Staff Council Rural Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2011,11:00 AM

Present: Brad Krick, Evelyn Pensgard, Mary Sue Dates, Ben Tucker, Robert Mackey

Excused: Ashley Munro, Pips Veazey, Richard Machida, Sara Battiest

Absent: Travis Brinzow, Bryan Uher

Invited: Tara Ferguson

The meeting started at 11:05

1. The committee did not approve the November meeting minutes because Brad thought they did not have quorum.
2. The committee took a break until Tara Ferguson could arrive and resumed meeting at 11:35.

The state’s most recent geographic differential survey was in 2008. UA does not have a process for calculating our geo diff - we’ve normally matched the state. Robert Mackey asked about the possibility of a lump sum system. The federal government is moving to such a system because percentage-based increases favor higher earners. Tara indicated that she is not the decision maker, but that the percentage system is probably what we’ll sick with.

Robert asked why the geo diffs are not paid for Fairbanks and Juneau, and if there was a  positive climate for revisiting them. Tara said that she was not sure. Someone suggested that we push to have this issue re-examined.

Ben reported that in Homer, Safeway’s food prices have been going up. Employees in Homer drive to Soldotna to get Fred Meyer prices. Some people drive to Anchorage to purchase food. They also have higher fuel prices, but there is a 0% geo diff for these communities.

Robert pointed out that the local high school pays more than UAF. The cost of living is much higher. He asked if current employees would be grandfathered in if their location had their geo diff decrease. Tara thinks that they would not be grandfathered, but this is her personal opinion
3. There was an update on Staff Appreciation Day: they will talk to the Campus Directors instead of a survey.
4. Brad gave an update on the Peggy Wood Award
5. Meeting in January pushed back to Jan 10, 11:00 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00.