

**University Advocacy Committee (UAC)
September 2014 Committee Report****Nate Bauer, Chair**

UAC last met Wednesday, September 10, 2014, Rasmuson Library 502

Topics of discussion:

Staff Mentoring

Staff Council VP Faye Gallant briefed the committee regarding ongoing staff training efforts led by UAF Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services Pat Pitney. Though UAC had prior questions about the possibility of designing and integrating formal staff mentoring components for inclusion in any new staff training programs, it became clear from Faye's reports that it would likely be inconsistent and/or unwieldy to attempt to fuse the two.

As a result, UAC will move forward in outlining and proposing parallel and separate staff mentoring initiatives. Committee members will independently research and evaluate staff mentoring programs for use as models for UAF. Members will report back on findings and recommendations at the next UAC meeting on Oct. 8.

Chancellor's Staff Forum

UAC has requested S/C officers inquire with Chancellor Rogers about restoring periodical town hall meetings devoted to staff concerns, and Chris and Faye have agreed that the renewal of these forums, or something like them, is worth the time. They also recommend a prospective list or agenda of conversation topics/questions for the Chancellor to review in advance, in the event such forums take place. UAC has agreed to take charge in assembling such a list.

Staff Recognition

Following its discussion during last S/C meeting by the Chancellor and members, UAC is interested in piloting efforts to more regularly recognize and commend special (on and off campus) achievements by staff throughout UAF. A few options for how to organize these efforts were discussed, before agreeing to solicit suggestions via open Google form, review by UAC designees, and publication on the S/C blog. We may also seek inclusion of highlights in the UAF Cornerstone newsletters and other campus publications. Thanks to Nicole for setting up the nomination form (available [here](#)).

Staff Volunteer Leave

Discussion was held regarding a new proposal to establish a set time period during the year when staff would be encouraged and motivated to commit time to the Fairbanks community's many volunteer organizations. Aside from UAC and S/C's own efforts to promote this activity, UAC is moving forward with a proposal for "volunteer leave matching," under which staff and the university could each provide a half day of annual leave for use during UAF Volunteer Week. UAC is currently seeking feedback from S/C and UAF administrative departments regarding prospective time periods for such designation.

Caroline Sampson Memorial Scholarship, 2014

At the suggestion of S/C officers, committee broached discussion of the 2014 Caroline Sampson Memorial Scholarship (CSMS), as S/C (and UAC, specifically) is responsible for evaluation and selection of scholarship candidates. It was confirmed that candidates are selected from among general UA Foundation scholarship applicants according to CSMS guidelines, which UAC is in the process of reviewing, with the objective of limiting the initial field of candidates from which to select.

Staff Travel Fund

UAC also discussed the promotion of the use of existing travel staff travel funds; it was generally agreed that requirements for these funds use is quite restrictive and discourages staff from seeking their use. As chair, Nate will review these restrictions and attempt to address them before the next UAC meeting (10/8).