

**UAF Alumni Association Board of Directors  
Fall Meeting Minutes  
September 22-23, 2023**

**Friday, September 22, 2023**

**I. Call to Order at 9:35 with Roll Call**

<b>Seat</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Presence</b>
President, Seat 7 - Southeast	Tom Brice	in-person
Vice-President, Seat 9 - FNSM	Rhonda Widener	in-person
Treasurer, Seat 11 - Municipality of Anchorage	Thomas Farrugia	in-person
Secretary, Seat 10 - Outside	Lorna Shaw	online
Seat 1 - Rural	Dee Dee Ivanoff	absent
Seat 2 - Southcentral	Birch Foster	in-person
Seat 3 - FNSB	Ryan Tilbury	online
Seat 4 - Southcentral	Meredith Cameron	in-person
Seat 5 - FNSB	Meadow Bailey	absent
Seat 6 - At Large	Darryl Lewis, Sr.	in-person
Seat 8 - At Large	George Cromer	in-person
Hockey Chapter, ex officio	Scott Roselius	absent
ASUAF, ex officio	Cole Osowski	absent
ASUAF, ex officio	Sarah Finney	absent
Executive Director, ex officio	Theresa Baker	in-person

**II. Adoption of Agenda**

**MOTION: “The Board adopts the agenda as presented.”**

*Moved by Thomas. Seconded by Meredith. Adopted without objection.*

**III. Approval of the Spring 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION: “The Board approves minutes for the Spring 2023 meeting.”**

*Moved by Meredith. Seconded by Birch. Adopted without objection.*

#### IV. Land Acknowledgement -- UAFAA President

*The UAF Alumni Association acknowledges the Alaska Native nations upon whose unceded traditional lands we are located. Our offices and facilities are located on Troth Yeddha, a sacred site of the Lower Tanana Dene people. We acknowledge and honor the ancestral & present land stewardship and place-based knowledge of the peoples of these territories.*

#### V. Report from UAF leadership - Chancellor Dan White

- *2,500 new students on campus this fall, a 40% increase over last year. Enrollment is up roughly 3% overall*
- *UAF's research status - currently on the border of R1 and R2 status. Will be asking for \$20M from the Alaska Legislature next session.*
- *Capital Improvements - addressing the Main Street/Thompson Drive area*
- *Chancellor White suggested a post-UAFAA board meeting letter to the Board of Regents with an update on what we're doing, learning and concerned about. **After discussion, the Board has decided to implement this suggestion.***

#### VI. Standing Reports/Committees

- A. Executive Committee/ President's report – Tom Brice  
- *Gave update on recent EC meetings; actions being shared with full board when taken.*  
- *We are a 100% giving board.*
- B. Executive Director Report – Theresa Bakker  
- *Office is fully staffed. Priorities include the membership program after a gap due to the vacant role. Felicia Burard is taking the lead on fundraising activities. Theresa to pivot to focus on centennial giving opportunities.*  
- *Katie Straub is working on Nanook Network and storytelling. Building out the infrastructure to engage the committee this winter to expand that work.*  
- *UA Giving Day is March 22-23, 2024; will start at noon this year.*  
- *Looking at ways to include crowdfunding - pilot project is a hockey give-a-thon*  
- *Theresa is also now the editor of the Aurora Magazine.*  
- *Annual Report is included in the Board packet.*
- C. Network Reports  
- *No update*
- D. Scholarship – Lorna Shaw  
- *No update*
- E. Legislative – Meredith Cameron  
- *No update Will start meeting later this fall in preparation for the legislative session*
- F. Awards – Darryl Lewis Sr.  
- *Review of awards presented at Nanook Rendezvous; very good feedback from board members and others who attended*
- G. Governance – Rhonda Widener  
- *No update*

H. Finance – Thomas Farrugia

- Fiscal year 2023 audit is underway. Overall, budget is back to pre-pandemic expenditures. Back to in-person events and travel, which is a good thing!
- Benefactor fundraising started a bit late in FY24 with letters out in mid-September. Scheduled for bequest from the Corkran estate (annual minimum of \$5,000)
- In revenue, membership income last year came in at about \$42,000, an increase of \$7,000 from previous fiscal year. Team is planning to increase promotions this year
- Updated budget included in board packet to account for shift in Nanook Network expense to UAF funds. Used the \$10,000 to increase the board travel category.
- Thomas has also created an investment tracking sheet to monitor performance:  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1m\\_rmxBujJMfu6ZtCyEjVMTI--fPHsir/edit#gid=1302538617](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1m_rmxBujJMfu6ZtCyEjVMTI--fPHsir/edit#gid=1302538617)

**Current Account Amounts**

Operating: \$36,315.44

Benefactor: \$30,821.69

Veterans: \$10,069.01

Investment Account

Wealthscape: \$840,203.05

**MOTION – “The Board approves the FY24 UAFAA Budget revision as presented”**

*Moved by Thomas. Seconded by George. Adopted without objection.*

OLD BUSINESS

VII. **Veterans Memorial Update** - UAFAA Executive Committee

- *EC meeting with briefing from Tom Hough with ideas to implement a veterans memorial. Rhonda Widener gave background on a \$10,000 state grant from the veteran’s office; UAFAA was merely keeper of the funds until the appropriate plan was enacted. Tom and Rhonda reviewed state statute and investigated limitations on the grant. Tom proposed an art wall in the Rasmussen Library near the veterans office in memory of the original named veteran, where student veteran artists will be engaged to display their work. It will be a living, ever-changing memorial. There are currently 400+ UAF student veterans. Owen Guthrie is also in support of this action.*

