System Office Staff Council Agenda

Monday, March 2, 2026

9:00am

Zoom:

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

Meeting ID: 89216265720

Passcode: 597537

<u>Representatives:</u>

XNicole Goff (2024-2026) FY26 President

XGenevieve Bright (2025-2027) FY26 Vice President

XHailey Jo Moyle (2025-2027) Secretary

XRebecca Catlin (2025-2027)

XSarah Belmont (2024-2026)

XChelsey Okonek (2024-2026)

XAri Sudbeck (2025-2027)

XJeremiah Youmans (2024-2026)

XLogan MacDonald (2025-2027)

XChris Triplett (2026-)

<u>Alternates:</u>

Vacant

<u>Governance Support:</u>

Noel Romanovsky

<u>Guests:</u>

- Danielle Foster & Wayne Mowery (Union and Staff Governance info)
- Margo Griffith (supervisor training and onboarding portal)

<u>Agenda:</u>

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
   a. Review and Adopt Agenda
   b. Review and Adopt February Minutes

2. Guest Comments
    a. Danielle Foster & Wayne Mowery
        i. [AY2026 UA Staff Unionization Efforts](#)
        ii. [Union Organizing: Facts & FAQs](#)
    b. Margo Griffith
    c. Brian Smentkowski (ongoing hold- sometimes can attend, sometimes has calendar conflicts)

3. [Public Comment](#)

4. New Business
    a. OIT Updates (see presentation)
    b. 2026 State of the University Address
        i. March 19th @ 12:00pm
    c. [Staff Make Students Count Award](#)
    d. [Update from Chair Jepsen on Presidential Search Process & Finalist Selection](#)
    e. [FY27 Open Enrollment | March 31-April 21, 2026](#)
    f. [Six-month checkpoint: FY26 staff performance evaluations](#)
    g. [UA Disability Services "All Access" training session videos available](#)
    h. Staff Development Day/Longevity Awards- **Save the date: April 22 and April 23rd**

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)
            ● February notes:
            ● [Next staff alliance meeting](#) scheduled for March 19th
    b. SOSC Committees
        i. Morale/Events Committee (Ari, Genevieve, Rebecca, Nicole, Hailey Jo)
        ii. Awards Committee (Nicole, Genevieve)
        iii. Staff Development Day (Ari, Nicole, Hailey Jo, Genevieve, Rebecca)
        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. Q3: January 1–March 31 = Review 1st week of April
        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: (Summer Semester)
        a. Application period: January –May 1
        b. Submit a fee scholarship request by: May 1, 2026
        c. a Tuition Waiver is no longer necessary
        d. Random selection and distribution notice will be sent within the following week (ahead of May 22)
  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_TiuGGI4Uer7kY8ZD9F/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
      iii. Kevin Alexander named dean of UAF Community and Technical College
   c. Juneau
      i.
   d. System Office
      i. Effective February 22, 2026, Jacelyn Keys will transition from her role as Director of Kodiak College to serve as the Director of Workforce Development in the System Office of Academic Affairs
      ii. Teri Cothren, who currently serves as Associate Vice President of Workforce Development, will transition into a broader role as Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs
      iii. President Search beginning in December, President Pitney retiring in May
      iv. Interim CHRO Nickole Conley appointed as UA's permanent CHRO
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
       ii. Community campus guest speakers?
       iii. IT topics?

   iv. Luke

   v. Chad

   vi. **Michelle Rizk - President Search - April Meeting**

   vii. HR

- Compensation
- Benefits
- Educational Incentive Program

   viii. Margo

- Supervisor training
- Onboarding training

12. Closing Comments
    a. System Office Survey - related to morale (i.e. benefits, return to work directives, etc.); Perhaps available for staff development day? (anonymous)
    b. Exit Surveys - can HR share why employees are leaving? Plan to address the common reasons?
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](#)