

UAF Staff Council President's Report September 2011

System Governance

System Governance is composed of leaders from student, faculty, staff and alumni units across the university system. The first meeting of the year took place last week and was attended by the President and his cabinet. The President spoke about his strategic direction campaign as well as his policy and regulation review. Staff council will be working with staff alliance in order to provide feedback about current regulations and policies in an organized fashion.

Committee Membership

Nicole has verified current staff council membership and terms for committees. In order to act as an effective organization and spread the workload, we expect that each staff council member play an active role on both an internal and an external committee.

Staff Compensation

Staff Alliance has been hard at work advocating for staff across the state. President Gamble has communicated his support for a 3.5% increase in compensation for nonrepresented staff for the 2013 fiscal year. Nicole forwarded a request for staff input to the Board of Regents in order to encourage them to include this 3.5% increase in the budget. Please pass the word to your constituents and ask that testimony is cc'ed to governance leaders in order to capture the record of staff support.

Accreditation Review

Staff turned out in good numbers for the accreditation review panel meeting earlier this month. The panel asked some pointed questions about what was working well and what needed attention at UAF, and several staff identified specific resources that they felt would be helpful in fulfilling their job duties. Overall, the tone was very positive and

Health Care Issues

At this point the tobacco surcharge is the only potential change to the health care package on the table for the upcoming fiscal year. Questions remain about what determines a smoker (ie, if an employee has a celebratory cigar, does that make someone a smoker?) and who will make decisions regarding penalties for a multitude of scenarios that will develop as a result of the policy.