

MINUTES
UAF STAFF COUNCIL #229
Tuesday, June 19, 2012
8:45-11:00AM
Geophysical Institute, Globe Room – Elvey 215

Audio Conference information: 1-800-893-8850, Participant PIN: 8244236

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

A. Roll Call

Present:

Pips Veazey
Juella Sparks
Evelyn Pensgard (phone)
Sara Battiest (phone)
Deb Jeppsen (phone)
MaryAlice Short
Debbie Gonzalez
Kala Hansen
Nichole Kloefer (phone)
Carolyn Simmons
Debbie Coxon
Gary Newman
Mary Sue Dates (phone)
Claudia Koch
Heather Leavengood (phone)
Robin Weinant (phone)
Jed Lowell (phone)
John Clendenin
Jennifer Youngberg

Present (cont.):

Walker Wheeler
Brad Krick
Cat Williams (Alt, phone)
Travis Brinzow
Richard Machida
Gary Bender (phone)
Britton Anderson

Excused:

Jennifer Elhard
Robert Mackey
Kim Eames

Absent:

Maria Russell
Ryan Keele

Guests:

Chancellor Brian Rogers
Doug Schrage, Fire Chief
Deb Blevins

- Quorum was met

B. Approval of Agenda for Staff Council Meeting #229

- The agenda was amended to allow Chancellor Rogers to speak upon arrival. The agenda was approved as amended.

C. Approval of Minutes for Staff Council Meeting #226 – March 2012

- Minutes approved as presented

D. Approval of Minutes for Staff Council Meeting #227 – April 2012

- Minutes approved as presented

E. Approval of Minutes for Staff Council Meeting #228 – May 2012

- Minutes approved as amended.

2. STATUS OF PENDING ACTIONS (no pending actions)

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

- There were no public comment participants at this meeting.

4. OFFICER REPORTS

A. Pips Veazey, President

- The focus of today's meeting will be officer elections. Copies of the President's Report are available on the back table; it has also been emailed to members. The report includes a summary of Staff Council work over the past years, including a status update on the proposed Staff Council reorganization. If there is anything that you would like to have added to this annual report, contact Pips. Next year, Pips will be working with Staff Council as Past President. She hopes that this work will include additional progress on the proposed reorganization.

B. Juella Sparks, Vice President

- Last week, Staff Alliance passed a motion requesting that the administration include a 5.5% placeholder for the compensation increase in the projected FY14 budget. This motion should now be on the president's desk. The administration will review this request and, in August or September, they will present their budget to the board of regents.
- Staff Alliance's retreat is scheduled for August. Juella will serve as Staff Alliance chair until this time.
- The Health Care Taskforce will be meeting this summer. An announcement went out last week welcoming the eleven taskforce members. They hope to have their first audio meeting either later this week or next week during which they plan to divide responsibilities and begin working. The taskforce is a one-time taskforce that includes faculty, staff, and administration. They plan to look for different solutions to our health care issues. They will present their findings to the Joint Health Care Committee and President Gamble in August or September. Following this, the taskforce will dissolve.

5. REMARKS BY CHANCELLOR ROGERS

- There is a large amount of construction on campus this summer. Next year we will see the beginning of construction on the new engineering building that will essentially connect Duckering and Bunnell buildings through an area designed for students to interact. Construction on the engineering building will disrupt the campus for some time, including the closure of the road near these buildings. This will require some adjustment during the summer of 2013, the 2013-2014 school year, and the summer of 2014.
- The Chancellor's Cabinet took their first look at the FY14 capital budget request yesterday. This coming year we will be requesting additional funds for deferred maintenance and specific research projects in our legislative request. This year we received research money in the capital budget for the first time. This included money for research on ocean acidification and unmanned aerial systems. We plan to repeat this request next year along with an additional request for funding to cover planning and design of the new heat and power plant.
- Next summer we also expect to begin construction on a public-private partnership to expand the Wood Center. This Wood Center extension will essentially become the dining facility for all students, replacing Lola Tilly Commons. This will be an addition to the south and west of the existing Wood Center.
- Work on the operating budget will begin soon. Yesterday, Chancellor Rogers reviewed assumptions for the FY14 budget with Michelle Rizk. FY14 is expected to be a tight year.
- The president and board of regents are looking to minimize the FY14 tuition increase. The board's policy holds that tuition increases are to be the average of inflation for the last three years, unless they decide otherwise. This year we may see a 2% increase in tuition which would be the smallest tuition increase in over a decade. This will not leave a lot of funding for compensation increases, especially since the legislature maintains that we provide half of the money for pay increases. The governor will likely hold this line. The FY14 budget is not likely to include a lot of funding for new programs. A suggestion was made to try to use the fact that we are holding the line on tuition increases as a bargaining point when requesting funding from the legislature.
- Chancellor Rogers thanked Pips and Juella for their work over the past year. The working relationship between the chancellor and the officers has been very strong. He further expressed his appreciation for Staff Council's recent work and encouraged members to think about ways that Staff Council can be most effective in communicating and working on behalf of staff.
- Chancellor Rogers thanked those committees that have submitted regular reports over the past year. The reports assist the chancellor in keeping track of the work being done by the various committees. Chancellor Rogers specifically thanked the Elections, Membership, and Rules Committee for their hard work over the past year. He also thanked Staff Council for their work on Staff Appreciation Day.

