

**UAF Alumni Association Board of Directors  
Spring Meeting Minutes - DRAFT  
Friday & Saturday, April 19 & 20, 2024**

Friday, April 19, 2024

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**I. Called to Order by President Tom Brice at 9:35 AM with Roll Call**

<b>Seat</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
President, Seat 7-B - Southeast AK (outgoing)	Tom Brice	in-person
Vice-President, Seat -9C - FNSB	Rhonda Widener	in-person
Treasurer, Seat 11-C - Municipality of Anchorage	Thomas Farrugia	
Secretary, Seat 10-C - Outside of AK	Lorna Shaw	online
Seat 1-A - Rural AK	Dee Dee Ivanoff	
Seat 2-A - Southcentral A	Birch Foster	in-person
Seat 3-A - FNSB	Ryan Tilbury	
Seat 4-B - Southcentral AK (re-elected)	Meredith Cameron	online
Seat 5-B - FNSB (outgoing)	Meadow Bailey	
Seat 5-B - FNSB (incoming)	Valerie Demming	in-person
Seat 6-B - At Large	Darryl Lewis, Sr.	in-person
Seat 7-B - Southeast AK (incoming)	Tim Lamkin	online
Seat 8-C - At Large	George Cromer	
Hockey Chapter, ex officio	Scott Roselius	
ASUAF, ex officio	Cole Osowski	
ASUAF, ex officio	Sarah Finney	
Executive Director, ex officio	Theresa Baker	in-person
Acting Alumni Relations Director, ex officio	Felicia Burrard	in-person
Alumni Storytelling Manager	Katie Straub	in-person

II. **Adoption of Agenda**

**MOTION: “That the Board adopts the agenda as presented.”**

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

III. **Approval of the September 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION: “The Board approves minutes for the September 2023 regular meeting.”**

Moved by Birch Foster, second by Rhonda Widener. Adopted without objection.

IV. **Land Acknowledgement** – read by Tom Brice

*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.*

V. The **Annual Meeting of Members** was called to order at 9:41 am. No additional participants called in to participate; meeting was adjourned at 9:46 am.

*Per bylaws, gavel into annual meeting of members, see if anyone wishes to speak, then gavel back out and into regular meeting.*

VI. **Introductions:** New and returning board members were introduced and welcomed.

VII. **Standing Reports/Committees**

A. Executive Committee/ President’s report – Tom Brice

Written report shared in advance of the meeting. Tom complimented the board members and staff and reviewed highlights of the past 6+ months. He encouraged future boards to continue the Juneau advocacy efforts strengthened over the past several years. He shared excitement about the upcoming centennial celebration and reiterated his commitment to continue to help plan for the events.

B. Executive Director Report – Theresa Bakker

Written report shared in advance of meeting. Theresa shared some of the early history of UAFAA and the research the staff has done to prepare. She thanked the board and her staff for their hard work and creativity to showcase UAF so well. Theresa reviewed the success of Giving Day and the more than 1,000 donors who participated. UAFAA played a larger role in Giving Day than before and the efforts and energy were noticed and appreciated. She told stories about the Alumni team riding the bus the week before Giving Day for Socks for Students and leading the Look for Nook bear search. There is a great reel on social media with Nook giving out the socks. With 380 alumni gifts out of the 1,000, Troth Yeddha was the most popular fund. Separately, the Benefactor Fund has provided over \$500K to UAF to-date and has raised nearly \$18K this year so far. Theresa encouraged board members to make their annual donations. She also touched on the

planning efforts underway for reunion/rendezvous. The kick-off is scheduled July 18 to honor our awardees. She encouraged board participation and attendance at Reunion.

C. Network and ex officio reports – as available

Katie Straub shared excitement about expanding Nanook Network: [New version here](#). About to launch a communication encouraging people to update profiles, etc. that will be received by ~40K people. She is working with on campus advisors to encourage them to create profiles and encourage students to be active on the network. Birch posted a job on the Network and was complimentary of the process and ease. There is now a web-based app that is being tested at this time.

D. Scholarship – Lorna Shaw

Scholarship activities are delayed at UAF as a result of the delays in the rollout of the new federal FAFSA form. The scholarship committee will meet later this year, likely in May, to evaluate and award scholarships.

