

System Office Staff Council Agenda

Monday, December 1, 2025

9:00am

Zoom:

<https://alaska.zoom.us/j/89316265720?pwd=VE8veHpiTXdYSVRvdEhnSWJpVDN4dz09>

Meeting ID: 89216265720

Passcode: 597537

Representatives:

~Nicole Goff (2024-2026) FY26 President
~Genevieve Bright (2025-2027) FY26 Vice President
~Hailey Jo Moyle (2025-2027) Secretary
~Rebecca Catlin (2025-2027)
~Sarah Belmont (2024-2026)
xChelsey Okonek (2024-2026)
~Aimee Sudbeck (2025-2027)
~Jeremiah Youmans (2024-2026)
~Logan MacDonald (2025-2027)

Alternates:

Vacant

Governance Support:

Noel Romanovsky
Sharon Dayton

Guests:

Logan MacDonald/Joshua Craft
Geoff Jacobs
Margo Griffith

Agenda:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - a. Review and Adopt Agenda
 - b. Review and Adopt November Minutes
 - i. [November Meeting Minutes](#)
2. Guest Comments

- a. Brian Smentkowski (ongoing hold- sometimes can attend, sometimes has calendar conflicts)
- b. Margo Griffith- Supervisor Training Updates
 - i. [Supervisor Foundations Training](#)
 - ii. Targeted release: end of January
 - iii. In person sessions will be offered in the Fall and Spring each year
- c. Geoff Jacobs- Concur
- d. Logan MacDonald and Joshua Craft, safe internet practices, AI/Copilot for work

3. [Public Comment:](#)

4. New Business

- a. Trainings and Eval Reminders
 - i. Benefits Pulse Survey Closes December 1, 2025
- b. Cost of UA Benefits Comparison Request- Staff Alliance
- c. [Board of Regents Recap](#)
 - i. [P04.07.100](#). Nonretention.
 - ii. [Court Case](#)
- d. [UA President Retirement Announcement](#)
 - i. [President Search timeline & listening sessions](#)
- e. Possible Gratitude Wall
 - i. Something SOSC and HR could potentially connect on to put out for all System Office Staff
 - ii. [UAA Example](#)
- f. [UA Holiday Closure Reminders](#)
- a. SOSC is currently looking for another representative (or 2)- please reach out to Nicole Goff (or any member you are connected with) with interest or to nominate someone

5. Ongoing Business

- a. (PAUSED) Branding - relate it to the mission/vision statement (updates?)
 - i. Likely need to postpone this conversation
 - ii. Lower priority due to current events

6. Reports

- a. President's Report

- i. Monthly meetings with Brian Smentkowski, Vice President and Chief Academic Officer
 - ii. Staff Alliance (Genevieve, Nicole)
 - Updates from November Staff Alliance Meeting
 - [Next staff alliance meeting](#) scheduled for December 18th
- b. SOSC Committees
 - i. Morale/Events Committee (Aimee, Genevieve, Rebecca, Nicole, Hailey Jo)
 - [Soup Recipes from October](#)
 - Upcoming December Event-December Event: Cookies & Kindness – Bake It Forward Community Care Drive! **(see end of Agenda)**
 - ii. Awards Committee (Nicole, Genevieve)
 - iii. Staff Development Day (Aimee, Nicole, Hailey Jo, Genevieve)
 - iv. Nominations Committee (all)
- c. Staff Alliance Committees
 - i. Compensation Committee (Nicole)
 - Compensation [Memo](#)
 - [Compensation Memo Update as of 8/22](#)
 - ii. Staff Development Fund (Raina, Noel, Genevieve, Sara)
 - Professional Development Support:
 - a. Q2: October 1–December 31 = Review 2nd week of January (due to holidays)
 - b. This support is good for any activities occurring within the next 12 months, and is for up to \$500 per employee, while the funds last.
 - c. [Application Link](#)
 - Tuition Support:
 - a. Application period: November 17, 2025 - January 5, 2026
 - b. Submit a fee scholarship request here by: January 5, 2026
 - c. a Tuition Waiver is no longer necessary.
 - iii. Joint Healthcare Committee (Raina/Logan/Rebecca schedule TBD - Monique to hand off)
 - + Staff Healthcare Committee
- d. Other Committees
 - i. Employee Feedback and Assessment Committee (formerly known as Staff Engagement, Employee Experience) – Chelsey
 - Updates - See email from Pres. Pitney with links:

