July 10 meeting overview

The Statewide Administration Assembly met July 10. The following is an overview of the meeting. 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 dory.straight@alaska.edu.

The next SAA meeting will be Wednesday, August 14, at 10 a.m.

Engagement Survey Results

A couple of years ago, a defined goal of SAA was improving workplace morale. Recently SAA President Dory Straight sent out a survey asking employees "how engaged" they are at work. The survey was intended to provide data with regards to general employee satisfaction. The results were reviewed at the meeting, and discussion ensued regarding possible actionable items as a result of the responses. SAA may send out questions related to supervisory training and employee evaluations. A common theme of dissatisfaction regarded employee management, and a perceived need for manager/management training was identified from this and previous surveys. It was proposed that SAA put together a list of recommendations of the things that should be addressed with training to UA Human Resources which is in the process of working on "Supervisor Training." It was further proposed that there should be metrics to determine if Supervisors are "living up to the training they are receiving".

Smoke-Free/Tobacco-Free Campus

The proposal for a smoke-free/tobacco-free campus was brought before the Board of Regents by a group of students. In April BOR heard from students that were in favor of a SF/TF campus, while at the June meeting they heard from students that opposed the measure. Administration is requesting feedback from SAA on statewide staff's position regarding a SF/TF campus. Some topics discussed were enforcement, campus definition, designated smoking areas/sheltered areas and potential impacts to tenants on UA owned property or impacts to non-UA occupants in shared buildings. It was suggested that SAA contact other smoke-free/tobacco-free campuses for lessons learned. We'd also like to hear from our constituents regarding their feelings on this matter. Please provide your feedback on our SF/TF Campuses webpage: http://www.alaska.edu/governance/saa/sftf-campuses/

Performance Evaluation

SAA is still seeking feedback on the proposed performance evaluation form. A sub-committee was established to review the form and process, gather feedback, and shape constructive suggestions to President Gamble. Please visit SAA's homepage to participate in our survey: http://www.alaska.edu/governance/saa/performance-evaluation/

Your role in SDI

Many ask “what is the role of staff in the strategic direction initiative?” Chas St. George and Dana Thomas addressed that question by stating that staff’s role falls under the accountability theme. Examples of this could include: reporting to legislature, efficiency of processes (i.e. moving from paper timesheets to electronic timesheets), policy feedback, empowering people (i.e. changes as a result of revising policies), and encouraging collaboration (i.e. overcoming common challenges system wide.)

For the latest updates on *Shaping Alaska’s Future 2017* visit https://www.alaska.edu/shapingalaskasfuture/updates/.

Butrovich Construction

To keep abreast of all of the changes taking place on the UAF construction scene, please visit http://www.uaf.edu/fs/departments/design-construction/projects/.