- The chancellor stated that although we have had a difficult year in terms of challenges related to compensation and benefits, we have been fortunate compared too many other states that have been forced to make significant cuts. Our legislature and governor have treated us very well, thanks to high oil prices. We hope to continue this in the future.
- *UAF's Unmanned Aerial Systems Research:* UAF is looking at potential civilian applications and development for these systems. This includes attempting to find applications and creating the equipment to accomplish this. We are working with DOD and we are looking at how to make sure Alaska has prominence in the industry. Our role will probably not be in building the UAVs themselves, but working on the instrumentation and associated packages. Senator Mark Begich asked the legislature to provide five-million dollars in funding to UAF for this research. This request was approved of by the legislature. We are also attempting to develop an additional mission for Eielson Air Force Base that would be a primary site for unmanned aerial systems involving research and development for military and civilian systems. Part of our goal is to assist in the community effort to hold on to Eielson Air Force Base.
- Chancellor Rogers concluded his remarks by encouraging Staff Council to consider opening each meeting with a safety minute as we work towards our goal of instilling a culture of safety across campus.

6. GOVERNANCE REPORTS

A. Jennifer Reynolds, President – Faculty Senate (Presented immediately following officer elections).

- Jennifer is the Faculty Senate President for the 2012-2013 school year, having served this past year as President Elect of as UAF Faculty Senate. She has also served the past two years on Faculty Alliance. Jennifer is a UAF faculty member with the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.
- Faculty Senate has been working on an effort to institute an electronic faculty activity reporting system. This effort originated in the Provost's Office and is important for faculty, staff, and the administration alike. The purpose of the system is to gather information pertaining to faculty activity reports. These reports contain a large amount of information both confidential information and general activities that are public. For some time, the university has desired the capability to easily mine these reports for data on university performance and unit performance. Because these contained confidential information, this was problematic and time consuming. Eric Maddson, on behalf of the provost, looked at available software. This is the second round of this effort. The first attempt occurred five years ago, it did not involve Faculty Senate and ended in failure. This time, Faculty senate has participated from the beginning. They selected two software programs for further review. Based on this, UAF Faculty Senate voted in favor of a program called 'Faculty 180' by *Data 180*, for which they were interested in a pilot test. It is likely that this pilot test will begin either this fall or in winter. If successful, the software may be used throughout UAF the following year. As of now, working on selecting software is solely a UAF effort run from the Provost's Office, but could eventually be used systemwide, following successful testing. This software will ideally reduce the burden on staff members that typically have to gather data from various sources in order to produce reports. This software would benefit faculty, staff, and the administration, and would ideally, enhance our ability to present the university to the legislature and the public. Faculty Senate is concerned about issues pertaining to the implementation of such software, but they are moving forward due to their confidence in the positive nature of their relationship with the provost, chancellor, and Dana Thomas who is now with statewide. Access to the data would be authorized by the Chancellor's Office and the Provost due to the sensitivity of the data.
- Faculty Senate unanimously passed a 'Tobacco No-Hire Resolution in April. This resolution was adopted verbatim by both Juneau and Anchorage Faculty Senates. Faculty currently has the impression that there is interest at the statewide level, and possibly at the administrative level of doing something to discourage tobacco use by employees. Faculty Senate believes that when this issue is discussed as part of the health care package, it is a collective bargaining issue and it is therefore left to their unions. When it entered the realm of faculty hiring, it became a Faculty Senate issue that was beyond collective bargaining. Who you hire at the university has a major impact on everyone and such a policy would have interfered with our ability to hire from groups of people who are larger tobacco users as a whole, compared to UAF. This would include international faculty and researchers as well as Alaska Natives. Faculty Senate felt strongly against any policy that would affect the university's ability to hire from these groups, especially from the Alaska Native group, which is very important for rural campuses. It is Faculty Senate's current impression

that the possibility of establishing a no-hire policy for tobacco users is no longer on the table, but that interest remains in finding some workable policy that would actively discourage tobacco use.

