

October 26, 2009

Board of Regents
Suite 202 Butrovich Building
Fairbanks, AK 99775

Dear Regents:

University of Alaska Fairbanks Staff Council represents University staff located in Fairbanks and throughout Alaska at multiple Community Campuses. We are proud to act as a vital entity of this challenging and dynamic university system. The Council is also a voice for University staff when issues of concern arise, especially when staff compensation and benefits are affected.

Staff Council feels that the proposed FY11 3% compensation increase is not sufficient for unrepresented staff, especially when our health care premiums are anticipated to increase, and our cost of living is higher than elsewhere. Living in the interior and rural areas of Alaska is expensive for UAF staff members. UAF employees face higher heating fuel and shipping costs when compared to Anchorage. These costs also affect the price of food and supplies.

In these uncertain economic times, we look to our administrators to support, stand up for and to provide assurance that the staff will receive adequate compensation increases to meet the rising cost of living and health care expenses. University employees will most likely take home less in their paychecks in FY11 with the 3% increase recommended by the Chancellors than they do now.

Retaining our talented staff is also difficult when our staff compensation increases are eroding and unpredictable. With the abolishment of yearly step increases in favor of across the board (ATB) increases from the legislature, pay increases with commensurate years of service are no longer status quo. There is an urgent need for UAF administration to provide the staff with a clear, long-term plan to solve these compensation issues. Employees understand these times are hard for everyone, however, UAF administration must also understand that employees, who provide critical services and support for the University, must be compensated fairly in order to be retained.

UAF Staff Council requests that the Board of Regents raise the proposed FY11 3% staff compensation increase to provide parity with union represented staff, and to help meet the rising cost of living and rising health care premiums that we face.

Respectfully,



Martin Klein, Staff Council President

cc: Mark Hamilton, UA President
Brian Rogers, UAF Chancellor
Beth Behner, UA Chief Human Resources Officer