

# Staff Council Rural Affairs

## November Meeting Report

**Present:**

Brad Krick, , Nicole Dufour , Jeannette Altman (Chair), Christian Beks, Kirsten Bey, Travis Brinzow, Adam Kane, Evelyn Pensgard, Greg Simpson, Trish Winners

**Excused:**

Ashley Munro, Sara Battiest, Richard Machida, Benjamin Tucker, Deb Jeppsen

**A. Geographic Differentials**

Discussion was opened on renewing our open proposal (currently at the Staff Alliance level) for adopting the same Geographic Differential rate as that adopted by State of Alaska. Potential impacts, such as the risk that some communities might experience loss or lowering of current rates were explored, as well as an overall cost/benefit analysis. Brad Krick plans to inquire as to the status of the proposal at the next Staff Alliance meeting, held 12 November 2013.

**B. Kay L. Thomas Pathfinder Award**

Have not heard from DANSRD as to whether nominations have opened; Jeannette checked their web page prior to meeting but there is no new information. Jeannette will follow up with DANSRD.

**C. Ombudsman**

Jeannette will remind Staff Council at 19 November meeting that we are actively seeking membership for ad hoc committee to form proposal for University Ombudsman. Background reviewed on how Rural Affairs arrived at this decision.

**D. Discussion – Travel Proposal to Rural Campuses**

Rural Affairs member should travel in conjunction with EEO office staff member, as this is something that has not happened in recent years, and an EEO staff member will be able to advise rural staff where Rural Affairs member could only listen and take information back to Staff Council.

Length and logistics of the event discussed; reiterated that at least two hours should be given to an HR/EEO “goodwill” meeting to reach out to rural staff.

**Next Meeting:**

**December 3, 2013 10:00 am**

**In Fairbanks: Kayak Room**

**Online in Google Hangout (see calendar invite)**

**Dial in at 1-800-893-8850, PIN: 8244236**