

Rural Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2009

Present: Susie Baird, Travis Brinzow, Ashley Munro, Marianne Freelong, and Liz Guthier

Excused: Crystal Wilson, Becky Walker, Byrd Norton, Jennifer Elhard

1. Call to Order – Liz called the meeting to order at 9:02 am
2. Discussion of Committee Goals –
 - a. Cost of Living Differential--Liz mentioned that last meeting the group decided to just monitor this situation and take action if the need arose. Travis asked for more information on what the committee has already done and what the committee still wants to accomplish in regards to this goal. Liz recapped what had been done the past year in regards to cost of living and Travis suggested that instead of having a letter come from rural affairs encouraging the university to consider raising the cost of living differential that it be brought to the staff council and have the staff council issue a letter. The committee agreed this would be more effective and Liz said she would put it on the agenda for next month's staff council meeting.
 - b. Creating a Strong Rural Voice within UAF--Everyone on the committee received a copy of the memo that will be sent to all department heads as well as a list of UAF departments, department chairs, and mailing addresses for mailing out the memo. The committee helped update names and make sure the mailing list was accurate. Marianne offered to send it out by mail before the end of the day. The committee agreed that mail was more effective than email since emails have a tendency to get lost.
 - c. Special Topics Workshops for Staff--This item was accidentally skipped during the meeting. We were waiting for a quick follow up before scratching this off the list. Can address next meeting.
 - d. Any Other Goals to Add--Since a lot of our goals from the previous year are starting to wrap up, Liz asked the committee if there was anything other goals that people wanted to work on. Susie suggested getting more rural participation for Staff Appreciation Day. Ashley mentioned that she was chairing the committee for Staff Appreciation Day and had sent an email out to all rural campus directors encouraging them to appoint a rural rep from their campus. At this point, she only heard back from one campus. Ashley said she would send that same email out to the rural affairs committee so that the word can also be spread that way. Their first meeting is October 30 at 10am and will be available via audio for rural sites.
3. Meeting Times For the Upcoming Year--There was some discussion as to the pros and cons of having a standing meeting time versus sending a Doodle out every month to set

up the next month's meeting. Marianne said that a set time works for her and that she liked Monday mornings but agreed Doodles work well too. Travis said that having a Doodle is a good idea because things come up and are constantly changing. The rest of the committee agreed. There will be no set meetings at this time. The chairperson will just continue to send out a Doodle each month and arrange meetings that way.

4. Election of New Committee Chair--There wasn't enough people at the meeting to vote on a new chair and no one in attendance was interested in the chairperson position. It was suggested that Liz send out an email soliciting a new chair person. Liz said that she had already done that and wasn't sure it would be effective to do so again. Liz decided that maybe she would talk to Martin and see what should be done. Someone asked if staff council had charged the rural affairs committee with doing anything. Liz explained that she was unsure. Being very new to rural affairs when she was elected chair, the previous chair who held that position for quite some time never actually told her if there was a charge or what the purpose was. Liz said she would talk more to Martin to get a better idea and report back to the committee at the next meeting.
5. Other--NONE
6. Next Meeting--Sometime in November; be on the lookout for a Doodle.
7. Adjournment--The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 am.