Staff Council Rural Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2001 11:00 AM

Present: Ben Tucker, Richard Machida, Brad Krick, Ashley Munro, Traviz Brinzow, Evelyn Pensgard, Sara Battiest

Absent: Robert Mackey, Bryan Uher, Mary Sue Dates, Pips Veazey.

The meeting was called to order at 11:15

1. Cola/Geographic Differential: Brad asked where the committee should start. Travis asked what kind of formula does the state use. Ashley said that the last time they did this they only found out the university matches the state. Travis pointed out that the per diem they use now is nothing like what is on the website. Ben said that the COLA adjustment for Homer was the same as Anchorage [no increase] but that its cost of living is the same as Seward, which does have an increase. Brad said that neither the state or UA has a geodiff for Seward, but he only has the FY12 data. Richard said that we should be doing fact-finding, not recommendations, and we need more info. Brad asked if she should email UA Compensation Director Jeannine Senechal [now retired, Tara Ferguson is the new person in that position] and invite her to the next meeting. The committee agreed. Someone asked if there was a Board of Regents’ policy; Brad and Mary Sue looked for policies and only found one [**P04.05.060.].**
2. Ben asked about health benefits and programs that don’t happen for people not on main campus. Richard sid that they only things were missing were in-person programs like exercise programs. Ashley siad that they will do visits or bring people to town. Sara pointed out that SRC passes can’t help distance staff. Brad said that he will email the new SRC director when they are hired to ask about old equipment.
3. Brad asked for a volunteer for the Peggy Wood award. Richard asked for context on the award. Ashley said that this person would be responsible for collecting money from the directors, purchasing the plaques, and mailing out the plaque. She’ll help to advise the person who volunteers.
4. SAD: Ashley said that last year’s funds for video-conferencing and web-streaming were one-time only. The amount of money for the conferencing and streaming was the same as the amount budgeted for food at Fairbanks; only 3 people used the streaming. Most campuses did their own thing. Sara asked about the lack of participation.

Richard said that web-streaming is not complicated or expensive, and that the equipment might be available through Scotty – he just can’t provide the staff.

Brad suggested that it would be a good thing if one of the RA members volunteered on the SAD committee.

Sara suggested an informal survey of the campuses. Ben suggested a photo-sharing of different campus events – Sara suggested that a contest. Ashley volunteered to write-up a survey about SAD events for distance staff so that we can get a sense for what kind of events rural staff would like for SAD.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05