, for 49 hours - as part of a statewide collaborative. The 2025 theme is "Find your reason to give" which is based on the successful 2024 Look for Nook campaign. This year Look for Nook will become a lead up event the week before Giving Day to help encourage participation. This will again include the rural campuses. UAFAA Board Members were encouraged to become Giving Day champions. In-person, the Alumni Lounge will have an open house on campus.

VIII. **UAF Strategic Goals** – Tom Hough, Executive Director of University Advancement

Tom encouraged the UAFAA Board to attend the February 11 meeting with Chancellor White to review UAF's strategic vision. Enrollment numbers and student credit hours are increased this semester, which he partly attributes to UAF now accepting the Common App. Twenty-three percent of UAF's enrollment is made up of indigenous students and the indigenous studies is the second fastest growing program. Tom asked if UAFAA would consider \$50K/year for each of the next four years? Potential to break ground as early as this spring. There is real urgency to move this forward now. He also underscored his availability to members of the board. He also provided an update on the veterans memorial - it was caught in transition while he switched jobs. Work will resume shortly as a new director has been hired.

VIV. **FY30 Strategic Plan** – Theresa Bakker, SOAR exercise (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results)

Theresa led the team through an online whiteboard session. Additional responses will be due to Theresa by this Friday - 100% participation is required. Results will be presented at the April meeting.

XII. **Good of the Order - Roundtable**

The spring meeting dates are April 18 and 19. Members shared their appreciation for the board and cooperative nature of the directors.

XIII. The meeting was **adjourned at 2:00 PM.**

2025 Meetings and Events

Jan. 31	Governor's Cup Tailgate at Lat 65
March 25-27	UAF Giving Day
April 18-19	UAFAA Spring BOD meeting in Fairbanks*

***Board Member attendance required**
++Voluntary attendance