

University of Alaska Fairbanks
Staff Council
Proposal for UAF Staff Volunteer Day

2/2/2015

In partnership with our university's administration, UAF Staff Council seeks to promote and strengthen UAF's core themes, including its efforts to "engage Alaskans through Outreach for Continuing Education and Community and Economic Development;" we also highlight our own organization's commitment, through Staff Council's University Advocacy Committee, to establish "events and functions to help make the public aware of the value of University staff, as well as students and faculty."

We further observe the Fairbanks community's increased need for time and effort from UAF's wide variety of skilled and highly capable staff and potential volunteers, as well as our own need to bridge cultural and connotative gaps between UAF and the larger Fairbanks community.

We also recognize the potential for UAF and its Staff Council to partner together in an effort to benefit the community in which we live and work. The annual Staff Volunteer Day proposed herein seeks to incorporate the organization, facilitation, and promotion of volunteerism by staff on a large scale, during designated times of year when these efforts are most needed.

As a result of these concerns, UAF Staff Council seeks official designation for an annual UAF Staff Volunteer Day. Our proposal seeks equally shared commitment (and the credit that results) from administration and staff individuals: a work day of volunteer time per staff member per year, comprising four hours of existing Annual Leave, donated by the staff member, together with four hours of newly offered university "Volunteer Leave."

We propose these volunteer efforts to be concentrated as full workdays by all willing staff, to also take place during one of two designated weeks per school year, which may also minimize any adverse effect to UAF and its services to students. Tentative proposals for these weeklong designations include a single week during the Fall semester of 2015 and one during Spring semester of 2016. We further recognize the need for the stringent organization, regulation, and oversight of such proposed activities, with Staff Council anticipating collaboration with University Human Resources and Administration regarding implementation.

In summary, UAF Staff Council proposes, in conjunction with UAF administration, the founding of an Annual Staff Volunteer Day, incorporating the organization, facilitation, and promotion of volunteerism by staff on an extensive level, during designated times of year when these efforts are most needed by our Fairbanks community.