E. Legislative – Meredith Cameron

The Legislative committee has had a banner year with excellent participation in the Juneau fly-in Feb 21 and 22, advocating for UA priorities including funding for TVEP and R1 research designation for UAF. Tom and Meredith provided updates on UA funding to-date including R1, the Education Tax Credit, TVEP funding, and the AK Performance Scholarships. Meredith will continue her efforts leading the committee, and will continue to engage federally as well.

F. Awards – Darryl Lewis Sr.

Alumni award winners have been [announced](#). Distinguished Alumnus Ryan Muspratt and William R Cashen Service Award recipient Kelly Ward will be celebrated at the Nanook Rendezvous alumni reunion in July 2024.

G. Governance – Rhonda Widener

Rhonda thanked board members for active recruitment for the open board seats, and encouraged members to actively recruit for the board year-round to create interest in serving on the UAFAA board. Voter turnout is consistent with recent years but there may be opportunities to heighten awareness of elections and increase participation.

**MOTION: “The Board approves the 2024 election results.”**

Moved by Birch Foster, second by Darryl Lewis. Adopted without objection.

Newly elected board members:

- Seat 4-B, Southcentral AK – Meredith Cameron
- Seat 5-B, Fairbanks – Valerie Demming
- Seat 6-B, At Large – Darryl Lewis, Sr.
- Seat 7-B, Southeast AK – Tim Lamkin

*New board members will be seated Saturday, April 20 and begin voting during new business.*

H. Finance – Thomas Farrugia

Current account balances

Investment Account	\$911,280
Denali State Bank - Operating	\$38,864
Denali State Bank - Benefactor	\$37,440

In Thomas’s absence, President Brice led the FY25 budget discussion.

**MOTION: “The Board approves the FY25 budget.”**

Moved by Birch Foster, second by Rhonda Widener. Adopted without objection.

I. Ad-hoc Centennial Celebration – Tom Brice

The board has had ongoing broad conversations about what the celebration can and should look like. The centennial is November 2027, making the celebration from November 2026 to November 2027. Fundraising and administrative tasks should begin now.

The following motion was proposed by the Finance Committee and discussed with the UAFAA investment advisor.

**MOTION: The UAFAA board directs the alumni office to establish a fund in the money market portion of the investment account. The intention for this fund will be to deposit monies raised for the Centennial Celebration and the proposed gift to UAF. All proceeds from centennial celebration fundraising activities will be deposited into this account to be used solely for the Centennial Celebration.**

Moved by Darryl Lewis, second by Birch Foster. Adopted without objection.

Tom Brice made the first \$1000 contribution for the fund.

**MOTION: “The board authorizes \$25,000 to be moved from the Benefactor Fund into the newly created Centennial Celebration Fund.”**

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

VIII. **Veterans’ Memorial Update** – Tom Hough, Director Dept of Veterans and Military Services

Tom shared that UAF serves 420 veterans and an additional 135 active duty service members. He discussed the challenges of an outdoor memorial in the difficult climate of Fairbanks and the need for creativity in honoring UAF’s veterans. The indoor memorial wall will feature artwork by veterans and active duty military members in an area that will be seen every day. A plaque will

recognize veterans, their sacrifices, and the next stage in their lives. This can be completed - and sustained for many many years - with the funding passed along by the UAFAA.

Construction/installation will start in May to be ready for the fall semester. The unveiling and dedication will be on Monday, August 26th, the first day of the fall semester. This coincides with the Alaska Defense Forum, hosted in Fairbanks, and will be seen by visiting military officials. The Board thanked Tom for his leadership in veteran support and offered to help if there is assistance he needs. He will also reach out to other veteran organizations to solicit their participation in the dedication and other events as well. Tom took the UAFAA Board to visit the memorial in-person.

**IX. Outgoing Board Member Recognition and Thanks**

Tom and the board expressed appreciation for Meadow's service to UAFAA, though she was not able to attend the meeting. Rhonda presented a personalized bowl from the AK Bowl Company to thank him for his long and enthusiastic service to UAFAA and UAF.

Tom has agreed to continue serving on the Centennial Celebration Committee and the Legislative Committee. He will continue to be a strong advocate of UAF.

