

## Staff Council Rural Affairs Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

10:00 a.m.

### MINUTES

Present: Travis Brinsow, Loretto Jones, Ashley Munro, Byrd Norton, Crystal Wilson, Richard Machida, Sara Battiest, Colleen Abrams, Susie Baird.

Excused: Bryan Uher, Jen Stutesman.

1. Called to order by Susie Baird at 10: 05 am.

2. Connectivity issues on rural campuses:

Discussion centered on slow and dropped connections. Reports of difficulty trying to register students on Banner and ultimately being dropped; inability to download large or even medium files; congested electronic communication lanes. One instructor has reported transmission slow enough that he has had to cancel class. He is approaching the remainder of the semester with trepidation. Suggestion to call Helpdesk formally and regularly with problems whenever they happen.

NOTE: In a conversation with KuC IT personnel, I found we are bumping up against and going over our maximum bandwidth nearly 24 hours of the day. Solutions are difficult—more bandwidth is optimum but expensive, if available.

3. Bookstore shipping:

Shared the flyer that has been created by the CRCD bookstore indicating an intention to ship books within 24 hours of a student's registration. Some concern over students understanding that they will only receive prepaid labels to return books if the course is canceled. If they drop a course they are responsible for return costs. Make sure anyone registering students emphasizes that. Other concerns regarding mailing books as so much is dependent on weather in outlying areas so there is still a distinct possibility of books getting to students late. Other solutions explored included having the first few chapters of any text available online from publisher, scanned and emailed , on a disc to mail, or faxed to students, all of which would require additional administration. Possible to get help with that from bookstores. Some centers report that the fax is more reliable than Internet or email.

4. Elections:

Concern raised earlier over confidentiality of votes cast by members calling in to meetings but has been resolved by having members email their votes to Nichole.

5. Other:

- a. Safety training is done on some campuses and moving forward on most others. Appreciate the assistance of John Clendenin in sending reports and for offering training to supervisors. Questions on various campuses about whether to pay adjuncts for time spent in training outside classroom duties. Not resolved.
- b. Ashley Munro reported three nominations for Margaret “Peggy” Woods Outstanding Rural Campus Staff member. Her subcommittee is meeting at 2:00 April 6<sup>th</sup> to determine winner.
- c. Ashley also reported on Staff Appreciation Day on May 19<sup>th</sup>, and how she has worked to involve the rural campuses and provide some of the activities to those unable to come to Fairbanks for the event. Live streaming will be provided for Chancellor’s Address, Longevity Awards and one of the sessions for each time frame:

10:00 – 11:00	Diversity in the Workplace
11:15 – 12:15	Staff Council Hot Topics
1:30 – 2:30	History of UAF
2:45 – 3:45	Employee Benefits/Self Reliance

Each rural campus has been awarded an amount, depending upon its size, for an ice cream social at their campus.

6. Next meeting:

Rural jobs and the need for professional development, specifically training on Banner and Blackboard. Suggestion to have via e-live to make available to more people at more times. Ongoing is better than one-time as it takes about three years to get proficient on Banner. The first year you learn and get good, the second year you get better and the third year you are “golden.” Colleen Abrams offered to assist anyone with any questions on Banner and there are a few other well-versed people who can be used as a resource. Other topics will be solicited prior to the meeting. Susie Baird will send out a Doodle to schedule next meeting.

7. Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.