

**UAF Alumni Association Board of Directors
Fall Meeting MINUTES**

Friday, September 26, 2025

9:30 a.m. I. **Call to Order and Roll Call - Called to Order at 9:33 am**

Rhonda Widener (President, Seat 9-FNSB)
Lorna Shaw (Vice President, Seat 10-Outside)
Valerie Anne Demming (Secretary, Seat 5-FNSB)
Birch Foster (Treasurer, Seat 2, Southcentral)
Dee Dee Ivanoff (Seat 1-Rural)
Ryan Tilbury (Seat 3-FNSB)
Meredith Cameron (Seat 4-Southcentral)
Darryl Lewis Sr. (Seat 6-At-Large)
Tim Lamkin (Seat 7-Southeast)
Kevin Liu (Seat 8-At Large)
Mischa Ellanna (Seat 11-Municipality of Anchorage)

Theresa Bakker, Executive Director, ex-officio

II. **Adoption of Agenda**

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

Lorna moved, Darryl seconded with corrected date.

III. **Approval of the Spring 2025 Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: "The Board approves minutes for the Spring 2025 meeting."

Ryan moved, Kevin seconded to approve with corrected spelling of "Ellanna."

IV. **Land Acknowledgement -- UAFAA President**

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.

10:00 a.m. V. **Standing Reports/Committees**

A. Executive Committee/ President's report-Rhonda Widener
Executive Committee met with our financial advisor and we are on track. The Department of Athletics brought back the Hall of Fame after several years of not having it. There are 10 awardees. Our own Darryl Lewis is one of the awardees.

When this was first started the Alumni Association helped to fund this function and the Alumni Association donated \$2,000 this year.

B. Executive Director Report – Theresa Bakker

Chancellor White has retired and Mike Sfraga is now UAF Interim Chancellor. Provost Prakash has retired with Charlene Stern becoming Interim Provost. UAFAA brought in \$21,000 for the Benefactor Fund. November 16th is now Alumni Day. “A Bear” is now appearing at UAF events. Giving Day was a success with \$810,000 brought in and a fun treasure hunt. Centennial celebration for 2027 is in progress. UAF went to AGU in Washington D.C. and a UAFAA group traveled to Juneau to advocate for UAF. Felicia discussed planning for Centennial in 2027. The site for collecting information, memories, and stories for the Centennial is going to be opened on November 16, 2026. The Board will see the Veterans Memorial. Jackson Nelson is the new USUAF President and will be speaking to the Board later today. Felicia spoke about the Hockey alumni and how they have put together a video about the 100 years of hockey for UAF. Jeanne Phillips is now on the committee to help plan for the Centennial as she helped plan for the 100th anniversary of UAF.

C. Network Reports –

Felicia spoke about the Hockey reunion and their focus of supporting the Hockey program into the future. University Women’s Association has decided to not continue the Christmas Bazaar this year. Mischa spoke about going around his office and finding out who was an UAF Alumni and giving them UAF pennants.

D. Scholarship-Ryan Tilbury

Ryan will connect with the alumni staff and readdress the goals of this committee as we are no longer choosing recipients for scholarships. Theresa mentioned that scholarships have changed from merit to enrollment focus.

E. Legislative-Meredith Cameron and Birch Foster

F. Awards-Darryl Lewis Sr.

Working on finding ways to increase nominations. The Board is asking this committee to look into establishing a process for our commencement alumni representative.

G. Meredith Cameron and Birch Foster - Legislative

H. Governance-Lorna Shaw

We discussed which board members are up for reelection and encouraged the members to actively seek out Alumni to run for Board of Directors. The staff and Lorna are going to work together to look at names.

G. Finance-Birch Foster

\$18,000 in Operating Account

\$41,000 in Benefactor Account

1.08M in Investor Account

Kevin asked about the possibility of talking to the investment club to look at our investments. It is planned that the Investment Club will be invited to our next Board Meeting. The annual audit is in process for our Winter Board Meeting.