**X. Student Success Center Update – Jennifer Tilbury, Associate Vice Provost for Student Success and Nick Middelstadt, Project Mgr. Design & Construction, Facilities Services**

Jen joined the meeting via Zoom from the Czech Republic and Nick joined in-person. They discussed the origin of the Student Success Center, and shared images of the floorplan and mock ups of what it will look like when fully complete. Roughly 4 years ago a committee was formed to discuss a comprehensive one-stop shop to assist students at UAF. Consolidating the location of a wide variety of services helps to normalize and support help-seeking behaviors. It will be located on the 6th floor of the Rasmussen Library. The committee retained a consultant, Quality Metrics, to help with market research to assess needs and availability of resources. The project was delayed with COVID, but the team re-engaged and worked with Bettisworth North to design the space. Research indicates great success when these types of centers are co-located with libraries - it is also expected to increase traffic to the library.

The student success center will house academic advising, career services office and interview room, study area - for groups and individuals, academic tutoring, a classroom, workstations, a family room and a mother's room, staff offices, testing services, restrooms. Nanook Navigator management will be based here and the varied departments providing services will experience more centralization than before. A user committee has been formed for collaboration among the various departments providing services. The space is meant to serve all UAF students, regardless of their campus affiliations. They are also working on a corresponding online website with the same services to ensure widespread access.

Nick took the UAFAA Board to tour the Student Success Center space in-person.

After the tour the meeting was recessed to Saturday, April 20 at 10 AM.

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Vice-President Rhonda Widener reconvened the meeting at 10:07 am with the following participants:

Seat	Individual	Attendance
Vice-President, Seat -9C - FNSB	Rhonda Widener	in-person
Treasurer, Seat 11-C - Municipality of Anchorage	Thomas Farrugia	excused
Secretary, Seat 10-C - Outside of AK	Lorna Shaw	online
Seat 1-A - Rural AK	Dee Dee Ivanoff	by phone from 10:38 10:52
Seat 2-A - Southcentral A	Birch Foster	in-person
Seat 3-A - FNSB	Ryan Tilbury	excused
Seat 4-B - Southcentral AK (re-elected)	Meredith Cameron	online
Seat 5-B - FNSB	Valerie Demming	in-person
Seat 6-B - At Large	Darryl Lewis, Sr.	in-person
Seat 7-B - Southeast AK	Tim Lamkin	online
Seat 8-C - At Large	George Cromer	
Executive Director, ex officio	Theresa Baker	in-person
Acting Alumni Relations Director, ex officio	Felicia Burrard	in-person

## NEW BUSINESS

### XI. New/Returning Board Members Seated

Meredith Cameron (Seat 4-Southcentral) - second term  
Valerie Anne Demming (Seat 5-FNSB)- first term  
Darryl Lewis Sr. (Seat 6-At-Large) - second term  
Tim Lamkin (Seat 7-Southeast) - first term

### XII. Disclosures of conflicts of interest – full board

Board members were asked to disclose real or perceived potential conflicts of interest. The following were shared:

Meredith works for NOAA as Chief of Staff for their Legislative Affairs Office and is sometimes involved in conversations regarding UA funding. She also has an ethics hold and is unable to participate in partisan activities.

Tim works for the Alaska State Legislature primarily on fisheries and education issues, including the UA budget. Although he does not have an actual vote, he can be indirectly influential in decisions. Tim's daughter is a current UAF student.

Rhonda works for the University of Alaska, directly with President Pitney but the programs she manages are not in conflict with any work of UAFAA.

Board members are asked to disclose conflicts if they arise in the future.

**XIII. Code of Conduct – full board**

The official Code of Conduct was provided to all board members and they were asked to review the document - for the first time or as a refresher - to ensure that board members do not violate the code. Signed acknowledgements were provided to Alumni Association staff.

**XIV. Board Officer Elections – full board**

**MOTION: “The board approves the following slate of officers and executive committee members:**

<b>President</b>	<b>Rhonda Widener</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Thomas Farrugia</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Lorna Shaw</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Birch Foster</b>
<b>Executive Committee member at-large</b>	<b>Darryl Lewis”</b>

Moved by Valerie Demming, second by Birch Foster. Adopted without objection.