- a. <https://www.alaska.edu/hr/training/experience.php#reports>
 - b. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WSq-kaLtsh-gS_TiuGGI4Ue_r7kY8ZD9F/view
 - ii. UA Accessibility Workgroup (VACANT-previously Monique)
 - Working to become an officially recognized committee
 - a. Group meets every two weeks
 - Training offered jointly between UAA/UAF
 - a. <https://www.alaska.edu/news/system/2024-UA-disability-services-free-virtual-training.php>
7. Old Business:
- a. Compensation [Memo](#)
 - b. Institutional Compliance Program
 - i. [Compliance Chats](#)
 - The latest series covers research ethics and compliance
 - ii. [UA Compliance Leadership for Supervisors Training](#)
8. General Updates and Reminders
- a. Events and New Updates:
 - b. News and General Info Links:
 - i. [Capitol Report](#)
 - ii. [UA News Center](#)
 - iii. [System Office Bulletin](#) (replaced by System Office Intranet)
 - iv. [Upcoming HR Trainings](#)
9. Local Issues & Updates
- a. Anchorage
 - i. Interim Chancellor will continue until at least end of fiscal year
 - b. Fairbanks
 - i. Chancellor Search Committee has changed- using WittKieffer, a nationally recognized executive search firm (same as UA President)
 - ii. Hold on Provost search until permanent Chancellor is named
 - c. Juneau
 - i.
 - d. System Office
 - i. President Search beginning in December, President Pitney retiring in May
10. Department Updates, Issues, and Kudos
- a.
11. Agenda items for next meeting:

a. Future guest speakers:

- i. Kim Washburn, UAF/SO HR Business Partner, University of Alaska Human Resources

12. Closing Comments

a.

13. Adjourn


Resources:

- [SOSC Meeting Recordings](#)
- [Constitution and bylaws](#)
- [Regents' policy and university regulation](#)
 - [03.01 - Faculty, Staff and Student Governance](#)
- [System Office org chart](#)
- [Governance basics presentation](#)
- [Chairing a meeting](#)
- [System Office staff numbers](#)
- [UA News Center](#)
- [System Office Bulletin](#)
- [SO Intranet](#)
- [System Office Intranet](#) - new alaska.edu/System leadership overview video - contains meeting highlights plus announcements, deadline reminders, and fun stuff happening.
 - [BOB site](#)
 - [Butrovich site](#)

December Event: Cookies & Kindness – Bake It Forward Community Care Drive!

 **Tuesday, December 9**

 **11:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

 **Anchorage: Bragaw 205 | Fairbanks: Butrovich 204**

If you haven't already, feel free to add the event to your calendar [using this link](#).

Bringing Cookies?

Bringing cookies is completely **optional** — you're warmly welcome to come enjoy the event whether or not you bring a treat.

That said, **if you are planning to bring cookies**, we encourage you to sign up using the links below. It's not required, but it helps us minimize duplicates *and* allows us to **print ingredient and cookie-name cards** for each batch ahead of time.

- 🍪 [Sign up to bring cookies here](#)
- 👁️ [See what others are bringing here](#)

Whether they're homemade or store-bought, we appreciate anything you choose to share!

🎁 How It Works

Build-Your-Own Cookie Boxes: Choose from a delicious assortment of cookies brought by others.

Upon arrival, you'll receive two boxes:

- One to fill with cookies to take home.
- One to fill and gift to someone (a custodian, student worker, colleague, friend, etc.) complete with a handwritten card crafted at our Bake It Forward Station.

☕ Extras

- Festive beverages like hot chocolate and apple cider will be provided by Staff Council.
- Festive attire encouraged! Ugly sweaters, Santa hats, or cozy winter wear are welcome.

❤️ Community Service

Don't forget, we're also collecting **non-perishable food items** at the event, and we're encouraging everyone to explore opportunities to support [Western Alaska relief efforts](#) (no on-site donations for that initiative).

- **Morale and Events Committee:**
 - [Upcoming SOSC December Event](#)
 - [Soup Recipes from October Event](#)