

Rural Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2009

Present: Jennifer Elhard, Marianne Freelong, Martin Miller, and Liz Recchia

1. Call to Order – Liz called the meeting to order at 9:02 am
2. Goals for Upcoming Year – The group reviewed last year’s goals to assess whether they were finished or should still be focused on this year.
 - a. Cost of Living Differential--Liz mentioned that at the last meeting the committee decided to write a letter to the president and chancellor, encouraging them to look into the cost of living issue. Martin said that he had spoken with the chancellor and heard a new and interesting reason for why there is hesitation to address the cost of living issue. If statewide addresses this issue with the legislature it brings up why the cost of living for Juneau is so high, which helps to fuel the argument for supporters of moving the state capital from Juneau to Anchorage. The committee decided to keep this issue as a rural affairs goal this year, to monitor the status, and offer up support when the issue does arise.
 - b. Consistent Annual Training in Current Field--The committee decided that a lot had been done this past year concerning training and word had been spread. Jennifer suggested getting a procedure set out so that information on training could be spread to all faculty and staff. Martin suggested that instead of trying to do this, that the committee encourage employees to join Cornerstone where there are reminders on training opportunities. The committee decided that this is something to be removed from goals for the upcoming year.
 - c. Creating a Strong Rural Voice within UAF--The committee decided to send out the letter that Marianne wrote last year to the chancellor and all the departments within UAF. This issue will remain on the goals list for the upcoming year.
 - d. Special Topics Workshops for Staff--Liz reported that there was a workshop presented on the university budget last year. Topics of interest still remaining from last year include health benefits and retirement planning. Discussion focused on whether there are presentations already available so that efforts aren’t duplicated. Jennifer said that she would contact Jennifer Youngberg to see what is already offered.
3. Meeting Times For the Upcoming Year--Since there were only 4 people at the meeting, no regular meeting time was set. Instead, Liz will send out a Doodle again to arrange the October meeting. Marianne said that early morning meetings before 10 are easier for her to attend.

4. Election of New Committee Chair--There wasn't enough people at the meeting to vote on a new chair. Liz decided to send out a firmer email to encourage everyone to come to the next meeting so that this can be decided. Liz explained that she needs a year off from being in charge because of her new job promotion. It's a little too much to be in charge of a committee.
5. Other--NONE
6. Next Meeting--Sometime in October; be on the lookout for a Doodle.
7. Adjournment--The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 am.