

UAF Staff Council President's Report September 2011

Communication Committee

Last spring a communication committee was formed in order to discuss the most effective means for enhancing dialogue among staff council members and constituents. John Clendenin has agreed to head this committee in order to examine current practices and propose standardizing methods of communication for staff council members.

Committee Membership

Nicole has been working hard to confirm committee members for both internal and external staff council committees. We currently have a good list of committees and members and will try to briefly confirm this information at the September staff council meeting.

Staff Council Attendance and Roll Call

The call of names at the beginning of each staff council meeting will be organized by unit, and representatives will be identified within their specific unit. We hope that this will serve to increase an awareness of who represents each unit and help connect representatives within units. In addition, we will be able to efficiently establish which attending alternates can vote and whether we have a quorum.

Staff Compensation

One of the most pressing issues this semester is staff compensation. Juella will be representing Staff Alliance at the Board of Regents meeting in Juneau this week to address staff issues including staff compensation and benefits. Because the Board of Regents makes a final decision on staff compensation in November we have limited time to provide input into this process. It is of utmost importance that we organize efforts through regular communication with our constituents and through staff council forums to educate the staff and solicit feedback.

Health Care

Another major focus for the first semester will be on proposed changes to our health care benefit. Input from staff council will be needed by the end of the calendar year in order to impact decisions.

Employee Tuition Waiver

The employee tuition waiver is being reviewed and changes have been proposed for the upcoming year. Input is currently being solicited about the proposed changes, and the staff affairs committee is in the process of drafting a resolution that states that we do not support changes to the employee tuition waiver benefit. Problems with the proposed changes include negative tax ramifications, the punitive approach to paying for failed classes and details about the connection with the benefit to "satisfactory academic progress".