

UAF Staff Council

Response to Request for Information: What are we doing well and what can we do better (and how)

What are we doing well?

1. Expressing the interests and concerns of our constituents
2. Addressing issues in a timely manner (tuition waiver, tobacco surcharge)
3. Standing firm on those topics that are important to staff, regardless of the outcome
4. People on committees are working well together; president and vice president want to do a great job; apathy seems to have gotten worse over time; we need to stand strong and speak with a strong and unified voice
5. The connections that SC has made with other entities [administration] within the UA system is wonderful; the leg work has been done and those connections are working well; we have the tools to do a great job; a restructure might be the way to fix this issue with good oversight
6. Identifying the important topics
7. Listening and communicating people's views
8. Lots of information and opportunities to participate in committees across campus

What could we do better, and how?

1. Compensation and Health Care issues
Suggestions: combine these committees so that benefits and compensation are considered simultaneously
2. Coordinate with other governing bodies and collective bargaining groups
Suggestions: schedule regular meetings throughout the year
3. Communication to all staff
Suggestions: no clear answer on this one
4. Coming to the table with personal agendas and voicing our own opinions and not those of our constituents
Suggestions: get out and speak with staff in assigned units, ask for feedback and concerns, communicate information about staff council business

5. UAF governance voice to constituents is confusing and broken

Suggestions: provide staff council handbook; have a dedicated council rep sit with employees and educate them about governance; work with hr on-boarding

6. Staff Council does not have enough manpower; too many committees

Suggestions: we need more people on council...allow and staff to sit on committees, allow units additional seats (although these seats are currently unfilled), simplify and streamline committees, hand out governance org charts

7. Increasing involvement

Suggestions: Increasing communication – Google groups for staff council and individual units; clearer definitions of jobs and duties, streamline meetings – do we all need to meet at the same time or can work be done in smaller groups; get all reports ahead of time and limit discussions to clarification s and questions, not rehashing content

8. No orientation for members entering mid-term

9. Communication: every staff council member needs to take their own notes and then send to their own unity – takes a lot of effort and seems to be reinventing the wheel

Suggestions: Have the minutes from Nicole ready the same day so each staff member can pull their information from it to send to their units and not duplicate efforts

10. Feedback for external committees: Not sure how to get input to take back to the external committee; we don't discuss the external committee at the staff council but only submit reports

Suggestions: Want feedback on what to bring back to committees

Total number of people who responded: 6