**XV. Committee officers/chairs – full board**

**MOTION: “The board approves the following committee members:**

**Governance**

**Chair Thomas Farrugia and members Lorna Shaw, Tim Lamkin, Valerie Demming, and Rhonda Widener**

**Finance**

**Chair Birch Foster and members Valerie Demming, Tim Lamkin, Wayne Donaldson, Jason Gootee, Jeremy Vermilyea, Rhonda Widener, Thomas Farrugia, and Lorna Shaw**

**Awards**

**Chair Darryl Lewis and members Tim Lamkin, Ryan Tilbury, Michelle Rizk, Libby Eddy, and Rhonda Widener**

**Scholarship**

**Chair Lorna Shaw and members Valerie Demming, Ryan Tilbury, Darryl Lewis, George Comer, Gabrielle Vance, Stacey Howdeshell, Jessica Farr, and Rhonda Widener**

### Legislative

Chair Meredith Cameron and members Tim Lamkin, Ryan Tilbury, Birch Foster, Dee Dee Ivanoff, Tom Brice, and Rhonda Widener

### Ad Hoc Centennial Celebration

Chair Tim Lamkin and members include the full board plus MaryBeth Lowen and Tom Brice”

Moved by Birch Foster, second by Valerie Demming. Adopted without objection.

#### XVI. **Signatures for checking account**

**MOTION: The Board approves assigning signature authority for these members: Valerie Demming, Rhonda Widener, Ryan Tilbury, Felicia Burud and Theresa Bakker, and removing the following as signatories: Thomas Farrugia who no longer serves as treasurer and past board members Meadow Bailey and Forrest Kuiper.”**

Moved by Valerie Demming, second by Birch Foster. Adopted without objection.

#### XVII. **Proposed Meeting Schedule 2024-2025 – Theresa Bakker**

September 13-14, 2024 -- Fall Board Meeting in Fairbanks

January 25, 2025 -- Winter Board teleconference

April 18-19, 2025 -- Spring Board Meeting in Fairbanks

**MOTION “The board approves the 2024-2025 meeting schedule.”**

Moved by Birch Foster, second by Darryl Lewis. Adopted without objection.

#### XVIII. **Strategic Plan Update – Rhonda Widener**

The [2021-2025 UAFAA Strategic Plan](#) was reviewed. Theresa walked the board through the process used to create the plan as well as the work that has been completed within the plan framework. UAFAA staff agreed to reach out to the same consultant to see if he will be available to lead the next strategic plan. The board reviewed progress on the plan and updated priorities and objectives.

**MOTION: “The board agrees to begin planning for next strategic plan 2025-2030”**

Moved by Darryl Lewis, second by Birch Foster. Adopted without objection.

#### XIX. **Board Travel – Rhonda Widener**

The board discussed balancing board travel, with desire, availability, budget, and the priorities of UAFAA. Board members are encouraged to take an active role in UAFAA events and travel will be an ongoing discussion.

#### XX. **Good of the Order – Roundtable**

Board members shared observations and accolades for staff and board members. Tim is excited about working on the Centennial Celebration plans. Meredith expressed gratitude for Rhonda’s leadership and shared upcoming work for the legislative committee. Darryl welcomed new board members and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to continue to serve. Valerie appreciates

the engagement opportunities her service to UAFAA will bring. Birch is pleased to note the talent and dedication of staff and board members and looks forward to the next year. Rhonda thanked the board and staff for their confidence in her leadership and is looking forward to coordinating with the board to deliver great results.

XXI. The meeting was **adjourned at 1:16 pm.**

#### **Future Meetings and Events - 2024**

April 19-20	UAFAA BOD Meeting, Fairbanks*
May 4	Commencement
May 20	BOR Public Testimony
May 22-23	BOR Meeting, Anchorage
July 18-20	Nanook Rendezvous alumni reunion
Sept. 3	BOR Public Testimony
Sept 5-6	BOR Meeting, Juneau
Sept 14	Blue and Gold Celebration
Nov 4	BOR Public Testimony
Nov 7-8	BOR Meeting, Fairbanks

\*Board Member attendance required  
++Voluntary attendance