# SAA Highlights

## February 12 meeting overview

The Statewide Administration Assembly last held its monthly meeting on Feb. 12. The following is an overview of the meeting. The next SAA meeting will be Wednesday, Mar. 12, at 10 a.m. All meetings are open to the public, and statewide workers are encouraged to contact their governance group to address workplace concerns, policies, and other matters affecting statewide staff. If you have any questions please contact SAA president Dory Straight at dsstraight@alaska.edu.

## SAA President's Report

Annual Service Awards will be held on March 10 at 2 p.m.
Staff Make Students Count 2013 is underway. Deadline for submissions are February 21. Awards are announced at the June BOR meeting.

## Staff Alliance Update

Staff Alliance's compensation working group will be called back together as soon as the list of group members is finalized. SA members have been working with their groups in trying to clear up the confusion on the Shaping Alaska's Future effect statements. All are reminded that the effect statements are meant to be broad statements to allow each university to adapt them to their environments.

## Health and Wellness

Erika Van Flein joined the meeting to discuss the Healthy Roads wellness program. There is a link from the HR benefit website to the Healthy Road's website. Plans are in place to start the biometric measurement component to the health plan. More information will be coming forthcoming from HR on how to enter your biometrics in order to participate in the health care discount. The discount will apply to both the spouse and the employee if both participate.

## SkillSoft

Monique Musick presented an update on SkillSoft on behalf of Anne Sakumoto. The current contract for SkillSoft is due to expire January 2015, so everyone is encouraged to take advantage of the program now. There are many programs available through SkillSoft, such as test prep materials for certified test to help further credentials for current or future positions. The E-Learning maps within SkillSoft help line out what kind of skills are needed to help move up within job families. Access to SkillSoft and the materials are available with your UA login information. Anne Sakumoto has upcoming demonstrations on how to utilize SkillSoft to your advantage. Everyone is encouraged to attend one of the trainings.

## Legislative Update

News out of Juneau has not been very encouraging. As everyone is aware, the Governor cut the Board of Regents budget request before sending to the House and Senate. The House Finance Chairman has announced that they will cut the governor's overall budget even further. The Houses' budget will be finalized in early March and then go on to the Senate for review. We are hoping in the meantime to make an impact on why our budget request is essential.

## Shaping Alaska's Future

Governance groups are to provide feedback on the effect statements by the end of the week. After the feedbacks have been compiled, the revised effect statements will be presented to the Board of Regents at the April meeting. VP of Academic Affairs Dana Thomas will meet with the President's Cabinet in a week about forming teams to work on steps to implement the effect statements. VP Thomas asked that staff look through the statements, find the ones that they are passionate about and have conversations about them. There will be opportunities for staff to get involved with the outcome of the effect statements.

## New Systemwide Hotline

Nikki Pittman provided an update on the systemwide hotline. The hotline was initiated to report waste, fraud and abuse along with ethical misconduct issues. It has since grown to help report other issues such as HR issues and athletic compliance issues. Once up-and-running the system will have a toll-free number and an online reporting system. An email will come out explaining how the hotline will work to insure anonymity and how to use the hotline.

## Code of Ethics

Monique Musick will be addressing the System Governance Council later in the month to invite participation from the other groups in the code of ethics discussion. She shared a handout outlining the need for a code of ethics and the importance of it originating from the employees instead of administration. Consensus says the code of ethics will happen one way or another, so why not be proactive and start the initiative.

## Other Human Resource Issues

Anne Sakumoto spoke on the training and development resources available to UA employees as part of our benefit package. She acknowledged that SkillSoft Resources has been renewed until 2015. Sakumoto is in the process of updating Banner to allow more people to participate in leadership training. If anyone is interested in partaking in this training, please contact Anne so that she can add you to the program.

## Filtered Water Fountains at Butrovich

It would be over $200,000 to install filtered water fountains in the Butrovich building. Installing the fountains is not a feasible measure. Dory Straight sent out a survey to gather data on the amount of water being bought and the cost. According to the survey, every month departments drink 700 gallons at the cost of $900. Dory discussed the issue with Erik Seastedt to see what could be done about it.