

MINUTES

UAF STAFF COUNCIL MEETING #128

Wednesday, September 12, 2001

Wood Center Carol Brown Ballroom

I

Thomas, D.

Trabant, T.

Yauney, J.

Zimmerman, G.

The minutes to Meeting #127 (June 1, 2001) were approved as distributed via e-mail.

C. The agenda was adopted as distributed via e-mail.

D. President's Report – S. McCrea

President McCrea welcomed the representatives back to another school year.

President McCrea speaks of the tragedy of the terrorist attacks upon the US and calls for a moment of silence. The following President's report was sent via email.

## Message from the President

Welcome back to another exciting year at UAF and with Staff Council!

After our last meeting in June, I entered the summer with high expectations of getting the ball rolling on the five goals I wanted Staff Council to focus on for the 2001/2002 year, my reasoning being that summer would be "downtime" at Tanana Valley Campus. You would think that after years at the university as a student and staff that there is no such thing as "downtime". While I didn't get a chance to tackle much this summer, a lot has progressed within the past few weeks.

### STAFF ALLIANCE

President Elect Larry Ledlow and I both sit on the Staff Alliance, the systemwide governance groups that consists of two governance reps from each of the three MAUs and Statewide. We had our Annual Retreat in August in which we received reports from President Hamilton and his executive staff. Two of the more interesting things to come out of the retreat was the update on Classification and Staff Development by Janet Jacobs, Director of Statewide Office of Human Resources, and the report on the FY03 budget by President Hamilton.

Ms. Jacobs and her staff will be giving our group an update on Classification today so I don't want to touch upon that too much. I will say, however, that it appears as if the departure of Dale Seay has not delayed the process any and in fact, things may be expedited because she has even more staff than she did before. Still, Alliance is concerned that the total process is going to take too long, thus we passed a motion asking that President Hamilton designate the funds and resources necessary to have the project completed by July 2002. This motion will be before our Council today, and I ask for your unanimous approval of it.

President Hamilton stated that he would be inserting another 1.5% increase to the staff salary grid in the FY03 budget. This will be discussed during the Board of Regents meeting, which takes place Sep. 13 & 14 in Anchorage. Hamilton added that he would most likely ask for another 1.5 increase in the FY04 budget. It appears that this number was chosen because it was politically realistic. Given that every percentage increase means an additional \$1 million, this was a number that the president feels would make it through the fires in Juneau. Alliance is completely understanding of that approach and recognizes the reality of the

situation, however, we felt that the increase had to be slightly higher than last years, thus we passed a motion asking for a 2% increase. Alliance Chair Robert Sewell of Juneau will be testifying at the BOR meeting in support of that amount. This endorsement is going before Staff Council as well, and I also ask for your support on this one.

One more item to come out of the Retreat is the formation of an Ad-Hoc Committee on Volunteer Leave. You'll note that this was one of the goals I had for our Council for this year. Anchorage and Juneau reacted very positively to the concept of advocating a volunteer leave program, so we decided to make this a

It seems to me that an institution where open mindedness and respect for all peoples should be a top priority, our nondiscrimination policy needs to include this segment of our students, staff and faculty. This

Other miscellaneous items were discussed. The next Staff Affairs meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 20 at 9:00 a.m. in Wood Center Conference Room B.

**B. Elections, Membership & Rules – D. York**

The committee has not had the chance to meet yet. Some discussion items for committee will include representation for IARC and necessary provisions to bylaws. Thanks to Gabrielle Hazelton for joining committee. DeShana York will be working with Staff Council Secretary to set up regular meetings.

**C. Rural Affairs – H. Simmons**

Due to time constraints Professional Development was the only item presented. Josh Horst and James Yauney gave the presentation. Any questions not answered by them will be forwarded to Janet Jacobs. All responses to questions will be forwarded to Staff Council Secretary and will then be sent out to Staff Council. Jean Crews questions where the What Counts/What Doesn't list came from and who made it. James Yauney relays that is just a generalization explaining that if it is the requirement of the job it counts. Josh Horst inputs that the list was provided from Janet Jacobs and he will ask her where it came from. Scott McCrea asks about completion of project. James expecting things to flow smoothly, hopefully can report on timelines at next Staff Council meetings. Jean Crews questions why compensation and budget were not mentioned. Concerns relating to increases and being compensated more fairly. James Yauney will check with Janet Jacobs to get an answer.

## VI New Business

Due to the lack of quorum for voting, New Business will be postponed until October meeting. Scott McCrea says there is a possibility of calling a special meeting to vote on issues.

## VII Comments and Questions

Scott McCrea comments on the New Staff Orientation to be held on Friday, September 28. Requests Staff Council members spread the word to any new employees to attend.

## VIII The meeting was adjourned at 10:50.

A tape of this Staff Council meeting is available in the Governance Office if anyone wishes to listen to the complete tape. Submitted by Elizabeth Solano, Staff Council Secretary.