

University Advocacy Committee Report – October 2015

Attendees: Jami Warrick, Nicole DuFour, Phil Jacobs, Connie Huizenga, Susan Frei (via Google Hangout)

The Advocacy Committee met October 14, 2015. Discussion topics included the following:

Staff Mentoring Survey and suggestions for moving ahead: The committee will invite Brad Lobland and/or Margo Griffith to attend the November meeting (currently scheduled for November 10, 2015). Margo had said that the initiative will need structure and guidelines to be effective. The Advocacy committee was asked to contribute suggestions which would clarify expectations and/or functions of a mentor. Future efforts may be incorporated into the initial training program for employees. Phil Jacobs had agreed to write up some examples of mentor/mentee guidelines for discussion at the November meeting. The TED team is working on an “expert” database (this will soon go live) that employees can use to find assistance within their field. Questions about the initiative remain:

- Would this be effective for any position?
- Would the mentor/mentee relationship be specific to career advancement, or extend also to general workplace support?

Staff tours/brown bag series: We discussed the Science Calendar which outlines lectures/events on campus. Available at www.cgc.uaf.edu/calendar.html

Exercise/wellness classes for staff: Questions at earlier meetings included the following:

- Is it possible that the program could partner with the SRC for staff support through classes?
- Are there opportunities for workplace wellness events?

I met with Kaydee Miller on 10/13/15. She is interested in facilitating onsite exercise and/or wellness events to benefit staff. This would be separate from the HealthyRoads offerings. Events and classes would be free to staff, but the instructor cost (approximately \$10 - \$15 per hour) would need to be paid. Feedback from staff is needed to determine what classes they would be interested in, days/times preferred, possible locations (SRC or within specific buildings), and whether they would be willing to contribute a nominal fee toward the instructor cost. A survey is being developed.