

Pat Pitney
Interim President

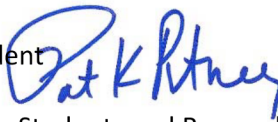
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Date January 13, 2022

To Juella Sparks, Chair, UA Staff Alliance

From Pat Pitney, Interim President 

CC Paul Layer, VP Academics, Students and Research
Sean Parnell, UAA Chancellor
Daniel White, UAF Chancellor
Karen Carey, UAS Chancellor
Paul Kraft, UAS Sitka Campus Director

Thank you to the Staff Alliance for your November 29 request for an update on the status of the systemwide councils. Most of the councils you reference in your memo were subcommittees of the Summit Team, which last met in April 2020. When I began my tenure as interim president in August 2020, I did not resume Summit Team meetings, in part due to the shift from the “One UA” approach to emphasizing our three universities. Of the councils listed in your memo, three are active:

The Community Campus Directors Council is defined in Board policy (P02.04.500) with membership consisting of the directors of the community campuses and one administrator from each university. UAS Sitka Campus Director Paul Kraft is the current chair. The council meets twice a year to discuss issues and initiatives common to the community campuses. I am open to a Staff Alliance liaison, preferably a member from one of the community campuses. Please let me know who you would like to represent Staff Alliance.

The Facilities Subcommittee meets quarterly, with the chair position rotating through the facilities directors at each university. UAS facility director Nathan Leigh is the current chair. Meetings focus on capital projects, deferred maintenance and the capital budget. As this is very much a technical committee, and not a policy group, I don’t believe that Staff Alliance representation on this working group would add value.

The Student Services Council meets monthly and is chaired by VP Paul Layer. Dawn Humenik, UAA Staff Council Co-President, attends these meetings as a representative of Staff Alliance. If you would like to designate a different liaison for Staff Alliance, please let me know.

In regards to your request for meeting agendas posted on the web pages for the councils, because we no longer have the overarching structure of the Summit Team, we have removed that web page. The committees listed above do not maintain specific web pages.

In general, I want to encourage shared governance engagement at the university level, with the Staff Alliance being the shared voice of the four staff councils and consulting on updates to policy and regulation. In addition to these more formal processes and in lieu of the Summit Team committee structure, I encourage you to reach out to the system office leadership for more informal discussions related to the different operational areas.