- Faculty Senate is also working on topics related to academic programs, the organization of Faculty Senate, faculty performance evaluations, distance delivery of science labs, and the decision of whether Alaska should participate in the ‘Complete College America Program.’ UAF Faculty Senate previously voted unanimously against the ‘Complete College America Program,’ as did UAA and UAS Faculty Senates. Faculty Alliance then voted against it and this position was forwarded to President Gamble.
- This year, Cathy Cahill will serve as the statewide chair of Faculty Alliance.

B. Mari Freitag, President – ASUAF (no report)

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Staff Council President and Vice President Elections

- Candidates on the ballot for Staff Council FY13 President were Gary Newman and Juella Sparks. Candidates provided a brief statement regarding their qualifications and answered questions. Juella Sparks was elected Staff Council President for FY13.
- Candidates for the office of Staff Council Vice President were Claudia Koch and Ashley Munro. Claudia provided a brief statement and answered questions. Ashley was unavailable for today’s meeting. A brief summary of Ashley’s Governance contributions was provided in her absence. Claudia Koch was elected UAF Staff Council Vice President for FY13.
- Voting for both offices was conducted by EMR. Representatives participating via teleconference submitted votes for both president and vice president through email.
- Both terms of office began immediately following the meeting and run through May 31, 2013.

B. Staff Council Strategic Direction Proposal Update from EMR

- EMR has not had the opportunity to address this issue to date due to time and scheduling constraints.

C. Staff Council Representation on Staff Alliance Update from EMR

- Amendments to the UAF Staff Council Bylaws regarding UAF Staff Council representation on Staff Alliance are now complete. Amendments to the UAF Staff Council Constitution on this same matter are complete and awaiting approval by Chancellor Rogers. Once this is complete, updated versions of both the bylaws and constitution will be posted online.

D. Health Care Update

- Staff Council members serving on the Staff Health Care Committee should plan on a busy fall at which time SHCC will address both the proposals developed by the Health Care Taskforce and vendor contracts that are up for renewal.

E. Employee Tuition Benefit Update

- Attachment 229-4: System Governance Council Motion 2012-1
- Attachment 229-5: Letter from President Gamble to SGC
- Pips recently worked with Monique Musick, , Vice Chair of Staff Alliance, to write up remaining staff concerns with the latest proposed changes to the Employee Tuition Benefit. This has been forwarded to President Gamble. Staff Alliance passed a letter stating that they liked the overall concept of GPA, but that there were other issues they felt needed to be addressed. These proposed changes may be addressed at the September board of regents meeting. Juella will keep council up to date on this issue.

F. Staff Appreciation Day Update

- Staff Appreciation Day was successful. It was noted that the event could be more successful if assistance could be obtained from some of the other departments across campus. Development course offerings and availability were discussed as issues that could benefit from additional attention for future years. One major issue regarding development courses pertained to staff registering for courses and then failing to attend. The two separate scheduling tracks were noted to be problematic. The two tracks were implemented to ease the flow through lunch lines. This was successful in that lunch lines moved very smoothly, but some staff experienced confusion and problems in the registration process due to this format. The food selection this year allowed for improved flow of staff through the lines. Lola Tilly staff members were complimented for their excellent service during Staff Appreciation Day. Requests were made for the combination of some of the prizes in future events in order to streamline the process.

BREAK**8. NEW BUSINESS (None)****9. GUEST SPEAKERS (None)****COMMITTEE REPORTS****10. INTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS****A. Staff Affairs – Mary Sue Dates**

- Attachment 229-9: Annual Committee Report

B. Rural Affairs – Brad Krick

- Attachment 229-10: Annual Committee Report
- Rural Affairs had a very successful year, highlighted by their work on geographic differentials. The committee is hopeful that this might have some effect at the Staff Alliance level.