**MOTION: “The Board approves writing a check for the balance of the Veterans Memorial holding account (estimated to be just over \$10,000) to UAF Department of Military and Veteran Service.”**

*Moved by George. Seconded by Darryl. Approved without objection.*

VII. **Good of the Order**

## ASUAF Update

- *Cole Osowski, ASUAF representative, provided an update on ASUAF activities. The Senate is working on a resurgence in daily operations. They are working to fill seats and student employee roles and just passed a \$180,000 budget.*
- *Cole joined the group to visit the Permafrost Tunnel with UAFAA.*

## VIII. Meeting recessed at 1:15

- IX. **Permafrost Tunnel tour** 1: 50 PM  
CRREL Permafrost Tunnel Directions in your board packet  
<http://www.crrel.usace.army.mil/permafrosttunnel/>

**Saturday, September 23, 2023**

10:00 a.m.                    **Reconvene**

NEW BUSINESS

X.     **Centennial Discussion** - UAFAA Executive Committee

Goals and strategy overview

**Special activities**

      —Alumni interviews and profiles

      —Use investment account earnings for a leadership gift

*President Tom Brice led a robust visioning conversation about how to celebrate the upcoming centennial in 2026. This included ideas for what, possibilities for how, what sideboards would be appropriate, and when actions should take place.*

*Ideas included:*

- *a “big splash” \$100K gift for 100 years, such as toward a new hockey rink or a new paint job for the Brooks Building.*
- *Make the gift as a pledge over the next XX years.*
- *How to leverage UAFAA’s gift to raise additional funds for this purpose? Can we match other donations - use as a fundraising hook?*
  - *Dinner with UAF chef? Personalize a brick?*
  - *Events don’t raise money; they raise awareness.*
- *How aggressive does UAFAA want to be in fundraising and celebrating?*
- *Could entail a budget change to move \$25K into a seed fund for a major gift.*
- *[StoryCorps](#) model - like an online jukebox with stories through the decades*
  - *Alumni through the Ages*
  - *Opportunities to involve otherwise uninvolved alumni*
- *Special award at Rendezvous - Alumni of the Century*
- *Request help from CBSM marketing class in Fall 2024*

*All members present confirmed that UAFAA wants to do something major to celebrate the centennial. It will likely be high dollar and need some lead time. It will also require significant effort and become the Board’s work for the coming three years. Whatever project is selected, it must have support by the Board of Regents, the Chancellor, etc.*

**MOTION:** *“The Board creates an ad hoc Centennial Committee to begin discussions and groundwork for a centennial celebration.” The committee will be expected to generate ideas for discussion at the next Board Meeting.*

*Moved by Thomas. Seconded by Birch. Approved without objection*

*Initial members will include: Rhonda Widener, Thomas Ferrugia, Tom Brice, Birch Foster, Darryl Lewis, Lorna Shaw, Ryan Tilbury. Meadow Bailey, Dee Dee Ivanoff, and George Cromer will be invited to join. First meeting to take place in November.*

*A brainstorm document has been created and can be accessed at:*

*[https://docs.google.com/document/d/11bBL7hSS2\\_B7FQyVGy\\_iRflhDpXxth5EsuYFunBQr1Y/edit?usp=sharing\\_eil\\_m&ts=650f479c](https://docs.google.com/document/d/11bBL7hSS2_B7FQyVGy_iRflhDpXxth5EsuYFunBQr1Y/edit?usp=sharing_eil_m&ts=650f479c)*

XII. **Strategic Plan Update - UAFAA President**

*President Tom Brice and Theresa Bakker led the review and update of the UAFAA 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.*

- *Research to understand the process to trademark the Alumni bear.*
- *A facilitated strategic plan workshop will be scheduled with the Spring Meeting.*
- *A board diversity matrix will be created for the Governance Committee to review before the next elections, to evaluate whether there are certain skills or attributes that would be beneficial in the next board.*

XIII. **Good of the Order--Roundtable**

Next BOD meeting – Jan. 27, 2024 -- Winter Board teleconference

*Based on the Chancellor's suggestion of writing a letter/report to the Board of Regents from the UAFAA, President Tom Brice will offer a draft. Such a letter can be written after each UAFAA Board meeting to provide an update and raise the organization's profile, creating formal and regular communication with the Regents.*

*Thank you cards for the Permafrost Tunnel tour were signed.*

*In roundtable style, board members were complimentary of the productivity and professionalism of this weekend's meetings, events, and staff. There were also numerous compliments for the ASUAF event. Cole Osowski admired the UAFAA strategic plan and would like to do something similar for ASUAF.*

XIV. The meeting was **adjourned at 1:30 PM**  
**MOTION: "The UAFAA Board Adjourns."**

## Future Meetings and Events

### 2023

- Oct. 18 UAFAA Network Event in Washington D.C.++
- Nov. 4 Gov Cup Pre-game Social at Latitude 65++
- Nov 9-10 BOR Meeting, Anchorage
- Nov. 18 Business Leader of the Year++
- Dec. 2 Gov Cup Watch Party at TBD++

### 2024

- Jan. 27 UAFAA Winter BOD teleconference\*
- Feb. 9-10 Alaska Nanooks Hockey in AZ++
- April 19-20 UAFAA Spring BOD meeting in Fairbanks\*

**\*Board Member attendance required**

++Voluntary attendance