

University Advocacy
2/11/13
Rasmuson 341
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Members Present: Kim Eames, Debbie Gonzalez, Robin Weinant, Nichole Kloepfer, Chair

Agenda items

-Fundraising options for Staff Council foundation accounts

Staff Council has two funds the Carolyn Sampson Scholarship and the Staff Council Travel Support Fund.

The UAF Staff Council named the scholarship in memory of Carolyn Sampson, former executive secretary in the Governance Office. Carolyn was instrumental in obtaining support services for the Staff Council and provided support for the Faculty Senate and Academic Council while employed at UAF. This UA Foundation endowed scholarship is designed to provide new career paths or retraining to applicants wishing to re-enter the job market or whose work activity may be threatened by economic, health or other factors.

At a previous Staff Council meeting Juella requested that Advocacy look into the application selection process for the Carolyn Sampson Scholarship. The process is very similar for all scholarships (http://www.alaska.edu/foundation/donor_relations/scholarships/) Once the deadline is passed the financial aid and donation office pulls the applications and matches them with the supplemental applications and makes sure criteria is met. They are then forwarded on to scholarship committee and the selection is made from there. Per the foundation agreement Council cannot have their own committee; however there is a possibility to have a representative sit on the current selection committee. If there is an interest the representative should contact Financial Aid.

The Staff Council Travel Support Fund was created in May 1990 for staff who wish to use the funds for professional development. It is indicated that there is an annual raffle associated with this and parking decals will be used as raffled items. The funds on this account are very low and have been for some time. Advocacy intends to revitalize this. The committee needs to create an application process, rewrite the foundation agreement for approval and redefine the purpose. The committee discussed a possible silent auction during Staff Appreciation day, bake sales, etc. The information will be relayed back to council for approval and suggestions. A google doc will be created to get the process flowing more for the committee.

-Winter break parking? Upper-campus short term pass

Kim was interested in knowing if there is a winter pass offered for those who can park in to gold lot during Winter break while students are absent. It doesn't appear that parking services has done this in the past for the exception of a previous year when multiple lots were closed. Nichole indicated that she would look into finding documentation on this. Kim also indicated that she

would look into winter parking options. It is interesting to note that the gold lots have a wait list (<http://www.uaf.edu/files/fs/WaitlistsFAQ.pdf>).

-Brainstorm onboarding for new Staff Council members and orientation

This item has been tabled until orientation to get a better idea of what information will be necessary for process improvements.

-Brainstorm mentoring program

Nichole brought up the idea of starting a staff mentoring program through Staff Council and ideas to help empower staff professionally. Many ideas were suggested such as additional user groups for those interested in increasing their professional knowledge in certain areas such as grants and contracts or procurement. An idea of brown bag lunches for this purpose was also discussed.

A suggested purpose would be to promote and aid the professional advancement of interested UAF staff through the following potential objectives.

- Aid the professional and personal development of employees
- Administer opportunities for networking and communication
- Offer direct and indirect support and feedback
- Strengthen employee growth and development
- Provide knowledge and involvement in the University community

This is certainly in its infant stages and will continue to develop if felt that it has an opportunity to grow within the confines of the resources available at UAF.

-Leadership speaker visit and coordination

The group agreed unanimously that there is no interest in holding their own lecture. Tours however were discussed and will be revitalized. Kim agreed to look into Permafrost tours and a tour to the Cold Climate Housing Research Center.