

## Rural Affairs Committee Report for Staff Council Meeting 222

Committee Chair: Brad Krick

The committee met on November 1. We discussed geographic differentials, differences with health programs between main campus and rural sites, the Peggy Wood award, and Staff Appreciation Day.

On the topic of geographic differentials, we agreed that we needed more information about how UA calculates the geo diff, so we decided to invite UA's Compensation Director, Tara Ferguson, to our next meeting. We'll do more fact-finding before we take or recommend any action.

We considered whether or not there were differences between the availability of health programs at the Fairbanks campus and at other sites. After putting our heads together, we found that the IHP and WIN programs seem to be available in some form another (via teleconference, site visits, or bringing a staff member in to town), but that there are facility differences. For example, it was pointed out that a free SRC pass/reduced membership doesn't help someone not in Fairbanks. We decided that we would ask what happens to old SRC equipment and email the new SRC director once they've been hired.

We discussed the basic schedule and logistics for the Peggy Wood award. We're looking for a volunteer from our committee to deal with that work, and will look to form an award committee of non-RA members to evaluate the nominations. Last year, we started asking for nominations in mid-November, with a deadline of March 25.

Finally, we discussed Staff Appreciation Day and how the event will or might work with rural staff. Last year, the Chancellor allocated money for webstreaming sessions as a one-time deal. Apparently, only three people used the stream last year. The committee talked about whether or not streaming could be done more cheaply. We also decided to send out a survey to ask staff what kind of events they would like to have for SAD. It was also suggested that we consider fun things like picture contests or photosharing events between all the campuses.