



UNIVERSITY  
of ALASKA  
*Many Traditions One Alaska*

Minutes

**Staff Alliance**

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

[Google Hangout](#)

Audio call-in: 1-855-280-1855

(Please mute unless speaking.)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting came to order at 10:05 a.m.

Voting Members:

Nate Bauer, President, UAF Staff Council 2016-2017; 2016-2017 Alliance Chair

Kolene James, President, UAS Staff Council 2016-17; 2016-2017 Alliance Vice Chair

Eric Johnson, President, SAA 2016-2017

Brenda Levesque for Ryan Hill

Gwenna Richardson, Vice President, UAS Staff Council 2016-17

Chrystal Warmoth, Vice President, SAA 2016-2017

Samara Taber, Vice President, UAF Staff Council 2016-2017

Liz Winfree, Co-President, UAA Staff Council 2016-2017

Staff:

Morgan Dufseth, Executive Officer, System Governance

Members Absent

Ryan Hill, Co-President, UAA Staff Council 2016-17

2. Adopt Agenda

Before the meeting, Ryan asked to remove the proposed resolution regarding Google email at UA. Gwenna moved to adopt the agenda, and Chrystal seconded. Eric moved to amend the agenda to include the Faculty Alliance resolution regarding reductions to New Business, and was seconded by Gwenna. There were no objections. The agenda was adopted as amended.

3. Approve Minutes

3.1. February Meeting Minutes

Reference 1

Eric moved to approve the minutes as presented, and Chrystal seconded. There were no objections.

4. Chair's Report

Nate Bauer

Nate reported he was on the hiring committee for the UAF chancellor position. They conducted interviews earlier this week and had ten candidates. From that ten, they have narrowed the list to four possible candidates. They shared those names with the president to ensure there weren't any red flags or barriers to their continued recruitment. Seeing none, those four candidates will be brought to Fairbanks for community forums. Nate also reported there has been recent movement on the faculty and staff regent. He also noted there are still forums on SP Phase 2 Options this week and that a number of the decisions had been pushed to the September Board meeting.

5. Public and Guests Comment

6. Staff Alliance Committee Reports

6.1. Staff Health Care Committee

Reference 2

Gwenna reported that the biggest update is there will be no increase to the staff benefit rate this year.

6.2. Compensation Committee

Reference 3

See written update.

6.3. Governance Process Committee

No new updates.

6.4. Morale Committee

Reference 4

Morgan will create a Google Doc to share ideas on ways to improve morale.

7. External Committees

7.1. System Governance Council

[Reference 5](#)

See written update.

7.2. Student Services Council

7.3. Joint Health Care Committee

8. New Business

8.1. Shared Governance at UA

Reference 6

Nate noted this was discussed at the March BOR meeting; the presentation was prepared by UA GC and President's Office. However, there was clearly limitations to the information within the presentation and there was no involvement from governance in the development of the presentation. Nate noted that overall it was a productive conversation, although there were some regents who clearly did not agree with the level of involvement sought by UA governance groups. Nate also noted a good deal of the

conversation was led by faculty members and their assertion that shared governance was not just about placating constituents and stakeholders but that faculty should be collaborating with administration on key decisions. One outcome of the discussion was increased time on the Board agenda. Chair O'Neill asked that the governance reports be increased to one hour at the next meeting.

8.2. UAF Staff Volunteer Days Proposal

Reference 7

The proposal is for Staff Councils to coordinate and promote a day each spring and fall to participate in volunteering in the community (annual leave would be used). A list of organization in need of volunteer help would be distributed and would offer those organizations the opportunity to plan larger projects. There have been some discussion about using a half day of administrative leave in support of the day. At this time, there is only support for this at UAF, however, Nate encourage UAA and UAS to pass their own resolutions.

8.3. Furlough Resolution

[Reference 8](#)

Nate gave a review of the draft resolution on requesting changes to furlough regulations regarding leave accrual. Gwenna moved to approve, seconded by Samara. There were no objections. The resolution passed unanimously.

8.4. Faculty and Staff Regent

Nate noted the UAF Faculty Senate passed a resolution in support of adding faculty and staff regents to the UA Board of Regents, and there was also support for it from the UAF Staff Council. Gwenna noted it was positive that faculty are including staff regent in their proposal. Nate asked if members wanted to pass a similar resolution (a draft was distributed) at the Alliance level now, or if they want to go back to their respective groups.

Brenda moved to amend the draft resolution to strike the final whereas clause, seconded by Gwenna. There were no objections. Gwenna moved to vote on the proposed resolution, Chrystal seconded. There were no objections. Gwenna moved to approve the resolution as amended, seconded by Liz. There were no objections. The resolution passed unanimously. Nate encouraged members to share with their constituents and local staff councils.

8.5. Faculty Alliance Resolution re: SW Reductions

Eric noted there were serious concerns with the Faculty Alliance's resolution regarding reductions to the SW offices at UA. Including misrepresentation of publications and supporting materials, misrepresentation of the amount of redundancy at SW, how the universities would be affected by SW reductions and the amount workloads will

increase, it will increase competition between the universities for funding. Nate agreed there was a lot of misrepresented information and that since the Faculty Alliance does not include a member from SW they are an easy target for the Faculty's frustration. Nate noted if the Staff Alliance does respond with a resolution of its own, he would want to include strong analysis of SW's functions. Eric agreed to draft a response and share with Alliance members. Gwenna noted SW HR should have a salary study from a few years ago available as well.

9. Ongoing Business Topics

9.1. Resolution re: Emeritus Staff

[Reference 10](#)

Liz moved to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Gwenna. There were no objections. The resolution passed unanimously.

9.2. Strategic Pathways Phase II Feedback

[Reference 11](#)

Nate reviewed the memo with Alliance members and noted he will finalize it and Morgan will distribute to VP White.

9.3. Compensation Recommendation

Reference 12

Eric agreed to draft a memo for review by the rest of Staff Alliance.

10. Roundtable discussion

Nate noted he won't be on Staff Council or Staff Alliance next year.

Liz reported the UAA Staff Council will continue to meet over the summer.

11. Adjourn

Gwenna moved to adjourn, seconded by Eric. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.