11:00 a.m. VI. **Centennial Celebration – All**

[Link to Centennial Planning folder](#)

DESCRIPTION: Centennial Plan, PR Plan and Fundraising Plan

TODO: Outline Vision, Goals and Outcomes

There will be a meeting to address the Centennial Celebration. Rhonda and Tim are co-chairs. Theresa spoke to the planning that has already happened. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime event. It will be the celebration of the 100th year of the 1st meeting of the alumni. Logo - UAF branding combined with UAFAA branding. Felicia shared 3 different options of possible logos. Discussion. Felicia will address comments. Discussion of Centennial Gift. The Board asks the Centennial committee to meet at least once before the Winter Board Meeting to set vision and goals and then at the Winter meeting the board will vote to affirm these visions and goals.

12:00 p.m. **Lunch on Campus**

NEW BUSINESS

1:00 p.m. VII. **ASUAF Introduction**

Jackson Nelson, President

Theresa invited Jackson to attend our future Board meetings. Jackson started UAF in 2023 and has a diverse background finding what he wanted to focus on in his college career. He was a write-in candidate and was elected as President of ASUAF. He addressed monies needed for bettering UAF especially in the area of new housing for students. He mentioned advocating for mental health issues for the students. ASUAF is connecting with high schools in the Fairbanks area and creating alliances. He mentioned that they are focusing on student led events and involvement. Jackson said that student life has dramatically improved with mental health, food quality and choices, housing, support services for indigenous students, and diverse student groups.

Theresa invited Jackson as President of ASUAF to join UAFAA annual trip to Juneau to discuss issues with the Legislature. There was discussion on how UAFAA membership can connect with students for mentorship opportunities. There was an explanation of the structure of ASUAF. Lorna suggested beginning a “future alumni” award. Birch asked for ideas that the student body wants on campus. These ideas included the possibility of a for credit internship course, better proactive advising, better campus student life activities, and a local coffee shop on campus.

2:00 p.m. VIII. **Veteran Wall Memorial tour**

3:00 p.m. IX. **Report from UAF leadership - Mike Sfraga**
Interim UAF Chancellor

Dr. Mike Sfraga spoke with us over Zoom. He spoke to how all of us are a product of UAF and now giving back to it by being on the board. He addressed opportunities open to UAF in the future and that there will be decades possible for our future. He would like to help UAF in several ways during his eight months that are remaining as Interim Chancellor.

- 1. Stay up to date with changes in the Federal budget.*
- 2. Federal funds for science research have been requested to be restored.*
- 3. Concern with the reduction of money for the OMB. Concern for the ripples that will occur through the university but also through the State.*
- 4. Enrollment - Dr. Sfraga appreciates all of the staff throughout the departments that deal with enrollment. UAF is up 3-4% in enrollment.*
- 5. Housing - UAF needs to leverage money in the future to build more appropriate housing for the students.*
- 6. Grow Arctic Research at UAF.*
- 7. Become an R-1 University.*

4:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

Adjourned at 3:54

7:07 p.m. **OPTIONAL:** Nanook Hockey vs UNLV, Carlson Center

Saturday, September 27, 2025

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://alaska.zoom.us/j/84659394766?pwd=Wl4SgcrMN6fnPspyDj4kEVlazhqiOv.1&jst=2>

9:30 a.m.		Reconvene
		NEW BUSINESS
10:00 a.m.	X.	Strategic Planning - All
		10:30 a.m. - Explore SOAR
		11-12 p.m. - What are the things we need to do
12:00 p.m.		Working Lunch Break
		12-1 p.m. - Cluster to dos into Objectives
		1-2 p.m. Determine work priorities
2:00 p.m.	XI.	Good of the Order- Roundtable
		Next BOD meeting – Jan. 24, 2026 -- Winter Board teleconference
2:30 p.m.	XII.	Adjourn
		MOTION: “The UAFAA Board Adjourns.”
6:00 p.m.		Blue & Gold Celebration - Wood Center

Future Meetings and Events

2025

Sept. 27	UAF Blue & Gold Celebration
Oct. 10-11	Nanooks Hockey at ASU alumni event
Nov. 3	BOR Public Testimony
Nov 7-8	BOR Meeting, Anchorage
Dec. 2	Giving Tuesday

2026

Jan. 24	UAFAA BOD winter teleconference*
Jan 16-17	Gov Cup in Fairbanks
April 17-18	UAFAA Spring BOD meeting in Fairbanks
May 2	UAF Commencement
Nov 17	Kickoff Centennial Celebration

***Board Member attendance required**

++Voluntary attendance