



Staff Council News • Meeting #289 • March 13, 2018

Hello UAF! Welcome to your monthly Staff Council update!

Events!

[Bone Builders Food Drive](#)

Staff Council has partnered with Bone Builders to host a food drive in April. Donations help to provide lunches to local schoolchildren who do not have a school lunch program to rely on during the summer months.

Collection boxes will be placed across the Fairbanks campus April 2-16.

Inside Out was hosted on Friday, March 9. Over 200 students and parents attended.

22 students were admitted on the day of the event, and received their acceptance letters at its conclusion!

Open Enrollment

April 16 - May 16, 2018

Statewide HR is in the process of implementing new electronic forms for election of FY 19 benefits during Open Enrollment. These forms will be accessed **ONLY** through UAOnline for greater security. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the Open Enrollment begin date of April 16, 2018.

UA Budget

Changes are still possible as the legislative session is far from over, legislative subcommittees have added \$19 million back into the governor's proposed budget, which is encouraging. At this time there is no indication that the governor will veto the budget.

Staff Health Care Committee Updates

Last year's insurance claims were exceptionally low, and the Joint Health Care Committee has decided to keep the premiums the same for FY19. Staff should start seeing premium holidays, where your healthcare deductions will stop for the rest of the fiscal year.

The legislature is considering a health care authority to combine health coverage at the State of Alaska and the university.

UA Career Coach

UA now offers a [career coach](#), based on interests. The site is free and 100% confidential; it does not use your UA credentials, and you can use a non-UA email address to create an account.

The Career Coach allows you to take a 6 or 60 question assessment (the latter takes approximately 3-5 minutes), to be matched to your top areas of interest, and the career fields that pertain to them. The Career Coach then connects you directly to the program pages for UAF's own degree programs and then directly to career opportunities in Alaska!

Further, the site can help you build your resume, and, if you are a veteran, it can help match you to careers based on your military occupation, through its military search.

Staff Achievements & Highlights

After three years of work, Residence Life now has an online application process for anyone over 18 years of age! Applicants under 18 will still be prompted to fill out the paper forms.

Staff Council Brown Bag Lunches

Quineshia Peterson, Co-Chair for University Advocacy, introduced the [Resolution in Support of Professional Development Series](#). The series will be promoted as a brown bag lunch, running one hour, from noon to 1p.m. To start, the committee would like to offer the sessions once per month. University Advocacy is also looking into alternating between West Ridge and lower campus for in-person participants, and the sessions will be available using Video Conference Services or Google hangouts for rural campus participation.

The committee is developing a feedback survey for the sessions. Through this survey, they will reach out to staff to see which specific topics would be of interest.

March BOR Meeting

The Board of Regents held a very optimistic meeting, March 1st and 2nd, in Fairbanks. The board is gaining confidence in UA administration, and allowing people at UA to make decisions because they trust the people they hired to do their jobs.

Title IX was discussed at great length; the board received updates on submissions to the Office of Civil Rights, tracking cases, and changes to the training for employees. Alcohol policy was reviewed briefly; the board is content with current policy and practice at the campuses. The Alaska College of Education was also discussed. Faculty are concerned and speaking out against the changes, but it looks as though the process is moving forward as planned.

I.D.E.A. Task force

The [I.D.E.A. Task Force](#) was put together by Chancellor White to look at ways to make UAF more inclusive, diverse, equitable, and accessible for everyone. It will only be in effect most likely through next May. Most of the [members](#) are UAF staff or faculty, with the exception of one member from Doyon.

Chancellor White is looking for actionable items that can be done on the ground. He mentioned looking at what the University of Washington, University Wisconsin Madison and University of Texas Austin as models for change.

Provost Search Committee

The Provost Search Committee held 12 interviews on March 5th and 6th, have forwarded their suggestions to the chancellor. The candidates will be contacted soon, and on-campus interviews will be in early April.

ASUAF Updates

Staff Council will receive a resolution from ASUAF; this resolution moves to put diaper changing stations in men's bathrooms on campus. Lastly, the Sun Star will be going completely digital starting in the fall.

Save the Date:

Staff Council Brown Bag Lunch
"Crucial Conversations" - led by Nicole Cundiff, Keli Hite-McGee, and Pips Veazey.

When:

Tues, April 10
Noon - 1PM

Where:

IARC 401

UA Student Access Gateway

UA is looking at a new student access gateway which would be a two track approach to include a single point of discovery (access) to UA, and business process improvement for student services. The current project team has been meeting once a month. This committee will continue to meet monthly, but it is possible that workgroups will be established to focus on implementation.

This gateway would allow a prospective student to input their existing education from another university, and it would course match back to UAF, showing them the steps needed to continue their degree.

Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Native Education

CACNE made the following suggestions to Chancellor's Cabinet:

- Read "[Stop Talking](#)" by Larry Mercurieff and Libby Roderick
- Add a development position for both faculty and staff.
- Recognize the remote campuses by their Native names
- Create an Indigenous Corner in the Cornerstone to highlight indigenous happenings.
- Create a native culture focused welcome packet for new faculty and staff.
- Have students, especially those from rural campuses, lead some of the orientations to provide the student perspective.
- Have Alaska Native Education Fellows

The Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Native Education ([CACNE](#)) is charged with brainstorming ways in which to integrate native cultural education and awareness at UAF among staff, faculty and students. This committee has several members from across departments, and includes both faculty and staff. CACNE met in early January, and are meeting every two weeks. To start, they have developed a list of priorities for the Chancellor's Cabinet.

This program is not being offered at UAA or UAS; UAF will be the flagship. CACNE would like to see UAF make this a long-term commitment wherein UAF really invests in the training. They would like to adjust existing training to add their cultural training, to include a two hour incentivized cultural orientation for faculty and staff.

CACNE wants to recognize people who have taken a certain number of cultural orientation trainings, perhaps at Staff Development and Appreciation Day. Feedback is welcome on motivating you and your department to participate.

Summer Sessions Come back for the SUMMER!

If continuing UAF students choose to come back to Fairbanks for the summer and take at least 6 Summer Sessions credits, Summer Sessions will provide up to \$400 to offset the cost of their airfare. They must have at least a 2.5 GPA to qualify, and the classes must be completed with a minimum of a C.

Additionally, five \$500 scholarships are being awarded this summer. Summer Sessions offers several different financial aid options specific to taking summer classes. Please [visit Summer Sessions' Financial Aid page](#) for additional information on the following:

- **Sweet Summer Deal:** students planning to attend full-time pay for the first 10 credits and Summer Sessions pays up to four more.
- **Tuition Award:** students who have proof of financial need through the FAFSA may qualify for a three-credit tuition award. They must be taking a Summer Sessions class, have at least a 2.5 GPA, be enrolled in a class that their advisor agrees is part of their degree program, and a UAF degree-seeking student.
 - Please note that CTC and UAF eLearning & Distance Education courses do not qualify for Summer Sessions financial aid.

[Alaska Dreaming](#) is a program that encourages non-UAF students to visit our campus during the summer and take classes by offering airfare from Seattle.

Always feel free to contact your Staff Council Representative to have an item or issue brought forward for discussion.

The members of Staff Council are the voice for non-represented staff across the UAF community. Staff Council acts as a change agent and brings concerns and issues up for consideration.

[Find my representative!](#)

To review the official Staff Council agenda and handouts, or to hear the official recording, please visit the [Staff Council website](#).

*Staff Council's Next Meeting:
Tuesday, April 10, 2018
9:30 AM - Noon*

- Jessica Allard, Staff Affairs Chair
