

**University Advocacy  
Committee Report  
April 2016  
Chair: Jami Warrick**

The University Advocacy Committee met on March 16.

The committee briefly discussed the Staff Volunteer Day proposal and how we could move forward with it given that there is no provision for administrative leave. It was suggested that we choose a specific day (May 7 was mentioned), partner with community organizations in need of donated time, and allow staff to choose how best to allocate their efforts. Some of the organizations mentioned included the Fairbanks Community Food Bank, Stone Soup Cafe, Chena Lakes, Cooperative Extension, and Pioneer Park. Additional suggestions are welcome. I offered to inquire with Frances Isgrigg, Director of EHSRM, regarding any associated liability. We can also work with Nate Bauer for information on the proposed plan up to this point.

The survey results for the proposed offering of reduced or no cost health/wellness and exercise classes show that staff are largely in favor. The draft results are attached for your reference. These results were shared with Kaydee Miller with DRAW to support her proposal. They will likely need to determine how the instructor(s) will be paid in order to move forward. Jami will follow up with Kaydee to see if there is additional support that we can offer.

The staff mentoring initiative consists of two potential approaches: the development of professional groups (as suggested by Margo Griffith with UAF HR) to support staff, as well as one-on-one mentors to address such issues as morale, workplace culture, etc. Margo had suggested that we meet with the TED team, as many of the functions of the professional groups would align with the issues that TED has been working to address. I had reached out to TED, and will update you when we are able to meet with them.