

EMR Committee Report
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Submitted by Walker Wheeler

The EMR committee has met multiple times since the last staff council meeting. The focus has primarily been setting up for nominations and the election proper. We were able to setup a host that people can access named <http://staffcouncil.uaf.edu>, where the nomination applications and the election application will live. We were able to successfully get the information from HR that populates the back end databases that help us do our annual unit counts, and determine who can participate in the elections.

In our regular EMR meeting (non-election focus), several good questions and recommendations have come up. The topics include the following list.

1. Better on boarding: Reps and Alts need to have an area that documents the rules of participation and expresses the expectation of serving. Potentially there could be a short couple paragraph explanation posted on the staff council website that would help fulfill this. An area that lists all the tools that people have available to them and a quick tutorial should also be maintained for all Reps and Alts.
2. The Bylaws and constitution need to be reviewed and modified to reflect current day organizational terminology, and over sites from the extensive revisions in 2009. Specific points are to address nomenclature (of staff), committee requirements (what committees do you have to serve on), internal consistency between bylaws and constitution, and more specifically define who can serve on staff council and who staff council represents. The question came up regarding temporary employees and if they are to be represented by staff council.
3. Vacancies: Staff council is at about 50% operating capacity, considering the number of rep and alt positions that are open. A recommendation has been made to include in the Staff Council meeting the number of vacancies for reps and alts broken down by each unit. This would be one way to notify unit reps and alts that they can go and do recruiting in their own area. Recommendations were also made about Staff Council email lists for each unit including the current reps and alts for the unit as well as an advertisement of the vacancies. It was also pointed out that Staff Council has not been as proactive in moving Alternates to empty Representative positions. A practice that will be corrected in the near future.
4. Question of Quorum: EMR was also specifically asked to address question of quorum on Staff Council Committees. Some chairs have felt like they could not move business forward in their committee unless they have a quorum. As a result important issues linger not receiving the attention they require. Roberts Rules of order guides are ruling here, with a citation below. In the event that a committee is having difficulty calling quorum, the committee should come back to staff council and ask for a specific number of members in the committee present to be the new quorum requirement for that committee. This can then be voted on during the general assembly.

"In committee of the whole the quorum is the same as in the assembly; in any other committee the majority is a quorum, unless the assembly order otherwise and it must wait for a quorum before proceeding to business." -- Roberts Rules of Order, Section 43, paragraph 3, line 1