Hello UAF! Welcome to your monthly Staff Council update!

Upcoming UAF EVENTS!

Staff Volunteer Day
The University Advocacy Committee is meeting with Michelle Bartlett, Director of Summer Sessions, to refine the details for possible event coordination - stay tuned!

Hello UAF!
This is the first of what will be a monthly report of topics discussed at UAF’s Staff Council meetings, provided by members of the Staff Affairs Committee.

This document will provide you with all the important information discussed in the meetings, as well as links to find further information on any topic in which you may be interested. This communication will always include the link to Staff Council’s website, for access to all the official documentation and recordings from our meetings.

Strategic Pathways Phase 2 Decisions in September: Phase 3 Feedback Open
Some decisions for Phase 2 will be made at the June Board of Regents meeting; the rest will not be made until September’s meeting. Phase 3 reports are available on the Pathways website, along with links for you to provide your feedback. The Phase 3 review areas are: Art and Humanities, Social and Natural Science, Mine Training, Finance, Risk Management, Land Management, and Facilities.

Staff and Faculty Representation on the Board of Regents
Resolutions were passed by Staff Council and Staff Alliance which request that a staff and a faculty member be appointed to the UA Board of Regents at the next available opportunity (anticipated later this year). Faculty Senate also passed a similar resolution at their meeting. The Staff Council and Staff Alliance resolutions were forwarded to the President and the Board of Regents.

Chancellor Search
Staff had the highest participation and engagement of the targeted groups! The search committee will forward their recommendation on the President, who will make the final selection.

VC for Student Services Search
The applicant pool was not considered to be deep enough after the initial position announcement. As such, the Spelman Johnson search firm has been engaged to facilitate a wider search. They are meeting with the hiring committee this week.

Celebrating a century 1917-2017
Staff Council’s University Advocacy Developing Staff Mentoring Process
The University Advocacy Committee has been testing Google Communities as a potential online forum for staff to ask the campus community for help with processes (i.e. how to run a specific BANNER report). Prior Mentoring Survey results indicated that many staff are interested in mentoring others and that many newer staff would appreciate guidance, but historically these groups have not had a reliable way to connect.

Furlough Leave Accrual Resolution Passed
Staff Council and Staff Alliance passed a resolution requesting that regulations be changed such that exempt and non-exempt employees are treated equitably with regard to leave accrual during furlough. Specifically, the resolution explicitly requests that both groups accrue leave during furlough. The resolution was forwarded to President Johnsen, who was supportive of the idea, and implementation of these changes is expected soon.

Faculty Senate Provides Recommendations on Proposed Program Deletions
Faculty Senate was recently asked to comment on 15 proposed program deletions. The committee noted the difficulty in making meaningful recommendations when so many programs are being considered for deletion. Ultimately their recommendation was that 7 of the programs be deleted.

University Advocacy Committee Organizes Food Drive for the Bone Builders Program.
The University Advocacy Committee is collecting donations of single-serve, kid-friendly food items for the Bone Builders program. The program supports kids who are dependent upon the school lunch program during the academic year, which is unavailable over the summer. The committee will post flyers with information on food drop locations around campus. The donations will be collected and tallied weekly, so that the UAF’s donations to the program can be properly tracked.

To review the official Staff Council meeting minutes, read the agenda and handouts, or to hear the official recording, please visit the Staff Council Website.
Chancellor’s Remarks

Enrollment Initiatives

There are 5 working groups which have been trying to identify areas for strategic investments to grow enrollment and retention. Their recommendations have been forwarded to the Chancellor, and Core Cabinet will discuss them.

Military Engagement

Alaska has a very high percentage of veterans, and many military students are in bachelors and graduate programs, thanks to our flexible distance education opportunities. UAF is working on our military engagement with veterans, active duty and military families, to see where improvements in recruitment and retention can be made. There is a program called The 8 Keys for Veteran’s Success, which may be used to guide our future engagement improvements.

Staff Emeritus

The Staff Emeriti process is not currently well defined (i.e. recommendation processes, timelines, Emeriti titles, decision-making channels, etc.). Chancellor Thomas suggested that this could be a future project for Staff council to undertake, with the ultimate goal being to create clearly defined procedures.

-Jessica Allard, Staff Affairs Chair
Staff Regent on the BoR
The addition of a Staff Regent was removed from the Faculty Regent request to the legislature. Faculty have independently found sponsors, and staff council will need to find our own and start the request process over. Staff council will need to get legislature to sponsor a bill to add a Staff Regent. If you know anyone who may be interested in being a sponsor, please contact Kara Axx, at kaaxx@alaska.edu.

As a reminder, should you choose to contact a legislator yourself, please do not use university resources.

Faculty Senate Updates
Faculty Senate has several projects currently in progress:
- Revising the Faculty Blue Book which outlines criteria for promotion and tenure preparation
- Working on finding a replacement program for Faculty 180;
- Revised the AHEAD Program policy at UAF which allows high school students to take their last year at UAF, as General Studies majors. Contact Alex Fitts, Dean of General Studies, for more information.
- The Provost and faculty within the School of Education favor moving the college to CNSM. Feedback on this is welcomed!

UAF Staff Council Morale Survey
A morale survey will be sent out to staff via OrgSync early next year, and annually thereafter, to understand how morale is changing over time. UAA’s Staff Council conducts their own morale survey which has allowed them to utilize multiple years of data to help its constituents.

UAF Staff Council feels that this kind of information is important in empowering us to help you in the same way, across all our campuses. Data from the survey will be reported only in the aggregate and any information provided will be used solely to aid Staff Council in its goal to improve staff morale.

Proposed Alaska Native Cultural Orientation
The Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Native Education (CACNE) has proposed a mandatory half-day seminar, offered twice per year, for all new employees. CACNE is looking for feedback on making this orientation successful, and on how well-received it would be. Staff council will be providing a summary of our comments in response to this feedback request. Current Staff Council recommendations include a shorter duration, requiring completion by all staff, and offering an online completion option.

To review the official Staff Council agenda and handouts, or to hear the official recording, please visit the Staff Council website.

Special thanks to Jessica Armstrong and Emily Perryman for helping with this month’s notes!

- Jessica Allard, Staff Affairs Chair