

## Rural Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2009

Present: Ashley Munro, Colleen Abrams, Marianne Freelong, Becky Walker, Kayt Sunwood, and Liz Recchia

Excused: Everyone not in attendance. My apologies for being unclear about the meeting!

1. Call to Order – Liz called the meeting to order at 2:13 pm and welcomed the new members to the committee
2. Discuss Theme(s) for Committee to Focus on this Year
  - a. Consistent Annual Training in Current Field--Liz just gave an update to the new members on the committee. There isn't much action at this point but several members from our committee have volunteered with Anne Sakumoto to help figure out what Skillsoft training is beneficial for the certain job families.
  - b. Cost of Living Differential-- Liz just gave an update to the new members on the committee. At this point, there is no action needed but we are monitoring the situation and if the need arises, we will speak up and defend the cost of living differential.
  - c. Creating a Strong Rural Voice with UAF--Liz reported that one of the way to ensure there is rural voice is to make sure that the university committees have rural representation on them. Liz had been working on a memo to the chancellor and on one that will be sent to all the departments in the university soliciting representation on any committees they have. It's still very rough and she has been too busy to get to it. She asked for help and Marianne offered. Marianne said that she would look it over. Liz said she would send Marianne what is already written.
  - d. Special Topics Workshops for Staff--Liz wanted the committee's feedback on how the presentation with Pete Kelly went. The presentation was right before the meeting and had rural affairs members, as well as members from various other committees interested in learning more about the budget. Ashley said that she was helping a student with an emergency during that time and was unable to pay close attention so wanted someone's notes. Liz offered to send hers and if urged anyone else with notes to pass them along. Liz said that the other topics rural staff showed interest in included health benefits, planning for retirement, and training on the different modes of distance delivery. The committee decided to offer training on distance delivery. Becky thought that it should cover all modes of distance delivery from E-Live to Blackboard and audio conferencing. Liz asked for input on who to get. Martin Miller from OIT was suggested because he does the Banner training very well. Another suggestion was Susan Warner at

Chukchi. Liz said she would contact one of them and see if they are interested in doing a presentation in April. The committee decided that doing the presentation on Fridays is not the best idea since people take off early for the weekend and are usually a bit burnt out from the week.

3. E-Learning-- Anne was going to try to make it to the meeting but due to confusion wasn't there in time. Liz mentioned that there are SkillSoft demos being offered if anyone from the committee is interested. Colleen, Marianne, and Liz expressed interest. Marianne said that she has coworkers that would be interested too. Marianne thought the demo was a good idea because she heard that it was a great training resource.
4. Staff Recognition Award-- Ashley reported that since this award was funded by the directors, she was still waiting to hear from them. She said she was going to send an email to Jennie Carroll to remind her to mention something to the directors. She also said there were no entries yet and she encouraged people to spread the word. Liz said she knew that Northwest Campus was going to nominate someone.
5. Other--
  - i. Ashley reported on staff appreciation day. It's going to be a big deal this year with sessions to attend. They are trying to include the rural sites. They want to set up the rural sites via E-Live or audio conference. They are trying to get ice-cream provided at the rural sites. If the rural sites want to have a guest speaker for one of their session locally to address a topic that concerns them, they will try to accommodate that. If the rural sites need anything, let Ashley know and she will bring it up to the committee.
  - ii. Liz asked the rural sites to ask their coworkers if they had taken the supervisory training and what their impressions were. The chancellor wants feedback on the training.
6. Next Meeting: There was discussion about when the next meeting should be. Apart from this meeting, which Liz was unclear about, attendance has been low. There was mixed feelings about meeting on Fridays. Several people have told Liz about setting up a survey using Doodle. So she is going to send out a Doodle and see what works best for everyone. Please be on the lookout for that.
7. Adjournment—The meeting was adjourned at 2:33pm.