C. Elections, Membership, and Rules – Walker Wheeler

- Attachment 229-3: Annual Committee Report
- EMR has a large task before it in addressing the Staff Council restructuring proposal. The committee will be working to ensure that all appropriate parties are given adequate representation. This is a complex issue, but they hope that they can produce a useful proposal, which will then be presented to council as a whole.
- A motion was made to ratify the election results for FY13 Staff Council President and Vice President. The motion was approved unanimously. (UAF Staff Council Motion 2012-229-1)

D. Advocacy Committee – Debbie Gonzalez

- Attachment 229-2: Annual Committee Report
- Advocacy is looking to increase the committee's role on campus during the upcoming year. Additional committee members are needed in order to make this possible. Please consider serving on this committee.

*Committee Chairs: Please forward your reports to uaf-staff-council@alaska.edu.

11. EXTERNAL STATEWIDE COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Staff Alliance committees are usually comprised of members of Staff Alliance. If you are currently on one of these committees and interested in continuing to serve, please contact Juella as soon as possible so that the officers are aware of your interest in serving when they begin to divvy up workloads.

A. Staff Alliance's Staff Health Care Committee – Cat Williams, Carolyn Simmons, Maria Russell (alt), & Mary Sue Dates (alt)

- Staff Alliance is made up of eight people; these are generally the officers from each campus, council, and statewide. A significant portion of the Staff Health Care Committee members is actually members of Staff Alliance. This year, Pips and Juella designated two individuals, other than themselves, to serve on the Staff Health Care Committee. This could change depending upon whether or not newly elected officers choose to be on the Staff Health Care Committee this coming year.

B. Staff Alliance's Compensation Committee – Maria Russell (Co-Chair), Robert Mackey, Brad Krick (alt), Britton Anderson (alt)

- It is likely that there will be a new chair for this committee next year. One of the possible goals for this committee next year is to apply out of the box thinking, such as that being used by the Health Care Taskforce, to compensation issues. Attempting to get the proposed 5.5% raise that Staff Alliance requested as a placeholder in the budget will take a lot of work.

*Committee Chairs: Please forward your reports to uaf-staff-council@alaska.edu.

12. EXTERNAL UAF COMMITTEE REPORTS**A. Master Planning Committee (MPC) – Gary Newman**

- Attachment 229-15: Annual Committee Report

B. Parking Advisory Committee (PAC) – Britton Anderson

- Attachment 229-14: Annual Committee Report
- C. Chancellor's Diversity Action Committee (CDAC) – Ross Imbler**
 - Attachment 229-1: Annual Committee Report
- D. Chancellor's Planning and Budget Committee – Nichole Kloepper**
 - Attachment 229-8: Annual Committee Report
- E. Chancellor's Advisory Committee for the Naming of Campus Facilities – Debbie Coxon**
- F. Accreditation Steering Committee – Claudia Koch-Goddard**
 - Attachment 229-6: Annual Committee Report
- G. Meritorious Service Awards Committee – Claudia Koch-Goddard**
 - Has not met
- H. Technology Advisory Board Committee (TAB) – Walker Wheeler**
- I. Work-Life Balance Committee – Walker Wheeler**
- J. Intercollegiate Athletic Council – Debbie Coxon and Britton Anderson**
 - Attachment 229-12: Annual Committee Report
- K. Review of Infrastructure and Sustainability Energy Board (RISE) – Mayanna Bean**
- L. People's Endowment Fund Committee – Claudia Koch-Goddard**
 - Attachment 229-7: Annual Committee Report

*Committee Chairs: Please forward your reports to uaf-staff-council@alaska.edu.

13. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Staff Appreciation Day Committee – Ashley Munro, Maria Russell, Barbara Gabel, Katrina Paul**
- B. Communications Committee – John Clendenin, Jr.**
 - Attachment 229-12: Annual Committee Report
 - Determining the official role of the committee and the manner in which meeting information is disseminated immediately following meetings was discussed. A decision regarding this issue was postponed until a later date.
- C. Chancellor's Cornerstone Award Committee – Kala Hansen**
 - Attachment 229-11: Annual Committee Report

14. Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation for 2011-2012 Staff Council President Pips Veazey

- UAF Staff Council Resolution 2012-229-1: Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation for Pips Veazey was read before council. This resolution was unanimously approved by Staff Council.

15. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

16. ADJOURN