

**Staff Council Meeting
December 14, 2006**

Present: Rita Fuller, Nicole Rogers, Gwenna Richardson, Heather Swanson, Jeri Cary
Guest: Nicole Duclos

The UA Operating & Capital budget proposals for FY2008 were distributed. An article from the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner about the new BioSciences facility in Fairbanks was also shared with the group. Jeri noted that the Governor's budget is scheduled to be released today.

Rita mentioned that there is consideration of changing the UA constitution and possibly implementing a stipend system for educational leave.

There was discussion of concerns regarding privacy, particularly relating to health care. There are numerous types of calls and contacts from various agencies. Mike explained that the first Summex survey group will end in December or January. The second group (from this year's wellness survey) will then begin. Mike went through a list of potential contacts:

Blue Cross – customer satisfaction survey

Pharmacare (mail order prescriptions)

Summex Health coaches (for participants in the wellness surveys)

Under contract with Blue Cross, American Healthways: this is a system that identifies employees with chronic conditions, and then follows up with a phone call to help individuals manage their care. It's a voluntary program. Nothing but aggregate data comes to the University—they get reports of #s of diabetics, #s of phone calls, etc. but no individual/personal data. Regarding concerns about unauthorized access to data, Mike noted that no system is perfect but everyone is interested in protecting privacy.

WIN for Alaska – new one contracted to assist with local level delivery of health & wellness services & information. \$300,000 a year investment by the University because research demonstrates that every \$1 invested in wellness avoids \$3 in health care costs. This year the rate of increase of our health care plan slowed down significantly for the first time, in tandem with the first year of focusing on a wellness philosophy. Now that we've had a 2nd year of the survey, Summex will be able to compare the responses from both years and get longitudinal data about improvement (or not) in various risk areas. WIN for Alaska will be looking for other community resources and other internal (UAS) resources to help integrate wellness services.

The system can be accessed without identifying yourself as a UA employee, but since the program is for UA employees, any incentive prizes etc. will require authentication of your employee status.

<https://wellsuite.com/winforalaska/hat>

<https://wellsuite.com/winformalaska/owc>
email: healthinaction@alaska.edu

There was discussion of problems with the Sitka pharmacy and Pharmacare. Mike requested that problems be sent to him with a clear description of what has happened so he can follow up.

Gwenna in Ketchikan noted that when the transition to Pharmacare first occurred, there were some problems. Mike noted that there were some independent pharmacists in Ketchikan and elsewhere who did not realize that they were part of the Pharmacare network. Gwenna noted that everything was straightened out in Ketchikan within a few weeks.

RE: prescriptions & reimbursement being denied: Ketchikan hasn't had any problems with this.

Comments/suggestions for next year's staff council:

- 1) Get elections back on track (April or May)
- 2) It was suggested we send Rita our availability for January-May so Rita can work on scheduling a face to face meeting.